



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES RELEASES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS**

*Awarded programs will utilize ACS' new 'two-generational' approach: Create a network of services for children and families, Provide needed support*

**New York, NY** – The New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the agency's **Community Partnership Program**, one of the first major initiatives of the recently-created ACS Division of Child and Family Well-Being.

Awarded programs will utilize the new Division's 'two-generational' approach, leveraging both existing and new resources to create a diverse network of services and supports for children and families. To this goal, ACS has existing programs that train parents as educational leaders, educate caretakers on health concerns that affect babies and young children, and encourage family engagement and connection to community resources.

The new Division will centralize these existing programs, as well as develop the planning for community-based hubs that will serve their surrounding communities, leveraging key partnerships and resources to ensure the well-being of New York City's children, families and communities.

"Today's ACS is focused on not only keeping families stabilized, but providing the supports they need to succeed," said **ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**. "The providers chosen for this RFP will share our goal of disrupting disparity and breaking down barriers to advancement that affect too many low-income families. We look forward to expanding our reach to assist even more families with public assistance, domestic violence interventions, child care, and substance misuse treatment and counseling."

"This is an exciting opportunity for providers across the city to partner with us in ensuring the well-being of children and families," said **ACS Deputy Commissioner Lorelei Vargas**. "Partnership is key in this new Division. Partnerships within ACS, across city agencies and with local providers and community leaders, are paramount to achieving our goals and build on the strengths of our families and communities."

The **Community Partnership Program (CPP)** is ACS' first funded, community-based initiative committed to partnering with local communities to support child and family well-being. Working



with community-based organizations in high-needs neighborhoods, CPPs will work together to identify two-generational goals for the families in their communities, with an eye towards encouraging self-sufficiency and sustainable progress. ACS will work with each CPP to measure the success of those goals, apply an equity lens to address disparities in services and access to valuable supports, and develop relevant strategies to create systems change and collective impact.

The RFP will introduce new strategies to strengthen and support families. The redesign of the program model is focused on leveraging existing community resources to help connect multiple service delivery opportunities, eliminate disparities and barriers to access and build overall family and community social capital. The new model also seeks to strengthen the collaboration with City agencies to inform policy and practice related to child and family well-being.

The targeted communities have been identified as high risk on a variety of well-being indicators by the Citizens Committee for Children, and include neighborhoods in the Bronx: Mott Haven, Hunts Point, Morrisania, Highbridge; in Brooklyn: Bedford Stuyvesant, Bushwick, East New York, East Flatbush; in Manhattan: Central Harlem, East Harlem; in Queens: Elmhurst, Jamaica; and in Staten Island the St. George area north of the borough.

### **About the New York City Administration for Children's Services:**

*The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) protects and promotes safety and well-being of New York City's children and families by providing child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education services. In child welfare, ACS contracts with private nonprofit organizations to support and stabilize families at risk of a crisis through preventive services, and provides foster care services for children not able to safely remain at home. ACS is aggressively implementing a [Foster Care Strategic Blueprint](#) to improve outcomes for children in foster care. The most recent status report indicates a 25% increase in children achieving permanency through kinship guardianship, and a 5% increase in children adopted from FY 2015 to FY 2016, even as the overall number of children in foster care continued to decline, among other significant progress made to improve case practice and outcomes for children and families in the foster care system. In juvenile justice, ACS manages and funds services including detention and placement, intensive community-based alternatives for youth, and support services for families. In early care and education, ACS coordinates and funds programs and vouchers for close to 100,000 children eligible for subsidized care.*

*For more information about NYC ACS, please visit [www.nyc.gov/acs](http://www.nyc.gov/acs)*

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