

ACS RESOURCES FOR FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS

Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
Adoption and KinGAP Support Services	Iris Kaplan	212-676-9950	Iris.Kaplan@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Adoption & KinGAP Support Services (AKSS) is dedicated to increased rates of permanency and reduced lengths of stay for children in foster care, as well as the provision of post adoption assistance. AKSS works cross-divisionally with other ACS programs to ensure collaborative efforts with stakeholders such as provider agency staff, adoptive youth, adoptive parents, FCLS and adoption attorneys, Family Court and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in working toward achieving and sustaining permanency. Under Adoption and KinGAP Support Services there are four functional areas: Adoption Subsidy Unit, Adoption Permanency Monitoring Unit, Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) and Post Adoption Program. Additionally, as a recruitment resource for children in need of an adoptive resource, AKSS oversees the Wednesday's Child Program. The program is funded by a private grant through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.</p>			
Adoption Permanency Monitoring Unit	Kim Halpern	212-442-0643	Kim.Halpern@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Adoption Permanency Monitoring Unit works closely with our foster care agencies and other key stakeholders to identify specific cases and agency trends in case practice that pose challenges to adoption finalizations. Technical assistance is provided, when necessary, to assist and address those barriers impeding the process. Every quarter, a spreadsheet of current freed children with a goal of adoption is provided to the agencies to focus efforts on moving these children to permanency. Along with the provider agencies and courts. The unit partners with the state to achieve adoption permanency.</p>			
Adoption Subsidy	Jessica Castro	212-341-2731	Jessica.Castro@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Adoption Subsidy Unit is responsible for receiving and reviewing subsidy requests from prospective adoptive parents to ensure they meet the requirements for Adoption Subsidy. Applications are forwarded from the contract agency when the termination of rights have been filed or the child is freed for adoption and adoptively placed. Once all documents are received, ASRU reviews for subsidy eligibility and Title IV-E eligibility. If subsidy is approved, ASRU supervisor signs off and forwards to NYSOCFS for approval.</p>			
Agency Program Assistance (APA)	Preventive Contact: Tanya Scott Foster Care Contact: Bonnie Doran	212-442-5870 212-341-3027	Tanya.Scott@acs.nyc.gov Bonnie.Doran@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Agency Program Assistance (APA) team's mission is to help improve the quality of services provided and the outcomes achieved by Children's Services provider agencies for New York City's children and families. Located within the Division of Policy, Planning and Measurement, the Agency Program Assistance (APA) unit is comprised of teams of performance monitors assigned to preventive and foster care providers. APA works collaboratively with both provider agencies and ACS stakeholders to improve performance. Through Collaborative Quality Improvement (CoQI) APA analyzes practice and outcome data collected to identify areas of strength and areas in need of improvement with each provider agency. APA works collaboratively with provider agencies throughout the CoQI cycle to develop priorities and Improvement plans. APA engages in ongoing and consistent dialogue with each provider agency regarding performance and progress on improvement plans.</p>			
APPLA & Monitoring Unit	Sophonie Taylor	212-676-6997	Sophonie.Taylor@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Monitors Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA) submission compliance. Randomly reviews and assesses selected PYA plans (In-Care, Discharge and Supervision Until 21 checklists) completed by provider agencies for young people between the ages of 17-21. The documenting services reviewed include: Discharge Planning; Housing; Health/Health Insurance; Educational/Vocational Opportunities; Employment Opportunities; Opportunities for Adult Permanency Resources; Continuing Support System; and Vital Documents. The Unit meets on a quarterly basis with the provider agency community to review findings, provide technical assistance to improve positive outcomes for APPLA + youth transitioning to self-care.</p>			
Bridges to Health (B2H)	Tracy-Ann Johnson-Samuels	212-676-7192	Tracy-Ann.Johnson-Samuels@acs.nyc.gov B2H mailbox: www.nyc.gov/acs/b2h
<p>The Bridges to Health(B2H) is a Home and Community based Medicaid waiver program that provides opportunities for improving the health and well-being of children in foster care or community services supervision.</p> <p>The purpose of the B2H program is to avoid, delay or prevent medical institutional care and provide enhanced services to children with disabilities. B2H services are provided to the child, family and caregivers in the foster home or community setting.</p> <p>B2H consist of three waivers – Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED), Developmental Disabilities (DD) and/or Medical Fragility (MedF)-designed to provide community-based health care services and supports to children in foster care or DJJOY community services supervision and to those children discharge from foster care or DJJOY. The services follow a child after discharge from foster care if otherwise eligible up to age 21.</p>			

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Case Practice Consultation	Fayette Bennett Neil Freedman	212-341-3239 212-676-9271	Fayette.Bennett@acs.nyc.gov Neil.Freedman@acs.nyc.gov
<p>ACS has established a new case consultation function within the Family Permanency Services Division to provide consultation, technical assistance and support to foster care agency staff on individual cases. This is a pilot program that will be implemented with 5 provider agencies. Currently 3 agencies (MercyFirst, Catholic Guardian Services, and Forestdale Inc.) have been engaged and 2 others will be selected. ACS Senior Practice Consultants (SPCs) will work directly and collaboratively with ACS' contracted foster care provider agencies to deepen and strengthen agency practice resulting in improved well-being, safety and permanency outcomes for children in foster care, reduced lengths of stay and rates of re-entry into foster care. Initially, the SPCs will focus on helping to find permanency for youth in care over 2 years.</p> <p>ACS' Senior Practice Consultation Team:</p> <p>Sonia Michel: Catholic Guardian Services, Sonia.Michel@acs.nyc.gov, ACS Office: 212-676-6575 (Thurs), Harlem Site: <u>No</u> phone (Mon & Tues), ACS Cell: 917-697-3302 (Mon-Fri), Grand Concourse Site: 718-228-1515 x111 (Wed & Fri)</p> <p>Patricia Pryce: Catholic Guardian Services, Patricia.Pryce@acs.nyc.gov, ACS Office: 212-442-5236 (Thurs), ACS Cell: 347-415-7866 (Mon-Fri), Agency: 718-828-0300 x131 (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)</p> <p>Elisa Georges: Children's Village, Elisa.Georges@acs.nyc.gov, ACS Office: 212-442-0719 (Thurs), Harlem/Queens Site: 718-220-4700 (Mon), ACS Cell : 646-872-7454 (Mon-Fri), Bronx Site: 718-220-4700 x7259 (Tues, Wed & Fri)</p> <p>Gladys Screen: Forestdale Inc., Gladys.Screen@acs.nyc.gov, ACS Office: 212-341-0722 (Thurs), ACS Cell: 917-583-4532 (Mon-Fri), Agency: 718-263-0740 x317 (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)</p> <p>Barbara Proffitt: JCCA, Barbara.Proffitt@acs.nyc.gov, ACS Office: 212-442-0659 (Thurs), ACS Cell: 646-438-0146 (Mon-Fri), Bronx Site: 718-742-8550 (Mon & Tues), Brooklyn Site : 718-758-7833 (Wed & Fri)</p> <p>Linda Catanzaro: MercyFirst, Linda.Catanzaro@acs.nyc.gov, ACS Office: 212-442-0642 (Thurs), ACS Cell: 347-844-3062 (Mon-Fri), Agency: 718-232-1500 x277 (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)</p> <p>Lorna Bailey: SCO (Queens Site Only), Lorna.Bailey@acs.nyc.gov, ACS Office: 212-341-3324 (Thurs), ACS Cell: 646- 784-1069 (Mon-Fri), Agency: 718-674-7700 - <u>No</u> direct phone# (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)</p>			
Child Care Referrals	Sheryl Watson	212-676-6639	Sheryl.Watson@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The unit works with the foster care agencies to submit referrals to Early Childcare and Education (ECE) for children in care when the foster parent is working. There is a simple form that captures the pertinent information needed by ECE to find a placement for a child 3 years old or younger. Children 4 and older are captured by universal pre-K services.</p>			

