



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Jess Dannhauser, Commissioner

WHAT WE DO

The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) is responsible for protecting the safety and promoting the well-being of New York City's children and strengthening their families by providing child welfare, juvenile justice, and child care services. With regards to child welfare, ACS contracts with nonprofit organizations to support and stabilize families at risk of a crisis through prevention services and with foster care agencies for children unable to remain safely at home. The Agency's Division of Child Protection responds to reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Concerning youth and family justice, ACS manages and funds services including detention and alternatives to detention, as well as Close to Home placement, intensive community-based preventive alternatives for youth, and support services for families. In the Division of Child and Family Well-Being, ACS issues child care vouchers for children eligible for subsidized child care and promotes a two-generation approach to child and family wellbeing, family stability and equity through public education campaigns and a place-based approach including Family Enrichment Centers and the Community Partnership Program.

FOCUS ON EQUITY

ACS seeks to establish equitable family support, child welfare and juvenile justice programs in which one's race, gender, sexual orientation, or other identities do not predict how one fares within them. African American/Black and Latinx families are overrepresented at key points along child welfare and juvenile justice pathways. ACS has implemented several strategies to address racial disproportionality within these systems.

The Agency's Collaborative Assessment, Response, Engagement & Support (CARES) approach diverts some families from a traditional investigation and connects them with supportive resources. ACS is educating mandated reporters, certain professionals who are specially equipped and required to report child abuse or mistreatment, to understand when such a report is necessary and when it may be better to seek supportive services for a family. ACS has also shifted child protection staff to provide more immediate, intensive support for families with children at high risk of foster care placement.

ACS is expanding Family Enrichment Centers (FECs), which are inviting spaces designed with and for community members. FECs aim to promote protective factors such as social connection, resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social and emotional competence of children, and access to concrete supports. As of Fiscal 2025, there are contracts for 30 FECs, with the 30th and final award and site announced in January 2025. These sites are in various stages; some locations are open to the public while others are in various phases of start-up, working to hire and train staff, engage community members to design and renovate their sites, conduct outreach, and provide in-person and virtual offerings through partnerships with community organizations and leaders.

Parents with lived experience in the child welfare system provide valuable insight on how to improve ACS' work. Since piloting the Parents Empowering Parents initiative in Fiscal 2020—a peer support program in which parents with prior experience in the child welfare system offer advocacy and support to parents currently involved in the child welfare system—ACS began funding and supporting the program for up to 150 parent advocates across the foster care system in July 2023. In Fiscal 2025, there were over 75 parent advocates within the foster care continuum and foster care agencies continue their hiring efforts. ACS also contracts with partner organizations to provide parent advocates at initial child safety conferences and prevention services as well as to provide parent advocate services for families of youth in detention and Close to Home facilities.

In addition, to remedy some of the challenges unique to foster care and other system-involved youth, ACS expanded the Fair Futures program, which utilizes coaches and mentors who work to enhance education, employment, housing, and permanency outcomes for youth between the ages of 11 to 26 currently in or formerly involved with foster care and for justice-involved youth. ACS supports college students in foster care through the College Choice program, which offers students academic advisement and financial support, including tuition assistance, room and board, and a daily stipend. ACS is also adding additional resources to promote youth safety and success through counseling and community engagement opportunities for young people in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. To meet the needs of LGBTQ+ youth in foster care, ACS continues to strengthen staff training and foster parent recruitment and training, based on findings from an assessment of youth experiences. ACS is also updating its policies and pursuing research that informs this critical work.

OUR SERVICES AND GOALS

SERVICE 1 Protect children from child abuse.

- Goal 1a Respond quickly to every allegation of abuse and neglect and perform thorough assessments of safety and risk.
- Goal 1b Reduce the risk of child maltreatment occurring in at-risk families through the provision of high-quality prevention services.
- Goal 1c Provide safe and stable foster care placements for children who cannot remain safely at home.
- Goal 1d Encourage and support family-based and community-based foster care.
- Goal 1e Reduce time to reunification, kinship guardianship and/or adoption and maintain strong family connections for children.

SERVICE 2 Ensure access to safe early child care and education services in all communities.

- Goal 2a Provide access to affordable child care.
- Goal 2b Respond quickly to every allegation of abuse and neglect and perform thorough assessments of safety and risk at child care centers.

SERVICE 3 Provide custody and care of youth in secure and safe detention and placement facilities while providing casework services.

- Goal 3a Ensure that detention facilities are safe and secure.
- Goal 3b Provide youth in detention and placement with appropriate health and mental health services.
- Goal 3c Provide services to prevent youth from returning to the juvenile justice system.

HOW WE PERFORMED IN FISCAL 2025

SERVICE 1 Protect children from child abuse.

