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**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNOUNCES PLAN TO ENSURE YOUTH
IN FOSTER CARE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME HAVE
BENEFITS IN PLACE & CAN RECEIVE THOSE FUNDS**

Plan Announced Today Will Establish Individual Accounts for Youth in Foster Care Eligible for Disability and/or Survivor Benefits & Offer Training to Older Youth in Care to Ensure They Understand How to Maintain Benefits

The NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) today announced a new plan to ensure that youth in foster care who are eligible for SSI Disability and/or Survivor benefits have their benefits promptly applied for in order to receive those benefits when they leave care, and to open bank accounts so that eligible children can receive the benefits to which they are entitled while they are in care.

"ACS is committed to supporting children and youth both in and after they leave foster care, and this new child-centric social security benefits plan will expand this support. Starting in the new year, youth in New York City foster care who are eligible for SSI disability and/or RSDI survivor benefits will be enrolled when they leave care, and soon these eligible children and youth will have bank accounts established so that benefits can be collected while in care so they may utilize them when they leave. We're taking this step because it is the right thing to do, and will provide concrete support to children and youth leaving foster care," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell.**

The ACS Child-Centric Social Security Benefits Plan will be rolled out in two phases. The first phase, which is expected to launch in early 2022, will ensure children in care who may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits have those benefits in place when they leave care. The phase will also offer training to older youth, or their families/personal representatives, to ensure they understand the Social Security Administration requirements to maintain benefits.

As part of the second phase, ACS will establish individual SSA compliant accounts for SSI and RSDI eligible children, for up to the legal limit where applicable. The second phase of the plan is expected to be implemented in the summer of 2022.

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