



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Rebecca Jones Gaston, 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. The Division of Child and Family Well-Being issues child care vouchers for children eligible for subsidized child care and promotes a two-generation approach to support children and their families through public education campaigns and a place-based strategy 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 Latine 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 child welfare 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 a child abuse and/or neglect 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 operates Family Enrichment Centers (FECs), which are inviting walk-in spaces designed with and for community members where families can participate in various offerings and access resources. 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. ACS has contracts for 30 FECs, the 30th and final of which started in January 2026.

Parents with lived experience in the child welfare system provide valuable insight on how to improve the Agency's work. Since 2023, ACS has funded and supported the Parents Empowering Parents initiative, a peer support program in which parents with prior experience in the child welfare system offer advocacy and guidance to those currently navigating it. As of June 2026, there are 95 parent advocates within the foster care continuum and foster care agencies are continuing their hiring efforts. ACS also contracts with partner organizations to provide parent advocates at initial child safety conferences and prevention services, as well as for families of youth in detention and Close to Home facilities.

ACS funds 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 and 26 currently or formerly involved with foster care, as well as for justice-involved youth. Additionally, ACS supports college students in foster care through the College Choice program, which offers students academic advisement and financial support, including tuition. Young people in foster care who participate in vocational and job readiness training also receive social and financial support, including a daily cash stipend through the Career Choice program. 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.

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 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 quality 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 2026

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 two percent from 39,158 in Fiscal 2025 to 38,204 in Fiscal 2026. The percentage of reports responded to by child protection staff within 24 hours increased from 92.1 percent to 93.0 percent, and the percentage of investigations completed within 60 days remained at 97 percent in Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026, reflecting ongoing improvements in timely and complete assessments and service delivery that allow more cases to be resolved within required timeframes. ACS continues to work with community and government partners to educate mandated reporters about when a call to the SCR is necessary because a child is in danger or has been maltreated, and when it is better to help a family obtain supports and services. ACS has reinforced upstream service referrals by providing easier access to family services and other resources without requiring a report to the SCR.

The percent of investigations that were substantiated rose three percentage points from 29.5 percent in Fiscal 2025 to 32.5 percent in Fiscal 2026. As more low- to-moderate-risk cases are being retracked to CARES and diverted to direct services and supports, the pool of families experiencing investigations are more likely to have more serious allegations reported to the SCR, and more investigations are being substantiated. The percent of children in completed investigations with repeat investigations within a year rose from 24.7 percent to 25.1 percent between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026, and the percent of children in substantiated investigations with repeat substantiated investigations within a year increased from 13.0 percent to 13.6 percent during the same period.

The proportion of new child protection cases that ACS 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, declined from 22.8 percent in Fiscal 2025 to 20.1 percent in Fiscal 2026. The total number of CARES cases decreased over nine percent from 10,625 in Fiscal 2025 to 9,630 in Fiscal 2026. This decrease was driven in part by the reduction in the number of low-risk reports made to the SCR by New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and social service providers, which are increasingly seeking support for these families before making a report to the SCR.

The average child protective specialist caseload declined from 7.0 in Fiscal 2025 to 6.7 in Fiscal 2026, the lowest level since achieving a caseload of 6.3 in 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. Supportive measures such as transition units, child protection specialist mentors and competitive salaries have also contributed to decreased attrition and increased caseload carrying child protection specialists.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Abuse and/or neglect reports responded to within 24 hours of receipt from the State Central Register (%)	95.3%	93.5%	91.9%	92.1%	93.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Neutral	Up
★ New State Central Register consolidated investigations	45,068	43,782	40,489	39,158	38,204	*	*	Down	*
Investigations completed in 60 days (%)	94%	93%	96%	97%	97%	*	*	Neutral	Up
Investigations that are substantiated (%)	31.8%	28.4%	30.0%	29.5%	32.5%	*	*	Neutral	*
Children in complete investigations with repeat investigations within a year (%)	25.4%	25.3%	25.1%	24.7%	25.1%	*	*	Neutral	Down
★ Children in substantiated investigations with repeat substantiated investigations within a year (%)	15.2%	13.5%	13.4%	13.0%	13.6%	14.0%	14.0%	Down	Down
New CARES cases	5,545	8,587	11,607	10,625	9,630	*	*	Up	Up
New child protection cases that are CARES (%)	11.0%	16.4%	22.3%	22.8%	20.1%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Average child protective specialist caseload	8.4	9.7	8.1	7.0	6.7	12.0	12.0	Down	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 increased 16 percent from 6,996 in Fiscal 2025 to 8,097 in Fiscal 2026. The daily average number of children receiving child welfare prevention services rose two percent from 15,987 to 16,267 and the number of children served during the year increased three percent from 30,565 to 31,542. In the Agency’s Family Services Division, the Office of Family Engagement brings together multiple units to support families at every stage of their engagement with ACS and community services. The Agency’s Support Line team has trained over 5,000 NYCPS staff as part of its “Support, Not Report” approach, connecting families to resources before child welfare involvement becomes necessary. In line with New York State’s shift from reporting to supporting, the team educates mandated reporters citywide on the options available for assisting families. In addition, the Prevention Pathways team collaborates with City agencies and other partners including NYCPS, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H), the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), FDNY, social work schools, private hospitals, and Family Justice Centers to promote this approach, facilitating direct referrals by connecting families with appropriate preventive programs. Through this work, ACS completed a pilot with H+H that strengthened inter-agency collaboration and increased H+H staff referrals by simplifying and standardizing referrals to Family Service providers through the FindHelp platform.