Goal 1a

Respond quickly to every allegation of abuse and neglect and perform thorough assessments of safety and risk.

The number of investigations conducted in response to reports made to the State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) declined three percent from 40,489 in Fiscal 2024 to 39,158 in Fiscal 2025. The percent of investigations completed within 60 days rose to 97 percent in Fiscal 2025, reflecting ongoing improvements in timely and complete assessments and service delivery that allow more cases to be fully resolved within required timeframes. The percent of investigations that were substantiated declined slightly from 30.0 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 29.2 percent in Fiscal 2025.

The percent of children in complete investigations with repeat investigations within a year fell from 25.1 percent to 24.7 percent between Fiscal 2024 and Fiscal 2025. The percent of children in substantiated investigations with repeat substantiated investigations within a year declined from 13.4 percent to 13.2 percent. These continued declines are driven by ACS's ongoing focus on quality assurance, coaching, training and strong partnerships with prevention providers, schools, and family members to meet families' needs.

Cases diverted to the Collaborative Assessment Response, Engagement, and Support (CARES) track, a child protection response for low- and moderate-risk cases that is governed by New York State law and does not involve any determination of possible maltreatment, decreased nearly nine percent from 11,607 to 10,625 during this period. This decrease was driven in part by work with community and government partners such as New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) to support families in the community before a report to the SCR is required. The proportion of new child protection cases that are CARES rose from 22.3 percent to 22.8 percent of all cases opened during this period.

The average child protective specialist caseload declined from 8.1 in Fiscal 2024 to 7.0 in Fiscal 2025, the lowest level since Fiscal 2021. This decrease can be attributed to the hiring of additional child protective specialists ahead of attrition and an increase in availability of case-assignable staff.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Abuse and/or neglect reports responded to within 24 hours of receipt from the State Central Register (%)	95.7%	95.3%	93.5%	91.9%	92.1%	100.0%	100.0%	Neutral	Up
★ New State Central Register consolidated investigations	42,783	45,068	43,782	40,489	39,158	*	*	Down	*
Investigations completed in 60 days (%)	97%	94%	93%	96%	97%	*	*	Neutral	Up
Investigations that are substantiated (%)	35.2%	31.8%	28.4%	30.0%	29.2%	*	*	Down	*
Children in complete investigations with repeat investigations within a year (%)	23.5%	25.4%	25.3%	25.1%	24.7%	*	*	Neutral	Down
★ Children in substantiated investigations with repeat substantiated investigations within a year (%)	14.9%	15.2%	13.5%	13.4%	13.2%	14.0%	14.0%	Down	Down
New CARES cases	3,042	5,545	8,587	11,607	10,625	*	*	Up	Up
New child protection cases that are CARES (%)	6.6%	11.0%	16.4%	22.3%	22.8%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Average child protective specialist caseload	6.3	8.4	9.7	8.1	7.0	12.0	12.0	Neutral	Down
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↑↓ Directional Target		* None			

Goal 1b

Reduce the risk of child maltreatment occurring in at-risk families through the provision of high-quality prevention services.

The number of families entering child welfare prevention services declined slightly from 7,021 in Fiscal 2024 to 6,996 in Fiscal 2025. The daily average number of children receiving child welfare prevention services declined five percent from 16,773 to 15,987 and the number of children served during the year rose slightly from 30,459 to 30,565. ACS continues to work closely with prevention services providers to increase access to prevention services for families referred by community sources. This includes opening new pathways to prevention services for families that are referred by NYCPS, NYC Health & Hospitals, the Department of Homeless Services, social service organizations and others. In Fiscal 2025, ACS resized the prevention services system, implementing modest decreases in underutilized programs. The savings from these adjustments were reinvested to strengthen services for and engagement with families and communities. The percent of respondents to the Prevention Services Family Experience survey who said prevention services are helping them achieve their goals remained at 93 percent in Fiscal 2025.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Families entering child welfare preventive services	8,317	6,818	6,659	7,021	6,996	9,000	9,000	Down	Up
Average number of children receiving child welfare preventive services daily	18,330	18,291	16,149	16,773	15,987	*	*	Down	Up
Children who received child welfare preventive services during the year (annual total)	32,945	34,243	30,655	30,459	30,565	*	*	Down	Up
Respondents to the Prevention Services Family Experience Survey who said prevention services are helping them achieve their goals (%)	NA	90%	93%	93%	93%	*	*	NA	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

Goal 1c

Provide safe and stable foster care placements for children who cannot remain safely at home.

