

**ACS Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care, 2025
Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care¹ on December 31, 2025**

Number of Youth in Care	1,105
Number with ID Status Available	903
Number with One Form of ID	97
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	742
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care	
All Youth in Care	
Number with a birth certificate	811
Number with a Social Security card	688
Number with a state-issued ID	582
Number with a passport	263
Number with IDNYC	327
Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	81
Number with a Social Security card	*
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

Youth Discharged to APPLA² in CY 2025

Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA	355
Number with ID Status Available	341
Number with One Form of ID	*
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	*
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA	
All Youth Discharged to APPLA	
Number with a birth certificate	334
Number with a Social Security card	328
Number with a state-issued ID	317
Number with a passport	202
Number with IDNYC	161
Youth Who Possessed Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	*
Number with a Social Security card	0
Number with a state-issued ID	0
Number with a passport	0
Number with IDNYC	0

Data sources: CCRS and Connections December 31, 2025

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 one - five are not shown to protect anonymity. If the number in a redacted cell can be derived based on other numbers in group the next lowest number is also redacted.

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The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) appreciates the importance of ensuring youth in care obtain at least one form of identification prior to leaving foster care. This is the case for every young person, but particularly the case for youth with goals of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA), who are the youth who do not leave ACS's care to a family through reunification, adoption or guardianship.

The 2025 data indicates that 82% of youth in foster care ages 17-20 had at least one ID and that for youth with APPLA goals, 96% of the youth left care with at least one ID. While this data is very promising and show that the efforts of ACS and our foster care providers are working, in 2026 we will be continuing these efforts and enhancing them for a goal to be as close to 100% as possible.

ACS remains committed to ensuring that youth discharging from foster care have as many forms of identification to assist them as they transition to self-sufficiency. This applies to all youth in care, regardless of their permanency plan. Currently, ACS offers both in-person and virtual trainings to providers the focus of which is on youth transitioning from foster care and Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA). A key component of PYA training included applying for essential vital documents such as birth certificates, social security cards and state-issued identification cards. Overall, the trainings are developed and offered to safeguard and increase the young person's understanding of the importance of these required documents and how critical these documents are to establishing themselves in their communities. ACS continues to support and encourage provider agencies to work with youth to obtain IDNYC and passports.

In addition to the ongoing efforts described below, this year we are going to more regularly review the data so that we can connect with foster care providers in real time and we are going to reiterate to our providers that all youth, including those leaving care to families, need identification.

Efforts will include:

- ACS's Division of Family Permanency Services (FPS) oversees the centralized Vital Records Unit that works diligently with foster care partners to obtain required vital identification (birth certificates & social security cards). The Vital Records Unit works collaboratively with NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Administration, through an MOU, and foster partners to ease the process in obtaining vital documents. The unit provides technical support to all foster care partners while maintaining lines of communication with our municipal partners ensuring that children and families are granted easier access to these much-needed documents.
- The Supervision Until 21 Unit provides supportive monitoring to youth 18-20 post-discharge and is present at most Final Discharge Family Team Conferences. The Supervision Until 21 Unit also assists youth with obtaining of birth certificates, state-issued identification and IDNYC post-discharge.
- Continued efforts by our APPLA Support Unit will work to ensure system-wide biannual in-person PYA refresher training wherein a full section is dedicated to securing vital records. The APPLA Support Unit will conduct a bi-annual data review of vital records to access provider agency efforts around vital records which will ensure full and accurate accounts of document retrieval for all youth discharging to independent living. This administrative change will enhance our capacity for engaging providers who are experiencing challenges while simultaneously addressing those challenges expeditiously.
- The APPLA Support Unit (ASU) will continue to make monthly outreach with the provider partners to provide technical assistance and strategic consultation around barriers that might hinder the timely procurement of these required documents. ASU
- ACS also facilitates quarterly family and residential foster care directors' meetings which help to reinforce the provider agency responsibility for obtaining vital documents for all youth.

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- Our Housing Academy Collaborative conducts a series of virtual and in-person housing workshops that also address the importance of procuring vital records and the process for obtaining documents.
- ACS will also monitor vital record procurement at Family Team Conferences and for all CCS21+ requests.