



MARCH 2019

**NYC**  
Administration for  
Children's Services

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INTERAGENCY  
FOSTER CARE TASK FORCE  
One Year Progress Report

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Dear Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Johnson and Council Member Levin,**

As Chair of the Interagency Foster Care Task Force, established by the enactment of Local Law 144 of 2016, I am pleased to submit this report summarizing the significant progress that has been made to implement the Task Force's recommendations.

In March 2018, the Task Force issued its initial report, which included sixteen recommendations to improve services and outcomes for youth in and aging out of foster care. The Task Force recommendations were incorporated into the ACS Foster Care Strategic Blueprint. Since the release of the report, ACS, in partnership with its sister agencies in City government, parents, youth, advocates and provider agencies, has worked aggressively to implement the recommendations.

The Task Force members have not only contributed their expertise but have also worked collaboratively to advance the critical objective of improving outcomes for children in foster care.

This report reflects the major progress that has been made over the past year.

In the year ahead, ACS looks forward to working with its partners to continue the implementation of all Task Force recommendations – which will help strengthen the foster care system and improve outcomes for children and families.

I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the Task Force for continuing this valuable collaboration to ensure that every child in foster care has the opportunity to succeed.

**David A. Hansell,**

Commissioner, NYC Administration for Children's Services  
Chair, Interagency Foster Care Task Force

## TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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### **Task Force Chair**

#### **David A. Hansell**

Commissioner, *Administration for Children's Services*

#### **Steven Banks**

Commissioner, *Department of Social Services*

#### **Oxiris Barbot, MD**

Commissioner, *Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*, represented by designee Marnie Davidoff, Assistant Commissioner

#### **Georgia Boothe**

Vice President, *Children's Aid*

#### **Patrick Brown**

Youth Representative

#### **Alondra Castillo**

Youth Representative

#### **Bill Chong**

Commissioner, *Department of Youth and Community Development*

#### **Kurt Dawiec**

Youth Representative

#### **Jess Dannhauser**

CEO, *Graham Windham*

#### **Richard Carranza**

Chancellor, *Department of Education*, represented by designee LaShawn Robinson - Deputy Chancellor

#### **Brianna Hayes**

Youth Representative

#### **Letitia James**

Former Public Advocate and

#### **Corey Johnson**

Former Acting Public Advocate, *Office of the Public Advocate*, represented by designee Barbara Sherman, Deputy Policy Director

#### **Jeremy Kohomban**

CEO, *Children's Village*

#### **Stephen Levin**

City Council Member and General Welfare Committee Chair

#### **Jennifer March**

Executive Director, *Citizens' Committee for Children*

#### **Corey Johnson**

Speaker of the City Council, represented by designee Dohini Sompura, Unit Head, *Finance Division*

#### **Joyce McMillan**

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#### **Stanley Brezenoff**

Former Interim Chair & CEO *New York City Housing Authority*, represented by designee Rosanne Pisem, Associate General Counsel

#### **Milcah Slater**

Youth Representative

#### **Anthony Trotter**

Youth Representative

#### **Jeanette Vega**

Training Director, *Rise*

## BACKGROUND

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The Interagency Foster Care Task Force (the Task Force) was created following the enactment of Local Law 144 of 2016, signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio on November 16, 2016. The legislation, which was introduced by City Council Member and Chair of the General Welfare Committee Stephen Levin, charged the Task Force with issuing recommendations to improve services and outcomes for youth in and aging out of foster care. In addition to issuing a report on the recommendations, the Task Force is required to produce two follow-up reports on the implementation of the recommendations in 2019 and 2020. The following is the 2019 status report.

The law established the composition of the Task Force to include a range of perspectives, experience and expertise. The Task Force is chaired by the Commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). Its designated members include youth currently and previously in foster care; parents; advocates; representatives from foster care agencies; the Public Advocate; the Speaker of the City Council; the Chair of the City Council General Welfare Committee; the Commissioners of the City Departments of Social Services, Youth and Community Development, and Health and Mental Hygiene; the Chancellor of the Department of Education and the Chair of the New York City Housing Authority.