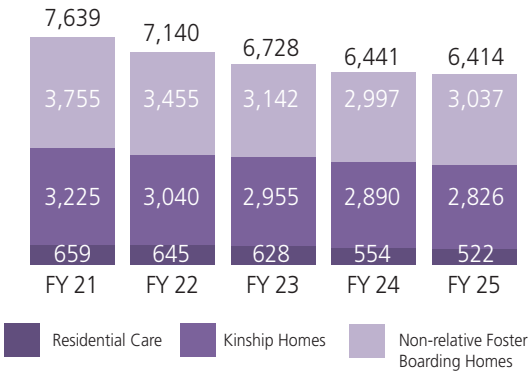
The number of children entering foster care remained stable at 3,102 in Fiscal 2024 to 3,086 in Fiscal 2025 and remains far below the pre-COVID-19 pandemic Fiscal 2019 level of 3,798. Consistent with recent trends, the average number of children in foster care continued to decline, reaching a historically low average of 6,414 in Fiscal 2025, well below the Fiscal 2019 average of 8,341.

More than 90 percent of foster children and youth were in family-based rather than congregate placements. The average number of children in congregate residential care remained stable at approximately 550 in Fiscal 2025. The total number of days that New York City children spent in foster care decreased three percent from 2,993,778 in Fiscal 2024 to 2,895,530 in Fiscal 2025.

The number of children who moved from one foster care placement to another increased from 1.2 per 1,000 care days in Fiscal 2024 to 1.4 per 1,000 care days in Fiscal 2025. While ACS always strives to maintain children in stable placements, children in foster care may move for a variety of reasons, including sibling reunification and moves to kinship and pre-adoptive homes. A growing percentage of children entering care during Fiscal 2025 were teens. Internal analysis has found that teens are statistically more likely to experience placement instability, and ACS is now expanding supportive programming and services for teens and their caregivers.

The percent of children who returned to foster care within a year of reunification with their families or discharge to kinship guardianship increased from 8.1 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 9.4 percent in Fiscal 2025, and has exceeded the target for five years. ACS continues to work with foster care providers to leverage supportive services, such as prevention services, before and during trial and final discharge to reduce the likelihood of re-entry.

Children in Foster Care



The number of youth receiving Fair Futures services grew five percent from 4,115 in Fiscal 2024 to 4,330 in Fiscal 2025. This increase in youth engagement can be attributed to a steadily growing number of coaches serving young people in foster care as well as strong youth engagement and messaging strategies. The number of youth enrolled in College Choice rose 16 percent from 408 in Fiscal 2024 to 472 in Fiscal 2025. This escalation was driven by Fair Futures coaching and tutoring, which has increased the number of students in foster care who are on a college preparatory track.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
All children entering foster care	2,609	2,910	2,848	3,102	3,086	*	*	Up	*
★ 🌟 Average number of children in foster care	7,639	7,140	6,728	6,441	6,414	↕	↕	Down	Down
– Children in foster kinship homes	3,225	3,040	2,955	2,890	2,826	*	*	Down	*
– Children in nonrelative foster boarding homes	3,755	3,455	3,142	2,997	3,037	*	*	Down	Down
– Children in residential care	659	645	628	554	552	*	*	Down	Down
Total days all children spent in foster care	3,504,729	3,268,026	3,100,632	2,993,778	2,895,530	*	*	Down	Down
★ Moves in foster care per 1,000 care days	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	Neutral	Down
★ Children who re-enter foster care within a year of discharge to a family (%)	7.4%	7.5%	8.5%	8.1%	9.4%	6.0%	6.0%	Up	Down
★ Children maltreated during family foster care placement per 100,000 care days	5.1	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.1	5.0	3.5	Down	Down
School attendance rate — Children in foster care (%)	78.7%	79.8%	82.5%	83.8%	82.8%	*	*	Neutral	Up
Youth in foster care receiving Fair Futures services	2,946	3,172	3,932	4,115	4,330	*	4,686	Up	Up
Youth in foster care enrolled in College Choice	NA	NA	342	408	472	*	430	NA	Up
Youth in foster care who feel very supported or somewhat supported by their foster parents or residential facility staff (%)	91%	89%	91%	93%	91%	*	*	Neutral	Up
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ↕↕ Directional Target * None									

Goal 1d Encourage and support family-based and community-based foster care.

The percentage of children entering care who ACS placed with relatives in kinship care declined from 48.7 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 42.2 percent in Fiscal 2025. The reduction coincides with a growing rate of family poverty in New York City, which may be making it more difficult for families to care for children of kin. Child protection teams and foster care agencies continue to prioritize kin placements and are exploring new methods for supporting relatives who say they are unable to care for kin. ACS is also testing new strategies for assisting families in gaining approvals necessary to become foster parents for kin. The proportion of siblings who enter care at the same time and are placed together in the same foster home remained above 94 percent in Fiscal 2025.

