



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**WELCOME TO “THE C.R.I.B.”: ACS PUTS FAMILIES FIRST WITH GRAND  
OPENING OF SECOND FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER**

*Center in East New York provides a community space to help reduce and  
prevent involvement in child welfare system*

Brooklyn, NY – “The C.R.I.B.” (Community Resources in Brooklyn) formally opened on Saturday, July 14, 2018 marking a family-centered model to provide comprehensive services to support families. The C.R.I.B. is the second of three family enrichment centers (FEC) across New York City. The center is a warm, inviting space where neighbors identify community-focused resources, share their talents and interests, and offer each other support.

Each FEC is led by local communities and nonprofit agencies with support from the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS). Everything about the center – including its name, the physical layout, and offerings – is co-designed with families and the community. Specifically, Parent Cafes allow parents to share wisdom and build on their own experience and expertise to support one another. If community residents identify an interest or opportunity such as financial literacy or a men’s group, the FEC staff and parent leaders find ways to make the connection happen. This tailored approach ensures that the FECs fill information and resource gaps, as perceived by the community, and build community capacity to directly support for parents and their children. Traditional “services” are not provided at FECs, which are all open to community members.

ACS ensures that the centers provide offerings within eight key areas to improve child and family well-being:

- Health & Well-Being
- Economic Stability & Employment
- Child Development & Education
- Parenting Skills
- Positive Relationships
- Community Engagement
- Supportive Advocacy

The centers are funded through ACS and managed by non-profit organizations. The C.R.I.B. is in East New York, Brooklyn, and is managed by Good Shepherd Services. The other two centers are in the Hunts Point and Highbridge sections of the Bronx and are run by Graham Windham and Bridgebuilders, respectively. Each FEC will serve approximately 1,000 families

individuals per year. A director, one or two parent advocates, and a community liaison oversee daily operations.

“ACS is committed to empowering families through services and support that they feel they need,” said **ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**. “These centers are part of ACS’ work to support families without any involvement in the child welfare system, and improve child safety and well-being. I want to thank all of the families who have helped develop these centers, and our partners, Good Shepherd Services, Bridgebuilders and Graham Windham for making these centers possible.”

“Working families in Brooklyn deserve access to the support and resources they need to thrive. C.R.I.B. provides families the opportunity to come together in a welcoming and inspiring space that promotes unity and advancement in partnership with the community, so they can see what they can be,” said **Sister Paulette LoMonaco, Executive Director of Good Shepherd Services**. “We look forward to deepening our relationships with families and children in East New York through our enhanced programming.”

In Fall 2017, Commissioner Hansell announced the creation of the Division of Child and Family Well Being (DCFWB), led by Deputy Commissioner Lorelei A. Vargas. This division is a dedicated ACS office that will complement the agency’s core child welfare and juvenile justice programs, by providing services and educational messages targeted to families that are not child welfare-involved, and with the goal of avoiding such involvement. The Family Enrichment Centers fall under this division and are part of an ongoing effort to disrupt disparity and break down barriers to promote opportunities and establish accessible resources for families— from healthcare, to housing, quality education, and employment.

The key factors that make the Family Enrichment Center model innovative are as follows:

- Centers combine primary preventive services, which are designed to reach families proactively to avoid child welfare involvement, with community organizing.
- Centers apply an equity lens in planning, services and goals, which allows them to be intentional about services offerings to maximize the likelihood that all children and families thrive and have access to opportunities that support optimal well-being.
- Their primary identity is driven by parents and community members, an approach that will help children and families thrive.
- Centers are designed and developed with the community.
- Communities were identified as the result of 18 months of research, design, and interactive development. A jurisdictional scan and best practices from across the country helped to shape the model and design (with support from Casey Family Programs and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago).

Each contracted site will receive \$450,000 per year for a total cost of \$1,350,000 over three sites, per year. An additional \$150,000 will be retained by ACS for training, technology, and other costs associated with monitoring, supporting, and evaluation of the implementation of the new initiative across all three sites.

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