

# ACS Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care, 2023

## Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care<sup>1</sup> on December 31, 2023

<b>Number of Youth in Care</b>	966
<b>Number with ID Status Available</b>	703
<b>Number with One Form of ID</b>	51
<b>Number with Two or More Forms of ID</b>	607
<b>Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care</b>	
<b>All Youth in Care</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	644
Number with a Social Security card	593
Number with a state-issued ID	477
Number with a passport	205
Number with IDNYC	180
<b>Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	43
Number with a Social Security card	*
Number with a state-issued ID	0
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

## Youth Discharged to APPLA<sup>2</sup> in CY 2023

<b>Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA</b>	418
<b>Number with ID Status Available</b>	404
<b>Number with One Form of ID</b>	83
<b>Number with Two or More Forms of ID</b>	321
<b>Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA</b>	
<b>All Youth Discharged to APPLA</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	224
Number with a Social Security card	215
Number with a state-issued ID	195
Number with a passport	202
Number with IDNYC	54
<b>Youth Who Possessed Only One Form of ID</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	6
Number with a Social Security card	*
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	74
Number with IDNYC	*

Data sources: CCRS and Connections January 3, 2024

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

<sup>2</sup>APPLA 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.

CY2023 data indicates that most youths discharged to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) obtained at least one form of identification prior to leaving care. ACS remains committed to ensuring that youth discharging from foster care have as many forms of identification necessary for procuring goods and services to assist them as they transition to self-sufficiency. Currently, ACS offers virtual trainings to providers focused 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 the young person's understanding of the importance of vital documents and how critical these documents are to establishing themselves in society. ACS continues to support and encourage provider agencies to work with youth to obtain their IDNYC and passports.

Currently there several units within ACS that support obtaining vital records, they include:

- ACS' Division of Family Permanency Services (FPS) continues to oversee a centralized Vital Record Unit that works diligently with foster care partners to obtain vital identification (birth certificates & social security cards) for children and youth in foster care. The Vital Records Unit works collaboratively with NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Administration, through a MOU, and foster partners to ensure that vital documents are obtained. The unit provides technical support to all foster care partners while maintaining clear lines of communication with municipal partners ensuring that children and families are granted easier access to these much-needed documents.
- Additionally, 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 the procurement of birth certificates, state-issued identification and IDNYC post-discharge.
- ACS's 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.

Moving forward the APPLA Monitoring Unit:

- Will re-install its biannual in-person system-wide PYA training refresher whereas vital document procurement will be one of the general topics.
- ACS' Division of Family Permanency is developing a system to track individual provider agency performance around the procurement of vital documents. This mechanism will enhance our capacity for engaging providers who are experiencing challenges while subsequently addressing those challenges expeditiously.
- The APPLA Monitoring Unit (AMU) and the FPS Family Team Conferencing Unit within the Division of Family Permanency Services work with the provider partners monthly to ensure that vital documents are obtained or are in process of being secured. ACS monthly reviews are conducted through Preparing Youth for Adulthood Checklists that require providers to document the individual status of vital document procurement for all youth 17 through 21.
- ACS also facilitates quarterly family and residential foster care directors' meetings. Discussions to reinforce the providers' responsibility around obtaining vital documents for all youth, which is an element of permanency planning, will be included on the agenda.