The percent of children entering care who were placed in their community of origin declined from 32.6 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 29.4 percent in Fiscal 2025 while the percent placed in their borough of origin increased from 54.2 percent to 58.6 percent. ACS always seeks to place children in their community of origin. When this is not possible, ACS takes measures to place children in their borough to maintain continuity in their educational placement and close ties with their family and community.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Children entering foster care who are placed with relatives (%)	50.9%	54.8%	51.8%	48.7%	42.2%	54.0%	50.0%	Down	Up
Siblings placed simultaneously in the same foster home (%)	95.4%	95.8%	94.9%	94.7%	94.3%	*	*	Neutral	Up
★ Children placed in foster care in their community	25.2%	27.2%	29.8%	32.6%	29.4%	36.0%	36.0%	Up	Up
Children placed in foster care in their borough	53.5%	52.7%	52.9%	54.2%	58.6%	*	*	Neutral	Up
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ↕↕ Directional Target * None									

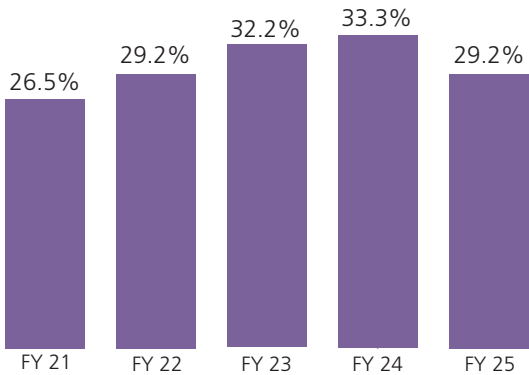
Goal 1e

Reduce time to reunification, kinship guardianship and/or adoption and maintain strong family connections for children.

ACS and foster care providers work with children and families toward safe and timely discharges from foster care. A growing proportion of children entering care are teenagers with more complex needs. As a result, permanency rates within one year of placement declined from 33.3 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 29.2 percent in Fiscal 2025. Permanency rates for children in care 12 to 23 months rose from 23.9 percent to 24.2 percent; for children in care 24 months or more, the permanency rate increased from 24.0 percent to 25.6 percent.

The number of foster children who reunified with family rose five percent from 1,657 in Fiscal 2024 to 1,731 in Fiscal 2025. There were 13 percent more Kinship Guardian Assistance Program (KinGAP) discharges than in Fiscal 2024, an increase from 347 in Fiscal 2024 to 391 in Fiscal 2025. The number of adoptions declined five percent from 535 in Fiscal 2024 to 509 in Fiscal 2025, consistent with the decline in children in care who are eligible for adoption, which declined nearly six percent from 624 to 588 over the same period.

Children discharged to permanency within a year of placement (%)



Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Children discharged to permanency within a year of placement (%)	26.5%	29.2%	32.2%	33.3%	29.2%	35.0%	35.0%	Up	Up
★ Children in care 12–23 months discharged to permanency (%)	23.0%	18.3%	23.0%	23.9%	24.2%	27.0%	27.0%	Up	Up
★ Children in care 24 or more months discharged to permanency (%)	19.9%	23.1%	23.3%	24.0%	25.6%	27.0%	27.0%	Up	Up
Average number of children eligible for adoption	735	702	715	624	588	*	*	Down	*
Children adopted	344	469	562	535	509	*	*	Up	*
Kinship Guardianship Assistance discharges	414	396	354	347	391	*	*	Neutral	Up
Children returned to parents (reunifications)	1,702	1,770	1,562	1,657	1,731	*	*	Neutral	*
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↕ Directional Target * None									

SERVICE 2

Ensure access to safe early child care and education services in all communities.

Goal 2a

Provide access to affordable child care.

Average child care voucher enrollment rose 28 percent from 71,039 in Fiscal 2024 to 91,227 in Fiscal 2025. This increase was driven by a 78 percent increase in usage of non-mandated, low-income vouchers, which rose from 31,948 to 56,931 between the two reporting periods. Mandated voucher enrollment for families receiving public assistance rose 14 percent from 22,803 to 25,932 during the fiscal year, while vouchers for families involved in child welfare services declined 49 percent from 16,288 to 8,364. The large increase in overall voucher enrollment was a result of ACS’ partnership with other City agencies to launch MyCity in March 2023, the first ever online child care application system, in conjunction with enhanced outreach efforts in high-need community districts. Child welfare vouchers declined because the City is required to close child care assistance for families whose child welfare cases close. ACS works to ensure families leaving child welfare services have the opportunity to apply other available child care programs.