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Children's Center/Office of Placement Administration (OPA)	Rebecca Chew Pavithra Mandappa David Chambers Duandie Martinez Gwendolyn Carroll	646-935-1499 646-935-1719 646-935-1484 646-935-1533 646-935-1791	Rebecca.Chew@acs.nyc.gov Pavithra.Mandappa@acs.nyc.gov David.Chambers@acs.nyc.gov Duandie.Martinez@acs.nyc.gov Gwendolyn.Carroll@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Children's Center is a temporary, short-term residence for children awaiting long-term placement. The Office of Placement Administration is responsible for identifying timely and appropriate placements for children in foster care.</p> <p>Pre-Placement Services (PPS) Consists of an interdisciplinary team child care works who collaborate to provide programming, medical and clinical services to children in efforts of reducing trauma associated with child maltreatment, loss, and separation from their parents or primary caregivers.</p> <p>For any assistance, please see the contact information for PPS Units below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavithra Mandappa, Asst. Commissioner/Dir. Of Residential Services: 646-935-1719 • Executive Director of Operations- Duandie Martinez: 646-935-1533 • Senior Director of Social Work/Replacement Unit - Gwendolyn Carroll: 646-935-1791 • Mental Health Service- Dr. Patrick Heppell: 646-935-1443 • PPS Intake: 646-935-1363 or 1411 • PPS Sup/Managers: 646-935-1590 • PPS Medical Unit: 646-935-1534/1536 <p>The Office of Placement Administration (OPA) is identified as the sole source of referrals for foster care placement of children placed or remanded to the case and custody of ACS. OPA seeks placement for children in all five boroughs of New York City.</p> <p>For any assistance, please see the contact information for OPA/Placement Units below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Executive Director of Placement Services-David Chambers: 646-935-1484 • OPA/Hotline Intake: 212-966-8000 <p>Placement Stability Operations ensures all collaborative assessments of the overall needs of children and link to provide for the most appropriate services.</p> <p>For any assistance, please see the contact information for Stability Operations Units below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stability Program Manager – Dr. Michele Brown: 646-935-1396 			
Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy	Selina Higgins	212-341-2794	Selina.Higgins@acs.nyc.gov Child.Trafficking@acs.nyc.gov CTDB@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Coordinates all aspects of ACS' policy and practice concerning children involved in human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including prevention, identification, and service provision. The office also administrates grants received by ACS for work with commercially sexually exploited children, develops and implements training on child trafficking, and provides guidance and resource referrals to ACS staff working with trafficked and/or exploited children. The office also manages ACS' new Child Trafficking Database. Please send all case notifications or questions about trafficked children to the Child Trafficking Mailbox at Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov Please send all inquiries and issues about the ACS Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) to CTDB@acs.nyc.gov</p>			
Clinical Consultation Program	Michael Hernandez	212-341-8940	Michael.Hernandez@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Clinical Consultation Program from its inception has provided services to the Division of Child Protection in the areas of mental health, domestic violence, and substance use disorder. The expansion of the Clinical Consultation Program has meant the following: 1) The addition of early childhood and adolescent services. 2) Services to the Division of Preventive Services, Family Permanency Services, Foster Care and Preventive Agencies.</p> <p>The Clinical Consultation Program hopes to partner with the child welfare continuum to build capacity, promote best practice, and enhance efforts to serve children and families through assessments, consultations, office based trainings, and appropriate interventions.</p>			

