

ACS Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care, 2022

Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care¹ on December 31, 2022

Number of Youth in Care	1,023
Number with ID Status Available	866
Number with One Form of ID	81
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	737
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care	
All Youth in Care	
Number with a birth certificate	794
Number with a Social Security card	724
Number with a state-issued ID	592
Number with a passport	247
Number with IDNYC	225
Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	62
Number with a Social Security card	10
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

Youth Discharged to APPLA² in CY 2022

Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA	494
Number with ID Status Available	477
Number with One Form of ID	66
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	313
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA	
All Youth Discharged to APPLA	
Number with a birth certificate	317
Number with a Social Security card	310
Number with a state-issued ID	286
Number with a passport	229
Number with IDNYC	78
Youth Who Possessed Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	6
Number with a Social Security card	*
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	57
Number with IDNYC	*

Data sources: CCRS and Connections January 4, 2023

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

²APPLA 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 less than six are not shown to protect anonymity.

In Calendar year 2022, ACS has worked closely with our 26 provider agencies to provide direct training on Preparing Youth for Adulthood, which includes applying for essential vital documents such as birth certificates, social security cards and state-issued identification cards. ACS also continues to encourage the providers to work with youth to obtain their IDNYC and passports.

CY2022 data indicates that most youths discharge to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) obtained at least one form of identification prior to leaving care. ACS remained committed to ensuring that as many forms of identification is procured for all youths leaving foster care. During this period ACS continued to offer virtual trainings focused on permanency planning for all youth transitioning from foster care. These training are developed and offered to ensure that youth understand the importance of procuring vital documents and the value to those documents as youths establish themselves transitioning to independent living. Many providers continue to work remotely, and with face to face outreach still relatively non-existent much of the APPLA Monitoring Unit's (ACS) efforts has been around engaging providers through virtual trainings.

ACS' Division of Family Permanency Services continues to oversee a centralized Vital Record Unit that works tirelessly with our foster care partner to obtain vital identification (birth certificates, social security cards) for children and youth in foster care. Our Vital Records Unit work collaboratively with NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Administration and our foster partners to ensure the procurement of vital documentation. The unit provides technical support to all foster care partners while maintaining clear lines of communication with other institutions ensuring that children and families have these much-needed documents. We continue our memorandum of understanding with NYC Health, which ensure expeditious receipt of birth certificates as well as the development of a birth certificate tracking system and protocols that allow ACS to directly request copies of birth certificates. The Vital Records Unit also assists with the procurement of birth certificates from other counties, states and countries (which is necessary in providing immigrant youth in care with immigration legal assistance).

The APPLA Monitoring Unit (AMU) and the FPS Family Team Conferencing Unit within the Division of Family Permanency Services work with our provider partners monthly to ensure that all vital document is in place or efforts are ongoing to secure vital documentation. ACS monthly reviews are conducted through Preparing Youth for Adulthood Checklists that require providers to document individual status of vital document procurement for all youth 17 through 21. ACS require vital document review at trial and final discharge Family Team Conferences; a nuanced approach to ensuring that documentation is in place. Additionally, our Supervision Until 21 Unit which provides supportive monitoring to youth 18-20 post-discharge and are present at most Final Discharge Family Team Conferences, continue to provide support assisting youth with the procurement of birth certificates, state-issued identification and IDNYC.

ACS's Housing Academy Collaborative conducts a series of virtual housing workshops that also address the importance of procuring vital records and the process for obtaining documents. The AMU team continues to meet with provider partners quarterly to address concerns around PYA checklist processing/submission as well as vital document procurement. ACS also facilitates quarterly foster care and residential directors meeting with our provider partners to reinforce the providers responsibility around obtaining vital documents for all youth, which is an element of permanency planning.