In Fiscal 2025, enrollment in center-based care increased 33 percent to 52,730, enrollment in family-based child care rose 21 percent to 34,248, and informal (home-based) child care enrollment increased 42 percent to 4,249. The percent of voucher applications with eligibility determinations within 30 days rose from 80 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 92 percent in Fiscal 2025. This was the result of several strategies ACS implemented to improve application processing time to respond to an unprecedented volume of applications in Fiscal 2024 following the launch of MyCity. The successful strategies

included centralizing the case assignment process, improving efficiency and eliminating redundancies in the application review process, enhancing processing capacity through training and coaching for staff, overtime work, and onboarding new permanent and temporary staff.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Average child care voucher enrollment	50,266	47,535	56,978	71,039	91,227	*	*	Up	*
★ Average mandated child care voucher enrollment	26,251	20,714	21,897	22,803	25,932	*	*	Neutral	*
★ Average center-based child care voucher enrollment	25,496	25,301	30,751	39,657	52,730	*	*	Up	*
★ Average family child care voucher enrollment	22,108	20,620	23,942	28,386	34,248	*	*	Up	*
★ Average informal (home-based) child care voucher enrollment	2,663	1,614	2,285	2,996	4,249	*	*	Up	*
Average number of children accessing child care services through use of a non-mandated low-income voucher	8,323	9,393	16,236	31,948	56,931	*	*	Up	Up
⚙️ Average number of children accessing child care through use of a child welfare voucher	15,692	17,428	18,846	16,288	8,364	*	*	Down	Up
Voucher applications with eligibility determinations within 30 days (%)	74%	96%	92%	80%	92%	96%	96%	Up	Up
Fiscal year spending per child – Center-based child care vouchers	\$9,869	\$10,104	\$11,892	\$12,106	\$15,239	*	*	Up	*
– Family child care vouchers	\$8,513	\$8,468	\$12,634	\$13,902	\$15,624	*	*	Up	*
– Legally exempt (informal child care) vouchers	\$5,495	\$5,497	\$7,023	\$7,985	\$10,739	*	*	Up	*
★ Critical Indicator ⚙️ Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ↕ Directional Target * None									

Goal 2b Respond quickly to every allegation of abuse and neglect and perform thorough assessments of safety and risk at child care centers.

The number of reports of suspected abuse and/or neglect for children in regulated child care programs declined three percent from 545 in Fiscal 2024 to 528 in Fiscal 2025. ACS indicates allegations that meet the New York State standard of fair preponderance of evidence on allegations of abuse or maltreatment. The proportion of child care investigations that ACS indicates has fluctuated in recent years. Following a low of 13.6 percent in Fiscal 2023, it peaked at 19.5 percent in Fiscal 2024 before declining to 11.9 percent in Fiscal 2025, returning to the prior trend.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Abuse and/or neglect reports for children in child care	224	377	506	545	528	*	*	Up	*
Abuse and/or neglect reports for children in child care that are substantiated (%)	20.1%	18.6%	13.6%	19.5%	11.9%	*	*	Down	Down
★ Critical Indicator ⚙️ Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ↕ Directional Target * None									

SERVICE 3 Provide custody and care of youth in secure and safe detention and placement facilities while providing casework services.

Goal 3a Ensure that detention facilities are safe and secure.

There was a 26 percent increase in admissions to juvenile detention from 1,981 in Fiscal 2024 to 2,487 in Fiscal 2025. This increase reflects a rise in arrests, including those related to gun violence and other public safety concerns. The increase in admissions led to a 21 percent rise in the average daily population in juvenile detention from 278.9 in Fiscal 2024 to 336.4 in Fiscal 2025. The secure detention average daily population rose by 17 percent, from 237.3 in Fiscal 2024 to 276.4 in Fiscal 2025 and the non-secure detention population rose more sharply by 44 percent from 41.7 to 60.0. These increases reflect continued system-wide pressures related to court volume. There was a 12 percent increase in the average length of stay in detention during the same period, from 41 to 46 days. The increase in the length of stay in detention may be attributable to young people in detention waiting for the outcome of their case to be decided, caused by delays due to long adjournments between court dates as well as the longer periods of time needed to resolve serious cases.

The abscond rate per 100 daily population in non-secure detention fell from 0.21 in Fiscal 2024 to 0.13 in Fiscal 2025. ACS' provision of more supports to non-secure detention staff and facilities, and a more consistent staffing pattern at the facilities have both contributed to this improvement. Additionally, the non-secure detention programs and their staff have participated in more consistent training, modeling, and youth supervision coaching.