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College Room and Board – Exceptional Payment (CRB EP)	Phyllis Brodsky	212-341-3318	Phyllis.Brodsky@acs.nyc.gov
<p>College Room and Board – Exceptional Payment (CRB EP) provides payments for youth who are 21–23 years of age and attending a college or university full-time, reside on or off campus and need financial assistance for room and board. CRB EP staff also maintain monthly contact with youth in order to provide on-going support, resources and services. In addition, CRB EP staff processes pass-through payments for these youth ages 21–23 when they return to New York City during school breaks and holidays and have no stable housing option; the provider agency is responsible to identify a foster home willing to house the youth during the indicated school break if the youth does not have an identified foster resource in which to return.</p>			
Connections Mailboxes Systems Support Office (SSO)	SSO Mailbox	SSO Mailbox	fostercare@acs.nyc.gov
<p>In addition to the Communications Center, which is the single point of contact for resolving problems and concerns around systems and systems policy issues related to ACS Connections cases; SSO also facilitates the transfer of case management between IOC agencies and CPS & FSU Units upon notification of a family court supervision order.</p>			
Corrective Action Monitoring Unit (CAMU)	Fabian Matthew	212-513-7686	Fabian.Matthew@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Corrective Action Monitoring Unit (CAMU): At the conclusion of an investigation of a report made to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving a foster home or a child who is in foster care, the Office of Special Investigation (OSI) may create a corrective action plan (CAP) with recommendations for a foster care provider to enhance the safety and well-being of the child(ren) involved in the report. The Corrective Action Monitoring Unit (CAMU) monitors the progress the provider agencies are making in completing the CAP. The provider agencies are required to submit the CAP to the unit within 20 business days after receiving the CAP. CAMU will review and approve the submissions for compliance with the recommendations and work to resolve any outstanding issues. Our tracking is provided to PPM for use in the scorecard results of each agency.</p>			
Crossover Youth Practice Model-CYPM-Youth Justice (Detention & Corrections)	Patricia Bassy	212-513-0343	Patricia.Bassy@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Assists and monitors crossover youth involved in both the foster care and juvenile/criminal justice systems. This unit ensures that a child welfare plan is in place for crossover youth in detention, placement or in the custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC), as well as ensuring the young person is being visited and has a transition plan in place for when they leave detention, placement or DOC custody.</p>			
CUNY Dorm Project	Sonia Gonzalez	212-676-9519	Sonia.Gonzalez@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The CUNY Dorm Project offers year-round housing in the following CUNY Dorms, Queens College Summit residence hall, College of Staten Island Dolphin Cove residence hall & this coming fall of 2017 the City College of New York The Towers residence hall. Youth between the ages of 16-24 who are enrolled in a CUNY College full-time and current high school seniors that have applied to CUNY are eligible to be considered for the CUNY Dorm Project. The Project offers access to a dedicated team of residential advisors, personalized tutoring, developing student self-advocacy skills, navigating financial aid, weekly stipends, utilizing on-campus and off-campus resources and navigating the complexities of being a college student. The goal of the CUNY Dorm Project is to increase post-secondary enrollment, college retention and college graduation rates for youth in foster care.</p> <p>If you have a student that is eligible and would like to be considered for Fall 2017 admission they have to complete and submit an application via this link: dormproject.org</p>			
Diligent Search Unit	Michelle Acevedo, DSU Supervisor	212-227-5777	Michelle.Acevedo@acs.nyc.gov Diligent search requests should be submitted through the DSU mailbox: acsdsu@acs.nyc.gov Electronic request forms are available from agency liaisons or by contacting the DSU mailbox.
<p>The ACS Diligent Search Unit (DSU) helps locate both respondent and non-respondent parents as well as potential kinship resources for children in foster care. For foster care agencies, the DSU generally assists with diligent searches when agencies are attempting to locate family resources or as part of the TPR (Termination of Parental Rights) process. The DSU checks through a large number of databases, several of which are not available to most ACS/foster care agency staff.</p>			

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Domestic Violence Practice, Policy & Support (DVPP)	B. Indira Ramsaroop, Manny Yonko	212-341-8956 212-341-8964	Brahaspa.Ramsaroop@acs.nyc.gov Manny.Yonko@acs.nyc.gov
<p>This unit works to inform ACS services and practice so that families and children affected by domestic violence are identified and receive the services they need. DVPP supports capacity-building and adherence to best practice, and achieves its goals through consultation, technical assistance, training, inter- and intra-agency collaboration and community outreach. The unit develops policy, formulates practice guidelines and protocols, and works collaboratively within ACS and with external partners to identify and address and develop domestic violence policies, formulate practice guidelines and protocols, and inform best practice.</p>			
Educational Training Vouchers	Phyllis Brodsky	212-341-3318	Phyllis.Brodsky@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Is a federally funded program which provides youth attending college or a certified training program with up to \$5000 per year. These funds, available up until the young person's 23rd birthday, can be used to help pay for tuition, student fees, room and board, books, supplies, etc. Youth must be between the ages 17-20 when they first apply. Go to www.fc2sprograms.org for eligibility requirements and to apply.</p>			
Education Support and Policy Planning, Office of (OESPP)	Kathleen Hoskins	212-453-9918	Education.Unit@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Office of Education Support and Policy Planning (OESPP) assists and supports administrative and casework staff on all educational matters for children between the ages of birth to 21 who are accessing services through the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). The children can be the subject of an active child protective investigation, receiving preventive services, in foster care, or transitioning out of the juvenile justice system. The office addresses early childhood education to post-secondary education, with an expertise in issues relating to special education, alternative school placements, and college preparation.</p>			
Emergency Education Fund	Phyllis Brodsky	212-341-3318	Phyllis.Brodsky@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Charles Evans Emergency Education Fund was created by New Yorkers For Children to help students who were formerly involved in the foster care system in New York City, ages 21-25 to assist towards completion of their studies or educational endeavors. The fund provides one-time emergency financial assistance to full or part-time college students who are faced with an unexpected financial emergency. The Education Coordinator works closely with the young people to determine if this is indeed their one-time emergency, or brainstorm other possible avenues, if available. Go to www.newyorkersforchildren.org to access the application.</p>			
Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives (OEWDI)	Raymond Singleton	212- 442-3247	Raymond.Singleton@acs.nyc.gov
<p>This Office of Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives (OEWDI) within the Family Permanency Services (FPS) Divisions dedicates focused attention to expanding access to programs and services that help older youth in foster care prepare for the world of work. The OEWDI will be identifying, cataloguing and disseminating information regarding existing employment and workforce development resources that already exist within the foster care agencies and externally; developing new programs and services through collaborations with our public and private partners; and providing technical assistance and support to our foster care agency partners.</p>			
Exception to Policy (ETP's) Follow-up	Kathleen Owens	212-676-7397	Kathleen.Owens@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Reviews requests from provider agencies for Exceptions to Policy for youth transitioning to adulthood, College Room and Board Exceptional Payments for 21+ youth attending college, Non-safety Foster Boarding Home Exceptions to Policy and court-ordered exceptional payments for issues not included in the Special Payment Bulletin.</p>			
Family Court Legal Services (FCLS)	Alan Sputz, Deputy Commissioner	212-341-0972	Alan.Sputz@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Division of Family Court Legal Services (FCLS) is responsible for representing Children's Services in child neglect and abuse cases, permanency hearings, other child welfare proceedings, and juvenile delinquency matters in the New York City Family Courts. FCLS attorneys work collaboratively with child protective specialists, case planners, permanency planning specialists and other child welfare and juvenile justice stakeholders to further the agency's mission on behalf of children, youth and families.</p>			
<p>Supervising Attorneys: Cynthia Lopez: (Manhattan), 212-788-1379, Cynthia.Lopez@acs.nyc.gov Lauren Meller: (Bronx), 718-590-8481, Lauren.Meller@acs.nyc.gov Peninna Oren: (Staten Island), 718-720-6026, Peninna.Oren@acs.nyc.gov Lisa Rodin: (Queens), 718-725-3000, Lisa.Rodin@acs.nyc.gov Ian Sangenito: (Brooklyn), 718-802-2713, Ian.Sangenito@acs.nyc.gov</p>			

