



# ACS Provider Bulletin



Cross Divisional

Foster Care

Preventive

Juvenile Justice

Early Care and Education

Thursday, March 20, 2014

## Dear Provider Community:

The Administration for Children's Services, Division of Family Permanency Services is hosting a "5-Boro College Tour" April 14th to April 22nd, 2014 during the Department of Education Spring Break when public high school students are off from school.

There will be a kick-off breakfast on Monday, April 14th 10:00 am at 150 William Street, 19th Floor Manhattan Room, followed by a workshop. Each day, ACS staff will meet the youth daily to travel, via ACS transportation, to a local college campus. Metro cards and lunch will also be provided each day. Youth will tour college campuses, meet college staff and students, and receive information about the college application process, financial aid, and scholarships.

[Click on this link](#) to view the informational flier and please start to spread the word among youth and foster parents at your agency! Please also check the ACS website at [www.acs.nyc.gov](http://www.acs.nyc.gov) for more information, or please contact Jamiylah Brown of the Office for Child and Youth Initiatives at (212) 341-0959 or [Jamiylah.brown@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Jamiylah.brown@dfa.state.ny.us).

Sincerely,

Benita R. Miller, Esq.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Family Permanency Services

## Cross Divisional

### HHS Connect Accelerator Financials Module Implementation

In the coming weeks, Preventive and Non-Secure Detention providers and certain ACS staff will be receiving update information from HHS Connect concerning the July 1, 2014 implementation of the Accelerator Financials module of the HHS Accelerator system.

With the launch of this new functionality, the Accelerator Financials module will have several new features including provider budgets and invoicing and payment processing for Human Services contracts. This capability will increase accuracy in accounting, improve efficiency in the exchange of financial information between agencies and providers, and offer much greater transparency in the budget and payment process.

An aggressive implementation schedule has been planned by HHS Connect to ensure the July 1, 2014 implementation. The system will be phased in beginning with Preventive Services and Non-Secure Detention this July. Additional program types will be added at future dates. The roll out of this new module will require the participation of provider agencies, and ACS staff from program areas, Administration, and Finance. Training for ACS staff and provider agencies will be scheduled by HHS Connect in the coming weeks and is expected to take place in late March and early April. Provider agencies will be notified by HHS Connect shortly and are expected to identify key staff to participate in these training sessions.

Launched in March 2013, the HHS Accelerator System is a web-based system maintained by the City of New York for use by human services providers and City agencies in order to manage procurement and financial activities. The system allows providers, at no cost, to create and manage their own secure, online accounts. It also provides a single location for document sharing with City agencies and other funders. The system eliminates redundant and duplicative document requests, while also increasing transparency in the RFP process by making service definitions and program requirements clearer. HHS currently allows providers to read about upcoming health and human services RFPs in one place and receive notification about RFPs for which they are qualified.

### Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) Policy

ACS has partnered with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to place a credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) at each Children's Services borough office and additional locations to provide assessments, referrals, and treatment services. This policy provides guidance to all child protection staff, clinical consultation program staff and participating provider agencies on the use of CASACs collocated in the borough offices and additional locations. [Read the policy.](#)

### 2nd Annual ACS LGBTQ Awards Ceremony: Now Accepting Nominations

On May 22nd, Children's Services will host its second annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) and Ally Awards Ceremony. The awards presented will recognize the commendable leadership, contributions, and achievements of key stakeholders committed to improving services for LGBTQ children, young people, and families involved with Children's Services. The Agency's Office of LGBTQ Policy & Practice is now accepting nominations for the following categories: 1) foster care/juvenile justice involved youth; 2) foster parent; 3) ACS staff, and; 4) community advocate. If you know of an individual that has made such a contribution, please nominate them today by completing a nomination form and submitting it to [LGBTQ@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:LGBTQ@dfa.state.ny.us). All nominations must be received by Friday, April 25, 2014. [Click on this link for the nomination form.](#)

### New York City Family Justice Center Opens in Manhattan

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014 Campaign LAUNCH

Dads Take Your Child To School (DTYCTS) Day and Beyond:

Reemphasizing Community Resources

April 4, 2014

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Bronx Supreme Court Rotunda  
851 Grand Concourse

Contacts

Citywide: Melvin Alston -

[Melvin.Alston@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Melvin.Alston@dfa.state.ny.us), 917- 921- 5036

Brooklyn: Ronald Bridges -

[Ronald.Bridges@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Ronald.Bridges@dfa.state.ny.us), 718- 623-4990

Bronx: Clyde Wilkinson -

[Clyde.Wilkinson@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Clyde.Wilkinson@dfa.state.ny.us), (718) 933-6981

[Download event flyer](#)

The Bronx Division of Child Protection  
&  
The Bronx Vision  
Presents the  
3rd Annual Father's Resource Fair

Friday, April 11, 2014

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1200 Waters Place, 2nd floor

Bronx, New York 10461

For more information, contact Shaun Blayton (718-933-2702), Lisa E. Bolling, LMSW (718-319-8842), Clyde Wilkinson (718-933-6981), or Maria Biondo (718-319-7240).

[Download Event Flyer](#)

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Archived Bulletins



The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) is proud to announce the opening of the New York City Family Justice Center in Manhattan (FJC) at 80 Centre Street, 5th floor.

The New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs) provide comprehensive civil legal, counseling and supportive services for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking. Located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and now Manhattan, with a Staten Island FJC planned for 2015, the FJCs are safe, caring environments that provide one-stop services and support. City agencies, community, social and civil legal service providers, and District Attorney's Offices are located on-site at the FJCs to make it easier for victims to get help. Services are free and confidential. All are welcome regardless of language, income or immigration status.

You can reach Executive Director of the Manhattan FJC, Hannah Pennington, at (212) 602-2800. Please click on the links below for more information:

[About the Office to Combat Domestic Violence](#)  
[Manhattan FJC Flyer](#)

#### Training for Competency-Based Behavioral Interviewing Techniques

The ACS Workforce Innovation Department is pleased to announce the return of this popular, best practices training in Competency-Based Behavioral Interviewing techniques' designed for hiring supervisors, managers and HR professionals in the provider community. Registration is available through your STARS Coordinator. [Please click on this link for details.](#)

#### Foster Care

##### ***At the Well Young Women's Leadership Academy***

*At the Well Young Women's Leadership Academy* is the summer experience of a lifetime! The program is geared towards minority girls entering tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades. Please pass this information to young women in foster care and encourage them to enroll now and gain all of the rewards this intense academic program has to offer. *The program runs from July 27-August 8, 2014 at Princeton University in New Jersey.*

Scholarships are available! Need based financial aid is available on a first-come basis. Apply early. Application deadline is March 31, 2013. Applications should be completed online at [www.atthewellconferences.org](http://www.atthewellconferences.org). Questions? Call (646) 592-1488.

#### Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

The Department of Youth and Community Development has released the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) applications for summer of 2014. Please join us for an informational meeting, hosted by ACS, to meet the vulnerable youth provider agencies and to learn more about the SYEP application process for the upcoming summer. SYEP provides New York City youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with paid summer employment for up to six weeks in July and August. Participants work in a variety of entry-level jobs.

When: Thursday, March 27, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Where: 150 William Street, 13th floor, Training Center

Please RSVP by March 21, 2014 to [Evangelina.moncadapizarro@dfa.state.us](mailto:Evangelina.moncadapizarro@dfa.state.us) or 212-513-1199. [Click here to download the flyer.](#)

#### New Yorkers for Children – Back-to-School Packages: Supplies for Success

The Back-to-School Package program provides college-enrolled youth in foster care with the tools necessary to succeed during their entire college experience. Youth receive \$2,500 in supplies throughout their studies including a laptop computer, printer, software, backpack, bed linens, toiletries, school supplies, and more. For more information or to register students in foster care for a package, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BackToSchoolSpring2014>. Students who recently transitioned out of foster care are may also apply. The deadline for all package requests is Friday March 28, 2014.

#### Preventive Services

##### Developmental Disabilities Champions Workgroup Meeting

The next meeting of our Developmental Disabilities Champions workgroup is scheduled for Thursday, April 10th from 10am-1pm in room A-1 on the 8th floor at 150 William Street.