The rate of youth-on-youth assault and altercation with injury per 100 average daily population increased from 0.16 in Fiscal 2024 to 0.17 in Fiscal 2025, remaining well below historic rates. The youth-on-staff assault with injury rate per 100 average daily population remained stable at 0.12 in Fiscal 2025, and also remained below historic rates. The small increase in the rate of youth-on-youth assaults and altercations with injury occurred in the context of a significant increase in population in a limited space, which presented additional stressors on the detention environment. ACS has expedited training and support for its behavior management system (STRIVE+) and enhanced training with coaching techniques focusing on effective methods of de-escalating and engaging youth. ACS also worked with community providers, such as violence interrupters who work onsite in the detention facilities to teach the young people conflict resolution skills and help to mediate issues that arise. In addition, a specialized response team has been developed and provided with enhanced training to respond and de-escalate incidents. The rate of cases in detention where investigators found a preponderance of evidence of abuse and/or neglect increased from 0.06 in Fiscal 2024 to 0.07 in Fiscal 2025 per 100 average daily population across the fiscal years.

The weapon recovery rate per 100 daily population in detention increased from 0.40 in Fiscal 2024 to 0.42 in Fiscal 2025. The illegal substance/prescription or over-the-counter medication recovery rate decreased from 0.38 to 0.30 during this period. ACS has implemented enhanced investigation and search processes as well as increases in search frequency. ACS continues to work closely with State oversight agencies on the development and deployment of practices to identify and remove contraband from secure detention facilities. ACS is also continuing to work with the City's Department of Investigation to share intelligence and strategies as well as enhance measures to locate and prevent the introduction of contraband, including by personnel.

Average daily cost per juvenile in detention has been in decline since Fiscal 2021, decreasing to \$1,021 in Fiscal 2025. While overall expenditures have increased slightly, the increase in average daily population is responsible for the decline in average daily costs per juvenile in detention.

The number of young people entering Close to Home placement declined six percent from 142 in Fiscal 2024 to 133 in Fiscal 2025. Despite this decrease in admissions, the average number of youth in Close to Home placement rose 32 percent from 78 to 102, reflecting longer lengths of stay and the large increase in admissions in Fiscal 2024. A growing number of youth with complex cases requiring more intensive or prolonged rehabilitation, and delays in the discharge process as a result of issues such as housing and lack of family supports, has contributed to the increased lengths of stay. Consistent with the greater number of youth in care, releases from Close to Home residential care to aftercare increased rose from 93 to 122, a 31 percent increase. The average number of youth in aftercare rose 47 percent from 28 to 41, consistent with the higher number of releases during the year. Discharges from Close to Home, which includes youth whose dispositional orders were completed, rose 23 percent from 90 in Fiscal 2024 to 111 in Fiscal 2025.

The rate of youth-on-youth assaults and altercations with injury per 100 care days in Close to Home increased from 0.16 in Fiscal 2024 to 0.24 in Fiscal 2025. The rate of youth-on-staff assaults with injury decreased by 33 percent during the same period, from 0.12 to 0.08. The absent without consent (AWOC) rate in Close to Home remained constant at 0.21. ACS continues to work closely with providers to maintain youth safety and accountability while supporting individualized treatment and release planning. For example, ACS is working with its partners, including Bellevue Hospital and the provider network, to expand mental health services to support youth during their time in Close to Home and ensure continuity of mental health care as they return to the community.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Total admissions to detention	987	1,319	1,775	1,981	2,487	↓	↓	Up	Down
★ Average daily population in detention	118.9	170.0	233.0	278.9	336.4	↓	↓	Up	Down
– In secure detention	100.5	142.6	198.3	237.3	276.4	*	*	Up	Down
– In non-secure detention	18.4	27.4	34.7	41.7	60.0	*	*	Up	Down
★ Combined average length of stay in secure and non-secure detention (days)	38	38	39	41	46	↓	↓	Up	Down
★ Escapes from secure detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral	Down
★ Abscond rate in non-secure detention (average per 100 total ADP in non-secure) (%)	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.21	0.13	0.10	0.10	Up	Down
★ Youth-on-youth assaults and altercations with injury rate in detention (per 100 total ADP)	0.34	0.29	0.21	0.16	0.17	0.25	0.25	Down	Down
★ Youth-on-staff assaults and altercations with injury rate in detention (per 100 total ADP)	0.27	0.21	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.15	0.15	Down	Down
★ Weapon recovery rate in detention (average per 100 total ADP)	0.25	0.33	0.46	0.40	0.42	↓	↓	Up	Down
★ Illegal substance/prescription or OTC medication recovery rate in detention (average per 100 total ADP)	0.14	0.25	0.36	0.38	0.30	↓	↓	Up	Down
★ Child abuse/neglect allegations for youth in detention that are substantiated, rate (average per 100 total ADP)	0.10	0.13	0.07	0.06	0.07	↓	↓	Down	Down
★ Average daily cost per juvenile in detention (\$)	\$2,084	\$1,576	\$1,231	\$1,137	\$1,021	*	*	Down	*
✱ Admissions to Close to Home placement	71	72	82	142	133	*	*	Up	Down
★ Average number of children in Close to Home placement	65	47	50	78	102	↓	↓	Up	Down
Releases from Close to Home placement to aftercare	48	46	63	93	122	*	*	Up	*
★ Average number of children in Close to Home aftercare	21	18	28	28	41	*	*	Up	*
Discharges from Close to Home placement (dispositional order complete)	77	63	56	90	111	*	*	Up	*
Absent without consent rate, Close to Home placement (%)	0.22	0.24	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.25	0.25	Down	Down
Youth-on-staff assault with injury rate in Close to Home placement	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.15	0.15	Up	Down
Youth-on-youth assault with injury rate in Close to Home placement	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.16	0.24	0.15	0.15	Up	Down
★ Critical Indicator ✱ Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None									