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Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
Family Team Conferencing (FTC)	Beverly Ali	212-341-8979	Beverly.Ali@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Engages family and stakeholders (foster parents, adoptive parents, child/youth, professionals and others) in making quality decisions related to child safety, placement (stability), well-being and permanency. ACS –FTC facilitates Placement Preservation/Disruption; Trial & Final Discharge; 12month Permanency Conferences. *OYS facilitates Goal Change to APPLA conferences.</p> <p>FTC Borough Directors:</p> <p>Sonia Tye-Santiago: (Manhattan – South & Staten Island), Office: 212-676-6477, Cell: 347-578-4134, Sonia.Tye-Santiago@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>Judith Vassell-Mariette: (Manhattan – North), Office: 212-676-6715, Cell: 347-844-3060, Judith.Vassell-Mariette@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>Robert Martinez: (Bronx – North & Upstate), Office: 718-239-5421, Cell: 646-872-0957, Robert.Martinez@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>Perpetua Igweatu: (Bronx – South), Office: 718-933-1133, Cell: 929-271-6145, Perpetua.Igweatu@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>Harry Comeau: (Brooklyn– West), Office: 718-260-8566, Cell: 347-860-5090, Harry.Comeau@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>Deborah George-West: (Brooklyn– East), Office: 718-623-4965, Cell: 646-872-7324, Deborah.George-West@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>Celeste Lucas Powers: (Queens & Long Island), Office: 718-725-4352, Cell: 917-716-2211, Celeste.LucasPowers@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>Taryen Davidson: (Queens), Office: 718-557-1768, Cell: 917-769-1975, Taryen.Davidson@acs.nyc.gov</p>			
Family Visiting/CHIPP	Andy Mandel	212-442-2124	Andrew.Mandel@acs.nyc.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Visiting Unit provides training and technical assistance to improve policy and practice in the area of family visiting to provider agency staff, ACS staff, and other child welfare professionals. In addition, the Family Visiting Unit offers Visit Coaching training (supportive interactive model that empowers parents to have quality visits). • Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (CHIPP) offers services, resources, and technical assistance to children, families, and service professionals in the child welfare and criminal justice systems in order to improve the experience of children and families involved with both systems. CHIPP works closely with foster care providers, ACS divisions, criminal justice departments, NYC Department of Corrections, State and Federal correctional facilities and other agencies and organizations, serving as a resource and liaison, facilitating communication, coordinating efforts, and forging partnerships. 			
Home Attendant Services	<p>Martha Boomer, Director</p> <p>Angela Taylor, FHC Senior Homecare Liaison</p>	<p>212-676-6800</p> <p>212-676-6816</p>	<p>Submit all documents the mailbox: HomeCarePrevFC@acs.nyc.gov</p> <p>The FHC Senior Homecare Liaison Telephone: 212-676-6816</p> <p>Fax: 212-676-9402</p> <p>Original M11Qs must be submitted with the package within 10 days of the date of examination to complete the processing of the service request.</p>
<p>ACS, in conjunction with NYC Human Resources Administration offers Home Attendant Services to Medicaid eligible individuals who are incapacitated and might be institutionalized. Home Attendant Services provide personal care to adults and children whose personal care tasks can't be completely met by family due to medical needs.</p>			

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Homemaking Services	Martha Boomer, Director	212-676-6800	Submit all documents to the mailbox: HomeCarePrevFC@acs.nyc.gov
	Angela Taylor, FHC Senior Homecare Liaison	212-676-6816	The FHC Senior Homecare Liaison Telephone: 212-676-6816 Fax: 212-676-9402 Original M11Qs must be submitted with the package within 10 days of the date of examination to complete the processing of the service request.
Homemaking Services are used temporarily when stress prevents primary caretakers from contributing to the developmental growth of their minor children or if parents or guardians possess poor parenting skills, are emotionally immature or incapable of coping with the care of their children without exposing these children to neglect or abuse. The homemaker provides services to the entire family.			
Housing Academy Collaborative (HAC)	Paul Williams	212-676-6779	Paul.Williams@acs.nyc.gov
Housing Academy Collaborative (HAC) was created in March of 2013 with two goals: to better prepare young adults to maintain long-term possession of NYCHA, and to help them obtain supportive housing when they transition from foster care. In addition, HAC provides one-on-one technical assistance in key areas of education, employment and medical/mental health. HAC collaborates with provider agency staff on youth preparedness services.			
Housing Support and Services (HSS)	Judi Trotter	212-341-3419	Judi.Trotter@acs.nyc.gov
Housing Support and Services is responsible for administering various housing services to families reunifying from foster care placement and families receiving contracted mandated preventive services to prevent their child(ren) from entering into the foster care system. Families reunifying from foster care are eligible to receive a priority housing status when applying for a NYCHA Public Housing apartment through the HSS unit. Reunifying families and families receiving contracted mandated preventive services are eligible for the ACS Housing Subsidy Program. The primary purpose of the ACS Housing Subsidy, which is calculated in part on the client's monthly rent charge, is to provide a time limit, financial supplement up-to \$300.00 monthly towards NYC market rate housing that lasts for a period up to 3 years or \$10,800, whichever comes first. The subsidy program provides for two special grants, each up to \$1800.00. One grant can be used towards rent or mortgage arrears and the other grant can be used towards costs associated with establishing an apartment; for foster care cases only, this special grant can also be utilized to purchase essential furniture.			
Immigration Services and Language Access (ISLA)	Bojana Zezelj, Immigrant Services Coordinator	917-551-7961	Send questions relating to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status <u>only</u> to Bojana.Zezelj@acs.nyc.gov
	Michael Arsham, Interim ISLA Director	917-551-7967	All other, non-SIJS-related immigration questions can be directed to Michael.Arsham@acs.nyc.gov Mailbox for ISLA: ISLA@acs.nyc.gov
ACS Immigration Services provides:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training and technical assistance on the ACS Policy and Procedure on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and Immigration Services (which requires all foster care providers to screen foster youth for immigration legal needs, make appropriate referrals, and assist with certain aspects of cases) and other questions related to working with immigrant youth and families; • information about (1) immigration legal services referrals for family members of foster youth and (2) other outside resources for immigrant youth and families; and • U nonimmigrant status certifications for victims of domestic violence and other crimes who assist ACS with child protective investigations. 			