The full Task Force met five times between June 2017 and March 2018. The Task Force established five workgroups in the areas of Permanency, Education, Employment, Health and Housing that met outside of the full Task Force meetings. The Task Force issued its report in March 2018. These recommendations were incorporated into the ACS Five Year Foster Care Strategic Blueprint issued in May 2018. The Task Force's recommendations are organized in three categories:

### IMPROVING PERMANENCY OUTCOMES

Three recommendations (#1 - #3) are designed to reduce the time that children spend in foster care by increasing Family Time (aka visiting) with parents, placing more children with relatives and empowering parents with information so they can fully exercise their rights when their children are placed in care.

### IMPROVING HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Seven recommendations (#4 - #8, #10 and #11) are designed to improve the well-being and educational attainment of children while in foster care. Dedicated guidance counselors, tutoring in middle schools and focused oversight and service coordination of the educational needs of children in foster care will increase promotion, attendance and graduation rates. Three recommendations focus on strengthening mental and behavioral health services for children in foster care. One recommendation is designed to increase the connection of pregnant and parenting teens in foster care to available home visiting services, to improve the quality of care received by the youth and their young children.

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## IMPROVING THE PROSPECTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS LEAVING FOSTER CARE

Six recommendations (#9 and #12 - #16) target the needs of young adults leaving foster care. One recommendation is for New York State to ensure that youth with serious and complex physical and mental health needs are able to access Medicaid coverage for the services they need after foster care. Four recommendations focus on increasing housing options and improving access to housing for young people leaving care. Finally, one recommendation is to establish a comprehensive education, employment and housing support service for all youth ages 16 to 25 who are in or have recently been discharged from foster care.

Since the Task Force report was released in March 2018, ACS and its partners have been working aggressively to implement the recommendations. The full Task Force met again in January 2019 to review the progress to date. Several recommendations have already been completed and many more are well underway. Highlights include the following:

- To advance the kinship placement recommendation from the Task Force, in March 2018, ACS announced a goal to increase the proportion of children placed with kin upon entry to foster care from the baseline of 31% to 46% by the end of 2020. We are well on our way to achieving this. The proportion of children in foster care placed with kin rose to 36% by the end of FY 2018 and is up even further to 38% in the first quarter of FY 2019. The increase in kinship placements is supported by several initiatives including the implementation of Kinship Specialists in the Division of Child Protection, a public/private partnership to provide technical assistance for foster care providers to improve kinship practice and the launch of a kinship pilot with two provider agencies to implement innovative kinship strategies.
- To advance the Family Time (aka visiting) recommendation from the Task Force, ACS has implemented two new tools with foster care agencies to help improve Family Time practice, the safety of children and reunification outcomes. One tool is designed to help foster care agency staff assess families' readiness to move from supervised to unsupervised Family Time according to ACS' visiting policy. The other is a Family Time space assessment tool to help agencies evaluate and improve the quality of their visiting areas to encourage positive family experiences. ACS is partnering with parent advocacy organization Rise to develop tools and videos and to provide training and technical assistance to foster care agency staff to enhance Family Time practice. ACS has also launched a pilot with two providers implementing strategies to improve the quality of Family Time practice.
- To advance the academic enrichment recommendation from the Task Force, in March 2018, ACS and DYCD signed a Memorandum of Understanding in order to share data with the goal of increasing access for children in foster care to DYCD afterschool and enrichment programs. ACS and DYCD since launched a regular data match to identify 5th-8th grade DOE

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students in foster care who are and are not enrolled in DYCD programs. ACS and DYCD used the results of this analysis to identify opportunities to connect additional foster youth to DYCD programs. As a result of this process, several dozen foster youth who weren't previously participating in DYCD programs are now enrolled in an afterschool or enrichment program.