Goal 3b Provide youth in detention and placement with appropriate health and mental health services.

All youth in detention receive a screening by the medical team for acute mental health needs within one hour of their admission so that youth who present the highest needs are identified and referred to mental health services. Youth who remain in detention for longer than 72 hours receive an additional comprehensive mental health intake that includes screening for commercial and sexual exploitation, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and problematic substance use, as well as a psychosocial assessment. The ability to complete the comprehensive intake is influenced by several factors, including the youth’s adjustment to the detention environment, immediate court appearances following admission, rapid release from detention, and transfer between the secure detention facilities. If a youth refuses the mental health intake, the mental health staff will continue to make efforts to engage the youth. The percent of youth who received a general mental health screening or services while in detention declined nearly three percentage points from 81.6 percent during Fiscal 2024 to 78.8 percent during Fiscal 2025. The reduction in screening rates was driven by a combination of factors including youth taken from detention to court and released from court the next day, a modest increase in youth refusals, expedited transfers between facilities, and immediate transfers to a medical facility due to psychiatric reasons or medical comorbidities. ACS is expanding its existing partnership with Bellevue Hospital to fund more mental health professionals to better support the number of young people currently in custody.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Youth who received mental health screening or services while in detention (%)	78.0%	86.6%	76.1%	81.6%	78.8%	⬆	⬆	Neutral	Up
Youth with health screening within 24 hours of admission to detention (%)	99%	100%	100%	99%	98%	100%	100%	Neutral	Up
★ Residents seen within 24 hours of sick call report (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Neutral	Up
★ General health care cost per youth per day in detention (\$)	\$236	\$171	\$87	\$73	\$67	*	*	Down	*
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆⬆ Directional Target * None									

Goal 3c

Provide services to prevent youth from returning to the juvenile justice system.

The percent of youth admitted to detention with a previous admission rose from 43.0 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 47.0 percent in Fiscal 2025. The number of youth in the Family Assessment Program decreased six percent from 331 in Fiscal 2024 to 312 in Fiscal 2025 while the number of young people in the Juvenile Justice Initiative program rose 20 percent from 38 to 45, driven by efforts by the Family Court to seek alternatives for the increasing number of youths in the juvenile justice system. ACS continues to engage the community and stakeholders to support more families in need of services. In Fiscal 2025, ACS received funding for the new Youth Safety and Success Initiative (YSSI) for youth in juvenile justice programs and foster care. YSSI will reach a total of nearly 8,000 participants, an expansion of almost 3,000 young people, and help connect more youth with counseling, careers, college opportunities, and more supports.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
● Youth admitted to detention with previous admission(s) to detention (%)	49.0%	42.0%	41.0%	43.0%	47.0%	*	*	Neutral	*
Youth in the Family Assessment Program	191	236	279	331	312	*	*	Up	Up
Youth in the Juvenile Justice Initiative	26	31	33	38	45	*	*	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆⬆ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY-WIDE MANAGEMENT