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Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
Independent Review	Antoinette Wyatt Fayette Bennett	212-341-0734 212-341-3239	Antoinette.Wyatt@acs.nyc.gov Fayette.Bennett@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Family Permanency Services-Provider Agency Collaboration and Engagement (FPS-PACE) is responsible for conducting Independent Reviews requested by Foster Parent(s). The New York State Regulations state the primary concern of the Independent Review is to determine if the removal of the child/(ren) was justified. The decision to remove or return a foster child/(ren) should be supported with considerations as to what is in the child/(ren)'s best interest. In some cases, decisions are made to support the agency, despite clear indications that removal was not warranted. In attempting to determine the justification for the removal and what is in the best interest of the child/(ren), the Independent Review Specialist considers many factors, including Safety & Risk Factors that exists.</p>			
Interjurisdictional Placement (ICPC)	Carline Demaso	212-676-6897	Carline.Demaso@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Central Office of Interjurisdictional Placements (COIP) provides guidelines and direction concerning inter-jurisdictional movements of children to and from New York City and provides resources, training, ICPC clinics and technical assistance to Children's Services personnel, voluntary agency staff, attorneys and other individuals on current ICPC procedures.</p> <p>It processes requests from other jurisdictions for courtesy visits, home studies and supervision of resources that reside in New York City.</p> <p>COIP also completes the Title IV-E eligibility and financial/medical plan forms for all the contract agencies when they are preparing ICPC packages for submission to the NYS ICPC office.</p>			
Intensive Preventive Aftercare Services for Child Welfare (IPAS-CW Unit)	Maria Vilme	212-341-0718	Maria.Vilme@acs.nyc.gov
<p>IPAS-CW Unit - Intensive Preventive Aftercare Services (IPAS) for Child Welfare (CW) provides technical assistance in support of achieving permanency in a timely manner for youth in residential care. The IPAS-CW team collaborates with residential provider agencies on resolving barriers to discharge, reducing length of stay, promoting movement within the child welfare continuum, and facilitating reunification by identifying appropriate community-based aftercare plans to include referrals to the most conducive Evidence-Based Model (EBM). EBM treatment such as Functional Family Therapy, Functional Family Therapy for Child Welfare, Brief Strategic Family Therapy, and Multisystemic Therapy for Substance Abuse can be offer to support youth ages 9-17 who have returned to their permanent adult connection on a trial discharge.</p>			
KinGAP Support Services (KinGAP)	Bryan Hayes Jayme Steadman	212-442-2214 212-513-0927	Bryan.Hayes@acs.nyc.gov Jayme.Steadman@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) Unit focuses on supporting permanency for children and youth in foster care who can be discharged to a relative once reunification and adoption are not appropriate permanency options. The unit is responsible for processing KinGAP applications and subsidy agreements, training ACS and provider agency staff to increase their knowledge on the process, program guidelines and eligibility requirements, and assisting in addressing issues that may be a barrier to KinGAP.</p>			
LGBTQ Office of Policy & Practice	Lisa Parrish Denise Niewinski	212-341-3103 212-341-3224	Lisa.Parrish@acs.nyc.gov Denise.Niewinski@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Office of LGBTQ Policy & Practice works to improve overall outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) children youth and adults involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Office creates policy guidance, develops, disseminates and tracks training about and coaching strategies for working with children and youth, collects data on the disproportional representation and experiences of LGBTQ children and youth, and provides culture change technical assistance and best practice case consultation to improve services so that all young people are safe, respected and affirmed. The LGBTQ Office receives and tracks response incident reports about violations of ACS' policy of non-discrimination and work with agencies to improve the climate and services for LGBTQ children, youth and families.</p> <p>For more about ACS' LGBTQ Support visit the ACS website at http://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/lgbtq-support.page</p> <p>To contact the LGBTQ office, please send inquiries to lgbtq@acs.nyc.gov</p>			
Medicaid Transition Unit	Sandra Smith	212-442-5501 212-442-5500	Sandra.Smith@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Medicaid Transition Unit provides children who are final discharged from foster care with transitional Medicaid or community Medicaid depending on the age of final discharge of the child. Additionally, we activate community Medicaid and recertify Medicaid for adopted and guardianship children every year until the age of 18 or 21 years old depending on if they are basic, special or exceptional children. Also the Medicaid Unit trouble shoot Medicaid issues for children who are in foster care and also enter codes in the system so providers will be paid by Medicaid for the services they provide for the foster children.</p>			

