

## **ACS Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care, 2014**

### **Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care in 2014**

Number with birth certificate	2,653
Number who applied for passports	391
Number with social security card	2,512
Number with state-issued id	1,985
Total Youth who obtained identification with assistance of ACS	2,717

### **Youth Discharged to APPLA in 2014**

Number with birth certificate	311
Number with social security card	299
Number with state-issued id	276
Total Youth who obtained identification with assistance of ACS	316

The ACS Division of Family Permanency Services has a centralized Vital Records Unit that works with foster care agencies to obtain vital identification, birth/death certificates and social security cards for children and youth in foster care. The unit collaborates with external stakeholders, including foster care providers, NYC DOHMH and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to obtain vital identification records. The unit serves as a central hub for vital records requests and also provides technical assistance to our providers by communicating with other city agencies to ensure that children and families have necessary documents.

ACS and the DOHMH Vital Records Office have developed protocols that allow ACS contracted provider agencies to request copies of birth and death certificates by submitting requests directly to [acs.sm.birthcertificate.request](mailto:acs.sm.birthcertificate.request).

The ACS Vital Records Unit also assists with obtaining copies of birth/death certificates from out-of-county/state and foreign countries. The centralized Birth Certificate Liaison contacts other jurisdictions including foreign consulates/embassies to obtain documentation, pursuant to the individual requirements of the respective jurisdiction.

The Vital Records Unit also works directly with the SSA to acquire social security cards for children foster care from New York City. ACS also collaborates with our provider agencies to assist the youth in applying for non-driver's license ID's, and passports, when necessary.

ACS is participating IdNYC, the free photo identification card for residents of New York City who are at least 14 years old that the deBlasio Administration launched this year. ACS is working with our contracted agencies to explain how the municipal identification connects New Yorkers to services, programs, and benefits, regardless of immigration status, homeless status, or gender identity. As a government-issued photo identification card, IdNYC benefits all residents, including the most vulnerable communities—the homeless, youth, the elderly, undocumented immigrants, the formerly incarcerated and others who may have difficulty obtaining other government-issued ID.

ACS developed a verification letter that will accompany the IdNYC applications to allow youth in foster care to obtain this identification expeditiously. ACS will also incorporate the IdNYC application process in our Housing Academy Collaborative (HAC) curriculum, open to youth in foster care over age 16, which seeks to prepare young adults for independently living when they transition from foster care.