- To implement the Task Force recommendation pertaining to developing services for youth with significant mental health needs, DOHMH launched a High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) pilot in January 2019 for NYC children with serious mental health needs, including youth in foster care.
- To implement the Task Force recommendation that certain eligible youth aging out of foster care are granted priority when they apply for NYCHA apartments, NYCHA is granting its highest, N-zero, priority to eligible youth who are in the legal care and custody of the ACS Commissioner regardless of their foster care placement address.
- Advancing the Task Force recommendation pertaining to advocacy for access to a NYS mental health database, the New York State Office of Mental Health has agreed to provide ACS access to the PSYCKES database, which includes information on diagnosis, medications and mental health services for children in foster care.
- Implementing the Task Force recommendation pertaining to expanding services for older youth in foster care to help to achieve career, educational and housing goals, ACS partnered with New Yorkers for Children and Youth Villages to launch the new YVLifeSet program. In addition, ACS, the CUNY School of Professional Studies, The Pinkerton Foundation, and the Center for Youth Employment (CYE) collaborated to pilot a paid internship program with a mentoring component. The City Council also doubled its support of transition age youth programming from \$550k to \$1.1 million in the FY 2019 budget and has allocated funding to eight agencies. These programs are providing education, employment and supportive services for older youth in foster care.

The following report provides details on the progress made on implementation of each of the 16 Foster Care Task Force recommendations since March 2018. In the year ahead, ACS looks forward to working with its partners to further the implementation of all Task Force recommendations and continuing to strengthen all aspects of the foster care system and improve outcomes for children and families.

# PERMANENCY

## Task Force Recommendation

## Status Update as of March 2019

### 1. Identify strategies to increase placement of children in foster care with kin.

- **Increase in Kin Placements:** Research indicates that children in foster care fare best when placed with kin, including relatives and family friends. Safely increasing placement with kin is a priority of the ACS Foster Care Strategic Blueprint. ACS is implementing a range of strategies to increase kinship placement, and this work is producing results. In March 2018, ACS announced a goal to increase the proportion of children placed with kin from the baseline of 31% to 46% by the end of 2020. We are well on our way to achieving this. The proportion of children in foster care placed with kin rose to 36% by the end of FY 2018 and is up even further to 38% in the first quarter of FY 2019.
- **Kinship Specialist Positions Established:** As of March 2018, ACS established 10 new kinship specialist positions in the ACS Division of Child Protection (DCP). These staff have the dedicated function of finding and engaging kin caregivers for children entering foster care. ACS engaged with the nationally known kinship care organization A Second Chance to train these staff in June 2018. Kinship Specialists focus on fully engaging family networks and community connections in order to place children with caregivers they know.
- **ACS Staff Education:** ACS previously launched a “Find Family and Friends First” campaign in its Division of Child Protection, which is ongoing. All existing and new Child Protective Specialists receive training and education materials, and there are posters that are prominently displayed in the ACS offices across the City.
- **Public/Private Partnership for Kinship and Foster Home Recruitment:** In May 2018, five foundations (New York Community Trust, Redlich Horwitz Foundation, Ira W. DeCamp Foundation, Joseph Leroy & Ann C. Warner Fund and Tiger Foundation) made grants totaling \$750k to five foster care agencies to advance ACS’ Home Away from Home (HAFH) kinship and foster home recruitment work. This initiative has been highly successful in increasing foster home recruitment while simultaneously improving kinship placement and support for kin caregivers.
- **Technical Assistance and Innovation at Foster Care Agencies:** ACS, in partnership with national experts Public Catalyst and Action Research, is providing intensive technical assistance on kinship placement to foster care agencies through ACS’ HAFH initiative. This work includes analyzing data, assessing kinship business processes and implementing best practices to improve kinship placement and support.
- **Kin Pilot:** ACS launched a pilot in Fall 2018 with two foster care provider agencies, Children’s Village and Little Flower. These agencies are receiving funding to implement kin placement strategies such as dedicating staff to search for kin, engaging experienced kinship foster parents as peer advocates and enhancing assistance for kin caregivers in the home study process.