ACS RESOURCES FOR FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS

Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
Mental Health, Policy & Planning Unit	Nancy Chapman, Senior Advisor	212-442-8567	Nancy.Chapman@acs.nyc.gov
This unit is responsible for promoting mental health best practice through technical assistance, training, case review, facilitation and support. The unit is also responsible for assessing mental health needs within the child welfare system and developing operational mechanisms, protocols and programs to address these needs, both within Children's Services and in collaboration with other governmental agencies. The unit also participates in the Office of Mental Health Pre-Admission Certification Committee (PACC) review meetings and provides technical assistance for this process.			
Missing Children's Outreach Unit (MCOU)	Gregory Weir	212-676-6532	Gregory.Weir@acs.nyc.gov
Provides technical assistance to staff at the residential and foster boarding agencies by offering guidance on conducting diligent searches for youth who leave care without permission. This unit monitors the provider agencies adherence and compliance to the ACS 'Children Missing From Foster Care Placement' policy. The unit also assists with system cleanup.			
Office of Advocacy	Michael Arsham	917-551-7967	Michael.Arsham@acs.nyc.gov
The Office of Advocacy is a unit within ACS that responds to the concerns of parents, youth, foster parents, and the general public about child welfare cases. We share constituent concerns with ACS leadership, and alert the administration to new and recurring issues and problems.			
Office of Child and Family Health (OCFH) *= <i>Part of Department</i>	Angel Mendoza, MD, Agency Medical Director	212-341-2660	Angel.Mendozajr.@acs.nyc.gov
The Office of Child & Family Health (OCFH) is charged with ensuring all foster children served by Children's Services have access to physical and mental/behavioral health care that is comprehensive, appropriate and in line with current best practice standards. It also provides that medical lens to support DCP, FPS, DYFJ and DPS in their assessment and practice. OCFH delivers direct medical services to children entering foster care, offers individual case consultations and training to ACS staff and foster care agencies on a variety of health-related topics, conducts research and provides clinical expertise in developing health and mental health policies that support best case practice. Dr. Angel Mendoza, Agency Medical Director, oversees the overall functioning of the Program.			
* Pre-Placement Nursing Services	Monique Richards, MD, Pre-Placement Medical Director	646-935-1377	Monique.Richards@acs.nyc.gov
Nursing Services is responsible for the day-to-day nursing functions of the 24/7 operations at the Children's Center pre-placement, and the borough office medical units in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn. This program provides complete physical assessments for all children entering foster care and direct primary care, and conducts medical case management of children residing at the Children's Center.			
* Children with Special and Exceptional Needs Unit (CSEN)	Yelena Gladkova, Director of Clinical Programs and Services	(212) 341-3165	Yelena.Gladkova@acs.nyc.gov
The CSEN Unit assists foster care agencies and foster care parents to obtain reimbursement rates for children who have heightened physical and/or mental health needs. It reviews for approval special and exceptional rate requests that agencies submit, taking into account the child's medical, psychiatric, psychological or behavioral condition.			
* Medical Audit Unit	Monica DiGrado, Assistant Director of Clinical Programs and Services	212-788-5517	Monica.Digrado@acs.nyc.gov
The Medical Audit Unit reviews foster care medical records to ensure compliance with the established health standards for children in foster care. It strives to ensure that all relevant ACS policies reflect the currently recognized best practices as identified by the American Academy of Pediatrics and other entities.			
* Medical Consent Unit	Nonceba Lubanga	212-341-2765	Nonceba.Lubanga@acs.nyc.gov
The Medical Consent Unit works closely with the foster care agencies, DCP, and the ACS Office of General Counsel to ensure children placed under Article 10 receive essential medical treatment when biological parents disagree, or are unable or unwilling to provide consent. It determines whether the proposed treatment is medically appropriate when seeking parental override, and reviews transfer applications of medically fragile children to skilled nursing facilities. The Unit provides support to the Special Care unit during SPRs and discharge planning of cases of children in skilled nursing facilities.			
* Pediatric AIDS (PAU)	Gennady Rozhavsky	212-676-7685	Gennady.Rozhavsky@acs.nyc.gov
The PAU offers technical assistance to foster care agencies with issues relating to HIV. It provides consents for HIV testing for Article 10 children following ACS and state regulations, tracks test results and medical information on all HIV-infected children and perinatal exposed infants. The PAU delivers formal training and phone consultations to ACS and foster care agency staff on HIV risk assessment, testing and confidentiality, and ensures that HIV prevention strategies shared among foster care constituents are appropriate and based upon current best practice guidelines.			

ACS RESOURCES FOR FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS

Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
* Psychiatric and Behavioral Health Unit	Martin Irwin, MD, Medical Director Psychiatry and Behavioral Health	212-341-8957	Martin.Irwin@acs.nyc.gov (preferred)
Under the supervision of the Medical Director of Psychiatric and Behavioral Health , the unit reviews override requests for consent for psychiatric medication, psychiatric hospitalizations, psychiatric and psychological evaluations, therapy and other mental health treatments or interventions when parents do not provide consent. In addition the unit provides consultation on any concerns pertaining to the psychiatric or mental health care of children in the ACS system. The unit also provides psychiatric evaluations and care for children at the Children's Center: is initiating projects to improve the psychiatric and mental health care of foster children in the community; and providing training both within ACS and to outside agencies.			
* Mental Health Coordination Unit (MHCU)	Gita Thadhani, Director	212-341-2671	Gitanjali.Thadhani@acs.nyc.gov
The Mental Health Coordination Unit is responsible to track psychiatrically hospitalized children in foster care and provides mental health technical assistance to case planners as requested. The three criteria for MHCU eligibility are: A child is in ACS Custody, under age 18, and is admitted to an acute psychiatric inpatient unit (not an Emergency Room, Children's Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, Extended Observation Bed, State hospital, or 21-day Crisis Respite Program). MHCU must be notified of acute inpatient psychiatric admissions and discharges within 24 hours. The unit works closely with case planning teams, acute hospitals that have inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric units, and OMH.			
* Developmental Disabilities Unit (DDU)	Yolanda Dillard, Director	212-442-2081	Yolanda.Dillard@acs.nyc.gov
The Developmental Disabilities Unit enables ACS to coordinate efforts for providing supports, services and appropriate planning for children in foster care with developmental disabilities. The Unit outreaches daily to case planners, preventive agencies, and CPS workers, offers case specific consultation, training on developmental disabilities, and establishes linkages to local community resources and services. The unit provides free psychological testing to children in foster care suspected of having a developmental disability and parents with a suspected cognitive limitations. The DD Unit is the point of access for referral for state OPWDD services and maintains the ACS/OPWDD Waitlist.			
* Medical Consultation Program	Melissa Nieman, Coordinator	212-562-7976	Melissa.Nieman@acs.nyc.gov Melissa.Nieman@nychhc.org
The Medical Consultation Program assists the Child Protective Specialists in their assessment of family functioning in regards to medical needs. They allocate medical resources, contact medical providers, and assist in building linkages to external partners in health care. The Medical Consultants are Nurse Practitioners with clinical experience in medical diagnoses, medications, and treatment, and are experts in child development and medical issues. The medical consultation program works collaboratively with the Clinical Consultation program and supports ACS' child protection staff in their decision making surrounding issues of Medical, Mental Health, Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence, and Substance Use Disorder.			
Office of Preventive Technical Assistance (OPTA)	Juliet Smith	For assistance contact the helpline at: 212-676-7667, or email	For all inquiries contact: OPTA@acs.nyc.gov Day Program request and inquiries email: DayProgramrequests@acs.nyc.gov
The OPTA teams are available to answer calls five days a week (9am-5pm) from both Children's Services and provider agency staff to identify community-based resources for families, both within and outside the child welfare system. The OPTA teams also answer questions regarding Preventive Services available throughout the 5 boroughs.			
Office of Special Investigations (OSI)	Maryann Ponton Frances Carrero	212-442-6737 212-442-7776	Maryann.Ponton@acs.nyc.gov Frances.Carrero@acs.nyc.gov
OSI is an office within NYC ACS Division of Child Protection that conducts investigations of child abuse and mal treatment of children residing in foster care. This includes cases involving teen parents (who are in foster) as well as foster parents' own children. OSI also investigates allegations of child abuse and mal treatment against ACS' employees concerning their own children as well as child abuse and maltreatment involving children in non- residential day care settings.			
Office of Title IV-E Waiver Implementation and Monitoring	Ina Mendez	212-341-0387	Ina.Mendez@acs.nyc.gov
The Office of Title IV-E Waiver Implementation and Monitoring supports regular family foster care providers implement Child Success and Strong Families NYC, a Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project. The ChildSuccess NYC and Strong Families programs were created to provide intensive support to children, youth, families; enhance well-being; and expedite permanency. The models consist of four key interventions: Reduction in Caseloads and Supervisory Ratios, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS-NY), and two evidenced based interventions. Child Success NYC agencies implement KEEP and Parenting Through Change. Strong Families NYC agencies implement Partnering for Success and Attachment and Bio behavioral Catchup. The Office of Title IV-E Waiver Implementation and Monitoring will assist foster care agencies with the implementation of Child Success and Strong Families NYC through the provision of ongoing support, technical assistance, and monitoring of each agency's overall compliance and adherence to intervention guidelines.			

