

ACS Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care, 2024

Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care¹ on December 31, 2024

Number of Youth in Care	1,028
Number with ID Status Available	869
Number with One Form of ID	92
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	738
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care	
All Youth in Care	
Number with a birth certificate	804
Number with a Social Security card	724
Number with a state-issued ID	602
Number with a passport	254
Number with IDNYC	287
Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	71
Number with a Social Security card	11
Number with a state-issued ID	7
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

Youth Discharged to APPLA² in CY 2024

Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA	386
Number with ID Status Available	369
Number with One Form of ID	13
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	343
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA	
All Youth Discharged to APPLA	
Number with a birth certificate	343
Number with a Social Security card	334
Number with a state-issued ID	321
Number with a passport	224
Number with IDNYC	117
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	0
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

Data sources: CCRS and Connections January 30, 2025

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 one - five are not shown to protect anonymity.

CY2024 data indicates that most youths discharged to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) obtained at least one form of identification prior to leaving care. ACS remains committed to ensuring that youth discharging from foster care have as many forms of identification necessary for procuring goods and services to assist them as they transition to self-sufficiency. Currently, ACS offers both in-person and virtual trainings to providers the focus of which is on youth transitioning from foster care and Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA). A key component of PYA training included applying for essential vital documents such as birth certificates, social security cards and state-issued identification cards. Overall, the trainings are developed and offered to safeguard and increase the young person's understanding of the importance of these required documents and how critical these documents are to establishing themselves in society. ACS continues to support and encourage provider agencies to work with youth to obtain their IDNYC and passports.

Currently there are several units within ACS that support obtaining vital records, they include:

- ACS' Division of Family Permanency Services (FPS) continues to oversee a centralized Vital Record Unit that works diligently with foster care partners to obtain required vital identification (birth certificates & social security cards) for children and youth in foster care. The Vital Records Unit works collaboratively with NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Administration, through an MOU, and foster partners to ensure that vital documents are obtained. The unit provides technical support to all foster care partners while maintaining clear lines of communication with municipal partners ensuring that children and families are granted easier access to these much-needed documents.
- Additionally, the Supervision Until 21 Unit provides supportive monitoring to youth 18-20 post-discharge and is present at most Final Discharge Family Team Conferences. The Supervision Until 21 Unit also assists youth with the procurement of birth certificates, state-issued identification and IDNYC post-discharge.
- ACS's Housing Academy Collaborative conducts a series of virtual and in-person housing workshops that also address the importance of procuring vital records and the process for obtaining documents.

Moving forward the APPLA Monitoring Unit:

- Will continue its biannual in-person system-wide PYA training refresher wherein procuring vital document will be one of the focus topics.
- ACS' Division of Family Permanency has developed a system to track individual provider agency performance around obtaining vital documents. This programmatic change will enhance our capacity for engaging providers who are experiencing challenges while subsequently addressing those challenges expeditiously.
- The APPLA Monitoring Unit (AMU) makes monthly outreach with the provider partners to provide technical assistance and strategic consultation around barriers that might hinder the timely securement of these required documents. As well ACS continues its monthly reviews by way of the Preparing Youth for Adulthood Checklists, which require providers to document the individual status of vital document obtained for all youth 17 through 21.
- ACS also facilitates quarterly family and residential foster care directors' meetings. Discussions to reinforce the providers' responsibility around obtaining vital documents for all youth, which is an element of permanency planning, continues to be included on the agenda.
- ACS will also monitor vital records at Family Team Conferences and all CCS21+ requests.