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**Task Force Recommendation****Status Update as of March 2019**

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**2. Identify strategies to increase and improve the quality of Family Time (aka family visiting).**

- **Family Time:** Increasing and improving the quality of Family Time (aka family visiting) is a key priority in the ACS Foster Care Strategic Blueprint as Family Time is a major predictor of successful reunification.
- **Launched Two New Tools for Foster Care Agencies:** ACS has implemented two new Family Time tools with foster care agencies to help improve Family Time practice, the safety of children and reunification outcomes. One tool is designed to help foster care agency staff assess families' readiness to move from supervised to unsupervised Family Time according to ACS' visiting policy. The other is a Family Time space assessment tool to help agencies evaluate and improve the quality of their visiting areas to encourage positive family experiences. ACS is providing technical assistance to the provider agencies to support implementation of the tools.
- **Parent Advocacy:** ACS has a partnership with parent advocacy organization Rise to develop tools and videos and to provide training and technical assistance to foster care agency staff to enhance Family Time practice.
  - ▶ Rise has developed "tip sheets" and a video for parents and staff that have been widely disseminated and incorporated into trainings with foster care agencies. ACS has incorporated Rise's TIPS and Family Time video for caseworkers into its Family Time and Visit Coaching trainings.
  - ▶ Rise has launched "the Stakeholders Collaborative," an initiative in which Rise is working with foster care agencies to identify key frontline practices for improvement to strengthen early parent engagement and accelerate safe reunification/permanency.
  - ▶ In FY 2019, ACS is creating a new Director of Parent Engagement function that will coordinate and expand ACS' work with parents in order to further strengthen parents' voices and engagement in ACS' programs, planning and policy development. The Director of Parent Engagement will develop and support a new Parent Advisory Council to the Commissioner.
- **Family Time Pilot:** ACS launched a pilot in Fall 2018 with two foster care provider agencies, Children's Aid and Good Shepherd Services. Each agency is receiving funds to implement strategies to improve the quality of Family Time practice. The pilot is currently in the implementation phase. Strategies being implemented include visit coaching, case aides accompanying families on visits outside the agency, identifying offsite visiting spaces and providing kits with supplies to encourage positive family interactions.

**Task Force Recommendation**

**Status Update as of March 2019**

- **Family Time for Children with Incarcerated Parents:**
  - ▶ In June 2018, ACS expanded its visiting program for children with mothers incarcerated at Rikers Island to include Saturdays in addition to weekdays.
  - ▶ In December 2018, ACS released a short film and two desk aides developed in collaboration with The Osborne Association about the importance of visits for children with incarcerated parents. The film is geared to caseworkers, featuring clips of workers as well as family members affected by incarceration.
- **Alternative Family Time Locations for Parents Living in Shelters:** In May 2018, ACS issued and implemented guidance to foster care providers regarding appropriate visiting locations, with instructions for requesting ACS approval and payment for alternative visiting locations when parents lack appropriate housing.
- **Family to Family:** ACS is utilizing a multi-faceted approach to support positive relationships between parents with children in foster care and foster parents in order to improve outcomes for children and families (commonly known as the Family to Family approach):
  - ▶ ACS has partnered with Rise to deliver its ‘Building Bridges: Parents & Foster Parents’ curriculum to foster care agencies. This curriculum recognizes that helping to create positive relationships between parents with children in foster care and the foster parents taking care of their children can be transformational in reducing stress on children and supporting parents in achieving reunification.
  - ▶ Family to Family is a key focus in our Family Time and foster parent recruitment and support initiatives.
  - ▶ ACS’ new Parent Engagement function and Parent Advisory Council (described above) will focus on advancing Family to Family practice.