ACS RESOURCES FOR FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS

Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
Parent Support & Recruitment (PSR)	Roberto Roman Linda White Trevor John	212-676-7572 212-442-4194 212-341-0410	Roberto.Roman@acs.nyc.gov Linda.White@acs.nyc.gov Trevor.John@acs.nyc.gov
<p>PSR serves as the recruitment registration center of prospective foster and adoptive parents and assists those that call the WISH Recruitment Line in learning about the process in becoming a foster or adoptive family. Working with foster care agency partners, prospective parents attend an orientation session and begin the application and certification process. For those prospective parents that wish to adopt children, additional assistance is provided to them from PSR's WWK Adoption Recruiter.</p> <p>Aside from the WISH Line, PSR also receives inquiries from New York City's 311, AdoptUsKids and Meet Our Kids, and Wednesday's Child and are referred to contracted provider agencies to begin the certification process; those interested in adoption are explained they first must become a certified foster parent before they are able to become an adoptive parent. These inquiries are entered into the WISH database – a historical informational depository maintained by PSR to ease tracking.</p> <p>In addition to recruitment, PSR also provides operational support to the foster care agency partners to develop enhanced recruitment strategies and strengthen the available pool of families already licensed to foster and/or adopt children in need of a family in NYC. PSR coordinates annual events, such as the NFCAM Reception and Seminar, for foster parent support and other technical assistance. The unit also works with multiple community partnerships to strengthen their work around recruiting foster families for children and youth in their communities, as well as providing supportive networks to the foster/adoptive families willing to care for children and youth in a family-based setting.</p> <p>PSR is also responsible in collecting data from the all of the provider agencies recruitment efforts, certification process, annual foster parent re-certifications, and other important information needed by the administration.</p>			
Person In Need of Supervision-PINS filing	Patricia Bassy	212-513-0343	Patricia.Bassy@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Filing extensions on placement for youth on a PINS petition and D- delinquency cases. The Providers can contact this area to discuss filings and what is required to extend on a PINS and D-delinquency cases.</p>			
Post Adoption	Yvette Norman-Godreau	212-341-2832	Yvette.NormanGodreau@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Reviews/processes Post Adoption subsidy application for change of payees in the event of Adoptive Parent(s) /guardian passes away and for post adoption Upgrade requests. Process suspensions/Lift of subsidy payments, completes Interstate Compact Adoption Medical Assistance for adoptive children outside the New York area and provides Title IV-E eligibility verifications. The Post Adoption advocacy unit focuses on the resolution of concerns/issues of the post adoption families and children through outreach and referrals for services.</p>			
Presumptive Budget Letter Requests	Shamika Perkins	212-341-2806	Shamika.Perkins@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Presumptive Budget Letter Requests. Many of our Youth between the ages of 18 and 21 are applying for NYCHA or NY/NYIII housing but they do not have a source of income in order for their applications to be processed. HRA will provide ACS with a Presumptive Budget Letter to use that states what the youth would receive if he or she were to apply for public assistance. NYCHA and NY/ NYIII are willing to accept this presumptive budget letter as a proposed source of income so that the housing application can move forward. The Presumptive Budget Letter is not an application for public assistance. Once the housing has been offered to the youth, and the youth has accepted the apartment, the youth must apply for public assistance if he or she is not working.</p>			
Re-Entry	Fayette Bennett	212-341-3239	Fayette.Bennett@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Facilitates Re-Entry conferences with youth between the ages of 18-20 who meet the criteria to reenter foster care. Prepares a social worker assessment for Deputy Commissioner so that a decision can be made in reference to youth reentering or not reentering foster care. Follow-up and trouble shoot all reentry concerns: Like opening cases in Connections, working closely with FCLS Compliance Attorney to ensure that FCLS obtains necessary assessment for OTSC to be filed.</p>			
Residential Care Related Issues	Sabine Chery	212-676-7025	Sabine.Chery@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Assisting with high level issues at the residential programs to formulate plan with the Provider Agencies and key stakeholders. Discussing concerns at residential programs and providing support for youth and agency as needed. Collaborating with other internal and external partners to support such high level issues.</p>			

