



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES CELEBRATES NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH BY RECOGNIZING NYC GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES & FAMILY FRIENDS WHO HAVE STEPPED FORWARD TO BECOME KIN CAREGIVERS

Approximately 42% of NYC Children in Foster Care Are Placed With Relatives & Friends; Increasing Proportion of Youth in Care Placed With Kin is Just One of the Ways in Which ACS is Working to Achieve More Equitable Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care

NEW YORK, NY – In honor of September's "National Kinship Care Month," the NYC Administration for Children's Services honors New York City grandparents, aunts, uncles, family friends and more, who have stepped forward to become kinship caregivers to children in need. Research has shown that children in foster care who are placed with family members or friends experience less trauma, have greater overall well-being, and are more likely to be reunified with their parents, become adopted, or achieve guardianship. In New York City, during FY21, more than half of all the children who entered foster care as a result of a child protective investigation were placed with kin. As the overall foster care population has declined, approximately 42% of all children in foster care are living with kinship caregivers – up from 31% in 2018. Increasing the proportion of youth in care placed with kin is just one of the ways in which ACS is working to achieve more equitable outcomes for youth in foster care.

"In recognition of 'National Kinship Month,' ACS celebrates New York City grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members and friends who are providing safe, loving homes for children in need," **said ACS Commissioner, David A. Hansell.** "We know that children fare best when they maintain strong ties to their families, and increased efforts to place children in care with close relatives and friends will help us in our effort to achieve more equitable outcomes for all New York City children."

Whenever possible, ACS looks to place children entering foster care with relatives or family friends, people who are known to the children. This work begins by exploring kinship options with the parents and the children, and when a kinship resource is identified, the foster care case planner works with the resource to certify their home as a foster home. Kin are held to the same safety standards as non-kin foster parents and must meet all foster home requirements; and they receive the same financial resources and other supports that non-kinship foster parents receive. ACS and its community partners strive to support kin so that children can stay closely connected to their natural support networks.

Increasing kinship care is a top priority in the [ACS Foster Care Strategic Blueprint](#) and builds upon the work happening at ACS to address equity across the child welfare system.

ACS has successfully implemented multiple strategies in order to increase the proportion of children in care placed with kin, including by establishing new Kinship Specialist positions within

the ACS Division of Child Protection (DCP) who focus full-time on finding and engaging kin caregivers for children entering foster care. It was through these and other strategic efforts by ACS's contracted foster care agencies, that we have continued to increase the proportion of children placed with family and friends.

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