**3. Enhance materials for parents about the child welfare system and their rights.**

- **New Materials to Support Parents:** With input from parents, parent advocates, legal advocates and other key stakeholders, ACS is currently updating two documents: the *Parent’s Guide to Child Protective Services* and the *Handbook for Parents with Children in Foster Care*. These documents will be reissued in 2019 and provided to all parents with investigations and/or children placed in foster care.

# EDUCATION

Task Force Recommendation	Status Update as of March 2019
<p>4. Explore feasibility of establishing dedicated guidance counselors for children in foster care.</p>	<p><b>Specialized Supports for Youth in Foster Care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The NYC Department of Education (DOE) is hiring approximately 100 school-based Community Coordinators to connect highly mobile youth, including students in foster care, to a range of supportive services (Summer 2019).</li><li>• By Fall 2019, DOE will link foster care youth to Success Mentors, caring adults who identify the underlying causes of student absenteeism and address barriers to attendance to ensure that students reach their academic potential.</li></ul>
<p>5. Identify strategies to provide academic enrichment services, tutoring and social-emotional supports for middle school students in foster care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Afterschool and Enrichment Programs (ACS/DYCD MOU):</b> On March 22, 2018, ACS and DYCD signed an MOU in order to share data with the goal of increasing access for children in foster care to DYCD afterschool and enrichment programs. ACS and DYCD since launched a regular data match to identify 5th-8th grade DOE students in foster care who are and are not enrolled in DYCD programs. ACS and DYCD used the results of this analysis to identify opportunities to connect additional foster youth to DYCD programs. As a result of this process, several dozen foster youth who were not previously participating in DYCD programs are now enrolled. This match is now being run every six months in order to continually identify additional youth in foster care who can be connected to DYCD programs.</li><li>• <b>Academic Support (ACS and DOE Partnership):</b> By Fall 2019, the DOE will ensure that all middle school youth in foster care participate in Middle School College Access for All, which will support their post-secondary planning trajectory through college visits, student workshops, caregiver events, and staff professional development.</li></ul>
<p>6. Identify strategies to improve service coordination and regulatory oversight to support DOE students in foster care.</p>	<p><b>Service Coordination and Oversight:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The DOE will release comprehensive guidance on the rights of students in foster care by Spring 2019.</li><li>• The DOE Office of Safety and Youth Development will add resources on foster care to its online resource hub by Spring 2019 and incorporate foster care information into its Borough Offices and school-based Designated Liaison trainings by Fall 2019.</li></ul>

# HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH

## Task Force Recommendation

## Status Update as of March 2019

7. Explore opportunities to expand intensive, trauma-informed psychosocial and behavioral supports for youth in family foster care.

- **New Strategies to Support Foster Parents:** ACS' Home Away from Home (HAFH) foster home recruitment initiative has been highly successful, increasing the number of new foster parents recruited by 32% from FY 2017 to FY 2018. ACS foster care agencies are developing and implementing a range of strategies for supporting foster parents including leveraging experienced and skilled foster parents in support and recruitment roles; increasing recruitment and support of foster parents for older youth; piloting peer support models; providing specialized training to staff regarding supporting foster parents; resourcing round-the-clock on-call supports for foster parents; and investing in skilled staff who provide in-home individualized coaching, respite and crisis management. Home Away from Home is supported by ACS, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, New York Community Trust, Redlich Horwitz Foundation, Ira W. DeCamp Foundation, Joseph Leroy & Ann C. Warner Fund and Tiger Foundation.
- **Medicaid Redesign:** The NY State Plan Amendment (SPA) has been renamed as Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS). As of January 1, 2019, three CFTSS services have become available for all children with Medicaid who meet Medical Necessity. These services are: Other Licensed Practitioner (OLP); Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR); and Community Psychiatric Supports and Treatment (CPST). ACS anticipates that as part of CFTSS, Family Peer Support Services will become available on July 1, 2019. ACS will be working with its foster care providers to maximize use of these services to support youth in foster care.

