



New York City Foster Care Hackathon Challenge Statements

Youth Challenges:

Peer to Peer Communication

1. A recent focus group with foster youth aging out of the system in New York City revealed that transition aged foster youth (14 to 21) need greater insight from peers and staff on the aging out process and how to best navigate it. There are many unofficial rules and subsystems to navigate. Many of the older foster youth have figured out how to maneuver and operated through the system. **How might we leverage technology to facilitate a peer to peer community in which foster youth are able to learn how to properly navigate the system?**

Learn more by visiting the [ACS Youth Webpage](#) and [Planning for Your Future page](#).

Enhancing Youth Voice in Transition Plans

2. When foster youth turn 21 and leave foster care, they need to be prepared to transition successfully to adulthood. One of the ways the system prepares youth to be successful adults is by creating a transition plan. These plans are typically created when social workers meet with youth once a month in one or a few sessions. **How might we leverage technology to enhance youth voice in transition planning?**

Learn more by visiting the [ACS Youth Webpage](#) and [Planning for Your Future page](#).

Speeding Up System Responses

3. Foster Youth reported having to wait on their social workers to process paperwork, which can delay youth from achieving key milestones. Typically, a few months prior to aging out, there is an increase in requests to the social worker for documentation that is necessary for the youth's school, obtaining services after leaving the system and more. **How might we leverage**



technology to help foster youth submit and track their requests to their social workers?

Learn more by visiting the [ACS Youth Webpage](#) and [Planning for Your Future page](#).

Foster Parent Challenges:

Connecting Foster Parents Together

1. Being a foster parent can be very challenging. NYC wants to find ways to better support foster parents by ensuring they have the proper means to connect and create a community with other foster parents. In addition to providing a sense of community, foster parents can benefit from access to information on resources, support, and advocacy. **What technical solutions could help better connect foster parents to each other and to share information about services and resources?**

Recruiting Foster Parents

2. NYC needs to recruit more foster parents. **What technical solutions could help us to recruit more New Yorkers to become foster parents?**

Learn more by visiting the [ACS' Foster/Adopt page](#).

Social Worker Challenges:

Reaching and Communicating with Youth

1. Social Workers have difficulty reaching foster youth via telephone at times. **How might foster youth and social workers connect via a different medium?**