

ACS Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care, 2020

Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care¹ on December 31, 2020

Number of Youth in Care	1,274
Number with ID Status Available	1,107
Number with One Form of ID	93
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	949
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care	
All Youth in Care	
Number with a birth certificate	1,013
Number with a Social Security card	922
Number with a state-issued ID	719
Number with a passport	313
Number with IDNYC	346
Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	75
Number with a Social Security card	7
Number with a state-issued ID	6
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

Youth Discharged to APPLA² in CY 2020

Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA	549
Number with ID Status Available	537
Number with One Form of ID	28
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	488
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA	
All Youth Discharged to APPLA	
Number with a birth certificate	499
Number with a Social Security card	477
Number with a state-issued ID	439
Number with a passport	271
Number with IDNYC	106
Youth Who Possessed Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	16
Number with a Social Security card	*
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	11
Number with IDNYC	*

Data sources: CCRS January 4, 2021 and Connections January 15, 2021

¹Youth in care includes youth 17 -20 years old in 24 hour foster care placement. Youth in Close to Home placements are not included.

²APPLA discharges include youth ages 18-20 discharged to self and youth who reached 21 while in foster care. Young people discharged to APPLA include those receiving housing through ACS while on extensions to placement and in college. Youth discharged from Close to Home placements are not included.

Note: The number of youth who obtained identification with agency assistance is unavailable at this time.

*The number of youth in cells with less than six youth are not shown to protect anonymity.

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In Calendar Year 2020 and ongoing, ACS has worked closely with our 26 provider agencies to provide direct training on Preparing Youth for Adulthood, which includes applying for essential vital documents such as a birth certificate, social security card, and state-issued identification card. ACS also continues to encourage the providers to work with youth to obtain the IDNYC and passports.

Data for 2020 indicates that most of the youth discharged to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) obtained at least two forms of ID prior to leaving care. In calendar year 2020, ACS provided a series of trainings focused on permanency planning around youth transitioning out of foster care. Trainings addressed the need for procuring vital documents for youth in the early phase of transition planning with the youth. The APPLA Monitoring Unit also conducted virtual meetings, which addressed the importance of securing vital documentation prior to youth transitioning from foster care.

ACS's Division of Family Permanency Services continues to oversee a centralized Vital Records Unit that works with foster care agencies to obtain vital identification, birth certificates, and social security cards for children and youth in foster care. The unit collaborates with external stakeholders, including foster care providers and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health), and works directly with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to obtain social security cards for foster care youth. The Unit provides technical assistance to our providers and communicates with other city agencies to ensure that children and families have their vital documents. We continue to have a memorandum of understanding with NYC Health, which has helped to expedite the receipt of birth certificates for youth in foster care.

These efforts have resulted in the implementation of a birth certificate request tracking system and the development of protocols that allow ACS to directly request copies of birth certificates. Our Vital Records Unit also assists with procurement of copies of birth certificates from other counties/states and foreign countries (which are also necessary to provide immigrant youth in care with immigration legal assistance).

Our APPLA Monitoring Unit (AMU) and Older Youth Conferencing Unit in the ACS Division of Family Permanency Services also work with provider agencies on a monthly basis to ensure that youth have secured these personal documents during both the completion of the Preparing Youth for Adulthood checklist, and at the trial and final discharge Family Team Conferences. In addition, we have held virtual trainings and informational sessions around preparing youth for adulthood which specified the importance of securing vital documents. The Housing Academy Collaboration (HAC) does a series of housing workshops virtually that also addresses the importance of youth having their vital documentation and how to obtain documents.

AMU also encourages provider agencies to utilize IDNYC to obtain government issued IDs for youth. The team meets with the providers quarterly to address concerns with completing the checklist and obtaining vital records. ACS also facilitates quarterly foster care directors' meetings virtually and will continue to utilize this forum to reinforce provider's responsibilities to obtain vital documents for youth as a component of their permanency planning with youth.