8. Explore feasibility of implementing wraparound model for youth in foster care with significant mental health needs.

- **High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) Pilot:** Since September 2018, DOHMH has partnered with City and State stakeholders to develop a HFW demonstration project for NYC children and youth with serious social, emotional, or behavioral concerns who are involved in multiple child service systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, special education). HFW is an evidence-based model of care coordination that uses a highly structured, team-based, family/child centered management process. HFW involves intensive, individualized planning for children and youth, with the goals of empowering youth and families to develop family driven plans, connecting youth and families to community-based services and improving mental health outcomes. Referral of youth in foster care began in January 2019.

9. Advocate to NYS DOH to ensure that youth leaving foster care are eligible for Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS).

- **Health Services for Youth Aging Out (ACS/State Partnership):** ACS and State partners (DOH, OMH and OCFS) are working together to finalize a process to ensure youth in foster who are eligible for HCBS are referred for services when preparing to leave foster care. Youth in foster care who are recipients of B2H (Bridges to Health) services represent the HCBS-eligible population while in foster care. B2H Home and Community-based Medicaid services waiver program is designed to provide children in foster care who have significant mental health or developmental disabilities, or health care needs, with services to help them live in a home or community-based setting.

Task Force Recommendation	Status Update as of March 2019
<p>10. Advocate to NYS OMH to provide ACS with access to PSYCKES (Psychiatric Services and Clinical Knowledge Enhancement System).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mental Health Support (OMH and ACS Partnership):</b> OMH has agreed to grant ACS access to PSYCKES, a web-based application designed to support quality improvement, care planning, and clinical decision making for the Medicaid Behavioral Health population. PSYCKES includes information such as diagnosis, medications, medical and behavioral health outpatient and inpatient services and health home care coordination for children on Medicaid, including children in foster care. ACS is currently meeting with our partners in OCFS and OMH to address confidentiality requirements within the existing systems and future data exchange.</li> </ul>
<p>11. Facilitate access to home visiting services for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nurse Family Partnership and Newborn Home Visiting Program (DOHMH and ACS Partnership):</b> DOHMH and ACS are working together to develop and implement strategies to increase the utilization of the Nurse Family Partnership and Newborn Home Visiting programs by children and families in the child welfare systems, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Partnering to conduct outreach and provide marketing materials to all ACS Divisions, Foster Care and Preventive agencies to increase awareness of the Nurse Family Partnership and Newborn Home Visiting programs.</li> <li>▶ Sharing data to track youth in foster care being referred and enrolled with Nurse Family Partnership.</li> <li>▶ Ongoing meetings to identify trends and opportunities for additional outreach.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# HOUSING

Task Force Recommendation	Status Update as of March 2019
<p>12. Ensure that eligible foster youth aging out of care receive the NYCHA N-zero priority, if they are legally in the care and custody of ACS, regardless of the location of their foster placement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NYCHA Priority for Youth in Foster Care:</b> Effective June 2018, NYCHA has implemented this recommendation and is granting N-zero priority to eligible youth who are in the legal care and custody of the ACS Commissioner regardless of their foster care placement address.</li> </ul>
<p>13. Advocate to increase State-set housing rental assistance for youth and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advocacy:</b> ACS is exploring ways to advocate for this change in the upcoming State legislative session, including partnering with the New York City Council to advance this priority with the State.</li> </ul>
<p>14. Explore expansion of transitional housing for youth leaving foster care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increasing Housing Access (ACS/ HPD Partnership):</b> ACS partnered with NYC Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to submit a joint application to the Federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to obtain Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) through the Family Unification Program (FUP). We were successful and awarded 57 vouchers.</li> <li>• <b>New York City 15/15 Supportive Housing Initiative:</b> In November 2015, Mayor de Blasio announced New York City’s commitment to developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over the next 15 years. ACS is currently successfully referring and discharging single youth and pregnant/parenting young adults for 15/15 supportive housing.</li> <li>• <b>Rental Assistance (ACS/HRA/DSS Partnership):</b> ACS and HRA/DSS are partnering to develop a referral process for CityFHEPS vouchers, HRA’s rental assistance program, which is also available to certain households through referrals from some City agencies, including ACS. ACS and HRA are working to identify the process for referring certain ACS youth and families reunifying from foster care.</li> </ul>
<p>15. Provide integrated, accessible information on housing resources for youth leaving foster care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACS Launching New Resources Website:</b> ACS is developing a mobile enabled resource website that will feature resources for families, older youth in foster care, foster parents and child welfare professionals. The website will be an essential resource to older youth who are preparing for adulthood who are seeking housing, educational, employment, health and other resources in the community. This will launch in Spring 2019.</li> </ul>