Exciting news: Our workgroup is getting bigger! The ACS DD Unit is extending an invitation to the quarterly "DD Champions" forum to case planning staff of young people currently on the OPWDD pending list. All Case Planners and Supervisors who are involved with the planning for young people awaiting OPWDD residential placement are encouraged to attend. The DD Champions Workgroup's purpose is to strengthen the partnership that exists between ACS and our contract providers to further enhance provider expertise in serving this special population. Additionally, it is our aim to increase the identification of youth with DD in our system and to secure appropriate linkages to supports, and when applicable, OPWDD residential services upon aging out of care.

A special request to current DD Champion attendees: Please feel free to bring colleagues who are in a case planning **supervisory** role to any and all future presentations. We would like to continue to build on our partnerships with providers, and encourage you to invest in this group by extending invitations to your colleagues. Thank you for your ongoing participation and commitment to this workgroup!

We are fortunate to have two outstanding presentations on April 10th:

Denise Eugene, LMSW, Foster Care Supervisor from Children's Aid Society will be sharing her specialized unit's challenges and successes with regard to effectively transitioning young people from the Foster Care System to OPWDD. She is passionate about serving the needs of the most vulnerable children and youth in the foster care system, and will share her best practices. Ms. Eugene is a model advocate who began her career at ACS and has been working in the field of child welfare for over 25 years.

Joyce Levin, Senior VP for Developmental Disabilities with HeartShare Human Services of New York, an OPWDD contracted agency, is responsible for all new residential program development for her agency. She has been with HeartShare for over 25 years and has a wealth of experience developing housing for special populations, including housing for youth aging out of foster care. Ms. Levin will be sharing her experiences from the (OPWDD) receiving agency perspective and offering invaluable recommendations to foster care agencies transitioning young people.

We hope you can join us on April 10th and look forward to seeing you then! Please RSVP by Monday, April 7 to Jill Ryan at [jill.ryan@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:jill.ryan@dfa.state.ny.us).

#### April is Autism Awareness Month: Shine a Light on Autism

Each April 2nd, Autism Speaks celebrates World Autism Awareness Day along with the international autism community through its signature campaign, **Light It Up Blue**.

This global campaign kicks off Autism Awareness Month which focuses attention on the rapidly increasing disability. Thousands of iconic landmarks, buildings, hotels, bridges and retail stores join the hundreds of thousands of homes and communities around the globe that "Light It Up Blue" to spread autism awareness. *How will you Light It Up Blue? Tell us at [www.AutismSpeaks.org/LIUB](http://www.AutismSpeaks.org/LIUB)*

Everyone is encouraged to wear blue on April 2!

#### ACS Developmental Disability Evaluation Program

The ACS Developmental Disabilities Unit within the Division of Family Support Services offers Psychological Evaluations and Psychosocial Histories through our expert OPWDD vendor. This free evaluation program is available to youth in Foster Care that are 5 years and older, where there is a reasonable suspicion of developmental disability. For further information, kindly contact Nicole Hechme, Developmental Disabilities Specialist at (212) 676-9072 or [Nicole.Hechme@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Nicole.Hechme@dfa.state.ny.us) or [ddunit.fss@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:ddunit.fss@acs.nyc.gov).

[Please click on this link to learn more about the program.](#)

[Click here for the Evaluation Packet](#)

#### Juvenile Justice

There are no Juvenile Justice announcements in the edition.

#### Early Care and Education

##### Pre-Kindergarten Application 2014-2015

If you live in New York City and your child is turning 4 years old in 2014, he or she is eligible to attend Pre-Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. The application process has begun! Applications for school-based pre-k will be accepted from March 3, 2014 until April 23, 2014. Applications for community-based organizations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are discussions revolving around increasing Pre-K program options. If this occurs, parents will be able to amend their applications once those new program sites are identified. [Click on this link for a Fact Sheet](#) prepared by the ACS Office of Office of Education Support and Policy Planning. Please click on the links below for more details.

[Information Session](#)

[Pre-K Directory](#)

[CBO Pre-K Application](#)

[Public School Application](#)

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