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Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
SCR Clearances – Adopt SCR-Emergency Kinship Resources	Iris Kaplan	212-676-9950	Iris.Kaplan@acs.nyc.gov
<p>SCR-local (5 boroughs) Clearance for Emergency Kinship Placements- ACS can provide a local clearance if an agency needs to do an emergency clearance of a kinship resourced for purposes of placing a child in the home. The clearance can only be completed on a resource who resides in one of the 5 boroughs. The agency must follow-up with a state wide clearance request to OCFS to obtain a clearance letter.</p>			
Shared Response Team (SRT)	Steven Bieber Neil Freedman	212-676-7480 212-676-9271	Steven.Bieber@acs.nyc.gov Neil.Freedman@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Is responsible for both assessing and responding to fatalities, critical incidents, and high profile cases involving a child who is currently in foster care. Inquiries and concerns regarding these cases are brought to the attention of Children’s Services by the Mayor’s Office, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), other governmental agencies, provider agencies, clients and/or any other members in the community and require immediate attention. The Shared Response Team also provides technical assistance to provider agencies to ensure that systems, problems, and inquiries receive helpful and effective responses. In addition, the Shared Response Team maintains the Business Process Guide, which summarizes policies and procedures and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the provider agencies and Children’s Services.</p>			
Specialized Care Unit (SCU)	Edwina Ford Rosalind Hay-Stevens	212-676-6771 212-676-6714	Edwina.Ford@acs.nyc.gov Rosalind.Hay-Stevens@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Maintains case planning and management for children in foster care with special needs who have no siblings in foster care, and are residing in a long term and/or permanent clinical treatment setting, including facilities operated by the Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the Office of Mental Health (OMH).</p>			
Strategic Program Support	Raymond Toomer Myra Soto-Aponte	212-341-2687 212-676-6686	Raymond.Toomer@acs.nyc.gov Myra.Soto-Aponte@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The newly developed Office of Strategic Program Support (OSPS) provides technical assistance services to ACS’ contracted foster care provider agencies to better achieve positive safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes for children in foster care and families. The Office is responsible for developing and implementing a new approach to providing program-level technical assistance that responds to macro-level practice challenges and systemic barriers to performance, and enhances the capacity of provider agencies to deliver comprehensive and robust services that meet the needs of children and families and align with the provider agencies’ performance goals.</p>			
Substance Use Disorders	Shernet Neufville-Gray, Director	212-341-3134	Shernet.Neufville-Gray@acs.nyc.gov
<p>This unit is responsible for creating and maintaining the on-going cross-systems collaboration with Provider Agencies, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the ACS Division of Child Protection to oversee the unique implementation of Substance Use Disorders screening, assessments and referral to treatment/treatment by CASACs in each of the ACS Borough Offices. We partner with Federal, State and City Agencies to expand the resources available to our staff and clients to assist with training, as well as engagement of clients so as to improve our outcomes with this population. The unit strives to support staff and families by bringing evidence-based practices in Substance Use Services to our client population in a way that improves client’s show-rate for treatment and ultimately outcomes. We utilize data driven decision making to evaluate outcomes and plan for improvement.</p>			
Supervision Until 21	Stephanie Alston	212-341-3349	Stephanie.Alston@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Supervision Until 21 - Res-Care Unit monitors the youth that are final discharge from foster care until age 21 with a goal of APPLA. The Youth Coordinators attend the final discharge FTCs and provides on-going support, resources and services as needed to youth who have left care prior to aging out of care. ACS completes the six month discharge checklist and makes monthly contact with the young person either face to face or by phone contact.</p>			
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy Program	Sherene Hassen, Assistant Director	212-676-9156	Sherene.Hassen@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Administration for Children’s Services has contracted with the Public Consulting Group (PCG) to provide Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Title II Identification and Enrollment services for children and youth in care. SSI/Title II benefits are useful resources which assist ACS in off-setting the cost of care and subsequently provide on-going economic security for youth and children upon final discharge from foster care. In addition, the identification and enrollment work being undertaken by PCG will strengthen agency compliance with the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) rules and regulations.</p>			

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Program	Contact	Telephone No.	E-mail
Teen Specialist Unit (TSU)	James Brock Harris Vicki Mitchell	212-676-7500 212-513-7765 Mailbox	JamesBrock.Harris@acs.nyc.gov Vicki.Mitchell@acs.nyc.gov acs.sm.tsu@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Teen Specialist Unit (TSU) partners with external experts, professionals and internal cross-divisional partners to promote services that will develop and enhance parenting capacity for expectant and parenting teens involved in our child welfare system as well as the well-being of their children. The goal of the unit is to reduce subsequent teen pregnancy rates and decrease reports of child abuse and neglect allegations when there are no clear safety concerns. TSU staff provides support to expectant and parenting teens at Family Team Conferences, works to build providers' expertise in youth and family engagement; as well as providing useful toolkits, workbooks, training materials and linkages to community base services.</p>			
Vital Records	Iris Kaplan Sheryl Watson	212-676-9950 212-676-6639	Iris.Kaplan@acs.nyc.gov Sheryl.Watson@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Vital Records/Foster Care Child Care Referrals – The Unit assists the provider agencies in obtaining birth certificates, death certificates and social security cards for children in foster care. If the child is born outside of the city, the provider agency can send an e-mail to the unit detailing child's DOB and place of birth and the unit will provide information on specific documents and costs for the birth certificate and assist in obtaining the birth certificate from the other jurisdiction. Unit also processes foundling birth certificates.</p>			
Wednesday's Child	Sophia Brewer	212-676-8450	Sophia.Brewer@acs.nyc.gov
<p>Wednesday's Child is a weekly segment of the news on WNBC Channel 4 that features a child or sibling group that needs an adoptive placement. The Wednesday's Child program is a partnership between the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, the Administration for Children's Services, WNBC News Channel 4 and New Yorkers for Children.</p>			
Wendy's Wonderful Kids	Edwin Medina	212-341-3344	Edwin.Medina@acs.nyc.gov
<p>The Wendy's Wonderful Kids is a program that executes proactive child-focused recruitment strategies that focus exclusively on moving America's longest-waiting children from foster into adoptive homes. The strategies include developing relationships with children, diligently searching for families to adopt, building custom recruitment plans for each child, and preparing everyone for an adoption to ensure a family is formed forever. Every child deserve to live in a safe, loving and permanent family. No child should linger in foster care or leave the system at age 18 without a permanent family of his or her own. Unadoptable is unacceptable.</p> <p>Please send your referrals to the following address: WWK.Referral.Notification@acs.nyc.gov</p>			