## EMPLOYMENT & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Task Force Recommendation

### Status Update as of March 2019

16. Explore strategies to provide supportive services to youth ages 16-25—both during and after foster care—to achieve career, educational and housing goals.

- **New YV LifeSet Program Launched:** In April 2018, New Yorkers for Children, in partnership with ACS and Youth Villages launched the YV LifeSet program in NYC, a promising model that is being implemented in sites across the country. The program will serve 350 young people over three years with the goals of improving education, employment and housing outcomes.
- **City Council Initiative:** For Fiscal Year 2019, the City Council has partnered with ACS and provider agencies that serve transitional aged youth—doubling the Council’s support to \$1.1 M from \$550K in prior fiscal years. This enhanced funding supports education, employment and supportive services for older youth and youth aging out of foster care provided through Children’s Aid Society, City Living, Forestdale, Graham Windham, JCCA, JBFCS, SCO and Sheltering Arms.
- **YA WORC:** ACS is continuing our partnership with The Workplace Center at Columbia University in FY19 to train foster care agencies to implement the Young Adult Work Opportunities for Rewarding Careers (YA WORC) curriculum.
- **Mentored Internship Program (MIP):** To build the capacity of the City’s foster care agencies to better prepare youth in care for employment ACS, the CUNY School of Professional Studies, The Pinkerton Foundation, and the Center for Youth Employment (CYE) collaborated to pilot a paid internship program with a mentoring component. The mentored Internship Program (MIP) is in its second year and currently working with a cohort of foster care agencies including Catholic Guardian Services; Children’s Aid Society; The Children’s Village; Good Shepherd Services; Graham Windham; HeartShare; New York Foundling and Sheltering Arms. ACS has also partnered with Workforce Professional Training Institute (WPTI) to provide technical assistance and learning through a learning community platform. In 2018, 155 youth completed the MIP program.
- **DYCD Internship Program:** The Young Adult Internship Program Plus (YAIP+) is a paid internship program designed by DYCD in partnership with ACS to help reengage foster care youth who might have fallen off track in their education and vocational goals. The goal of the program is to reengage youth in a paid internship program and assist youth to gain the vocational and life skills necessary to successfully enroll and persist in school or a job. The program’s supportive services are trauma-informed and continue over a 9-month period. The program was launched in FY16 and has been renewed through FY19 to provide internship opportunities to youth with child welfare history who are not currently working or enrolled in school. Going forward into FY19, the YAIP+ model has been revamped and renamed the “Advance and Earn” program.

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**Task Force Recommendation****Status Update as of March 2019**

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- **College Programming:** ACS expanded the ACS/CUNY Dorm Program from 50 students in FY17 to 125 students in FY19. The CUNY Dorm program provides year-round housing in four CUNY dorms across NYC and on-site supportive services through New York Foundling for foster care involved youth. The on-site supportive services include: 24/7 social-emotional and academic supports, tutoring and coaching. Students also receive daily stipends for living expenses. Participants in the CUNY Dorm Project have improved their GPAs and had improved rates of college persistence.