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Workplace injuries reported	380	467	384	403	501	*	*	Up	Down
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆⬆ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Customer Experience									
Completed requests for interpretation	110,307	118,857	121,076	145,801	146,441	*	*	Up	*
Letters responded to within 14 days (%)	94.4%	43.8%	97.0%	97.3%	93.3%	*	*	Up	Up
E-mails responded to within 14 days (%)	86.5%	79.1%	87.1%	92.4%	93.8%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆⬆ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual ¹					Plan ²		5yr Trend
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	
Expenditures (\$000,000) ³	\$2,534.1	\$2,646.8	\$2,988.3	\$3,355.1	\$3,997.0	\$3,354.0	\$3,141.8	Up
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$2.4	\$6.0	\$5.5	\$3.8	\$4.9	\$3.4	\$3.4	Up
Personnel	6,863	6,341	6,222	6,483	6,504	7,058	7,056	Neutral
Overtime paid (\$000,000)	\$24.9	\$39.8	\$53.9	\$53.2	\$46.4	\$39.2	\$39.2	Up
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$9.7	\$15.7	\$10.0	\$36.6	\$73.1	\$195.4	\$171.9	Up
Human services contract budget (\$000,000)	\$1,328.3	\$1,403.3	\$1,667.5	\$2,009.0	\$2,643.8	\$1,899.0	\$1,825.9	Up
¹ Actual financial amounts for the current fiscal year are not yet final. Final fiscal year actuals, from the Comptroller's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, will be reported in the next PMMR. Refer to the "Indicator Definitions" at nyc.gov/mmr for details. ² Authorized Budget Level ³ Expenditures include all funds "NA" - Not Available * None								

SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Where possible, the relationship between an agency's goals and its expenditures and planned resources, by budgetary unit of appropriation (UA), is shown in the 'Applicable MMR Goals' column. Each relationship is not necessarily exhaustive or exclusive. Any one goal may be connected to multiple UAs, and any UA may be connected to multiple goals.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY24 ¹ (\$000,000)	Modified Budget FY25 ² (\$000,000)	Applicable MMR Goals ³
Personal Services - Total	\$589.2	\$584.8	
001 - Personal Services	\$377.0	\$401.1	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a
003 - Head Start/Day Care	\$13.7	\$17.0	2a
005 - Administration	\$115.9	\$86.6	All
007 - Juvenile Justice	\$78.9	\$77.8	3a, 3b, 3c
009 - Adoption Subsidy	\$3.7	\$2.3	1e
Other Than Personal Services - Total	\$2,765.8	\$3,412.2	
002 - Other Than Personal Services	\$130.6	\$141.4	All
004 - Head Start/Day Care	\$989.4	\$1,502.8	2a
006 - Child Welfare	\$1,160.6	\$1,252.0	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e
008 - Juvenile Justice	\$144.5	\$172.3	3a, 3b, 3c
010 - Adoption Subsidy	\$254.2	\$253.0	1e
011 - Juvenile Justice - OCFS Payments	\$11.3	\$13.5	3a
012 - Committee on Special Education	\$75.1	\$77.3	2a
Agency Total	\$3,355.1	\$3,997.0	
¹ Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024. Includes all funds. ² City of New York Adopted Budget for Fiscal 2025, as of June 2025. Includes all funds. ³ Refer to agency goals listed at front of chapter. ⁴ This UA originated in Fiscal 2025. "NA" Not Available * None			

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- Fiscal 2026 targets were established for the following indicators to reflect additional funding ACS and foster care providers received to support and expand these programs:
 - The target for ‘Youth in foster care receiving Fair Futures services’ is 4,686.
 - The target for ‘Youth in foster care enrolled in College Choice’ is 430.
- Several indicator and service names were revised to correct for grammatical inconsistencies.
 - Service 2a, ‘Assure access to safe early child care and education services in all communities’, was renamed to ‘Ensure access to safe early child care and education services in all communities’.
 - In Goal 2a, ‘Average mandated children voucher enrollment’ was renamed to ‘Average mandated child care voucher enrollment’.
 - In Goal 3a, ‘Youth-on-staff assault with injury rate for Close to Home placement’ was renamed to ‘Youth-on-staff assault with injury rate in Close to Home placement’.
 - In Goal 3c, ‘Youth in the Family Assessment program’ was renamed to ‘Youth in the Family Assessment Program’.
 - In Goal 3c, ‘Youth in the Juvenile Justice initiative’ was renamed to ‘Youth in the Juvenile Justice Initiative’.
- Goal 1d was renamed from ‘Encourage and support family-based foster care’ to ‘Encourage and support family-based and community-based foster care’ to report all family and community foster care placement indicators in one goal. The indicators ‘Children placed in foster care in their community’ and ‘Children placed in foster care in their borough’ were moved from Goal 1c to Goal 1d.
- The previously published Fiscal 2026 target for ‘Children maltreated during family foster care placement per 100,000 care days’ was revised from 5.0 to 3.5 to reflect the reduced level of incidents over recent years.
- The previously published Fiscal 2026 target for ‘Children entering foster care who are placed with relatives (%)’ was revised from 54 percent to 50 percent due to a recent increase in number of families without relatives in the area and increased economic stress faced by families, limiting their ability to care for additional children.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information go to:

- The Social Indicators and Equity Report, EquityNYC:
<http://equity.nyc.gov/>

For more information on the agency, please visit: www.nyc.gov/acs.