In Fiscal 2026, ACS reinvested funds to help programs serve additional families and more effectively engage families by supporting their needs and increasing staffing capacity. The percent of respondents to the Prevention Services Family Experience survey who said prevention services are helping them achieve their goals remained above 90 percent, rising to 94 percent in Fiscal 2026.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Families entering child welfare prevention services	6,818	6,659	7,021	6,996	8,097	8,500	8,500	Up	Up
Average number of children receiving child welfare prevention services daily	18,291	16,149	16,773	15,987	16,267	*	*	Neutral	Up
Children who received child welfare prevention services during the year (annual total)	34,243	30,655	30,459	30,565	31,542	*	*	Neutral	Up
Respondents to the Prevention Services Family Experience Survey who said prevention services are helping them achieve their goals (%)	90%	93%	93%	93%	94%	*	*	Neutral	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None									

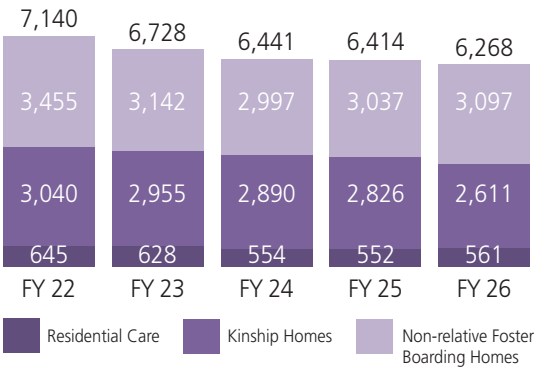
Goal 1c

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

The number of children entering foster care declined nearly six percent from 3,097 in Fiscal 2025 to 2,927 in Fiscal 2026 remaining far below the Fiscal 2019 level of 3,798. Consistent with recent trends, the average number of children in foster care declined from 6,414 in Fiscal 2025 to a historically low average of 6,268 in Fiscal 2026, well below the Fiscal 2019 average of 8,341. The total number of days that New York City children spent in foster care decreased from 2,895,102 in Fiscal 2025 to 2,827,326 in Fiscal 2026. These declines are attributable to sustained trends and investment in prevention services and other supports that enable children to remain with their families.

More than 90 percent of foster children and youth were in family-based rather than congregate placements, with 3,097 children in non-relative foster homes and 2,611 children in kinship foster homes in Fiscal 2026, a two percent increase and an eight percent decrease, respectively, from Fiscal 2025. The average number of children in congregate residential care increased slightly from 552 in Fiscal 2025 to 561 in Fiscal 2026. This reflects the increase in the number of older youth placed in Supported Independent Living Program apartments. ACS continues to work to reduce the number of youth in residential foster care settings by identifying step-down opportunities to family-based settings. Additionally, ACS helps foster care agencies leverage family finding techniques to identify potential kinship foster care resources.

Children in Foster Care



The number of children who moved from one foster care placement to another decreased from 1.4 per 1,000 care days in Fiscal 2025 to 1.3 per 1,000 care days in Fiscal 2026. 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. The percent of children who returned to foster care within a year of reunification with their families or discharge to kinship guardianship decreased from 9.4 percent in Fiscal 2025 to 8.9 percent in Fiscal 2026. ACS works with foster care providers to leverage services, such as ACS-funded prevention services, before and during trial and final discharge to support the child's return home and reduce the likelihood of re-entry. ACS is also strengthening family team conferencing practices to ensure timely delivery of services identified in action plans so that families are connected to community-based services.

Safety is the Agency's top priority. The rate of children maltreated in family foster care declined from 3.3 per 100,000 care days during Fiscal 2025 to 2.3 during Fiscal 2026. ACS continues to examine all such incidents to understand where additional supports for and oversight of foster homes could prevent them from occurring.

The number of youth currently or formerly in foster care who received Fair Futures services, an initiative which provides targeted coaching and support in areas including socio-emotional development, academics, and life skills to youth in foster care, grew from 4,330 in Fiscal 2025 to 4,430 in Fiscal 2026. The number of youth enrolled in College Choice, which provides stipends and supports for foster care youth interested in pursuing a two- or four-year college degree, rose from 472 in Fiscal 2025 to 523 in Fiscal 2026. Increased enrollment in College Choice can be attributed to several factors including college readiness training and support provided to education specialists, college specialists, and post-secondary staff at each provider agency, close collaboration with NYCPS to ensure guidance counselors and support staff are aware of the program, and enhanced marketing and outreach efforts. ACS also collaborates with NYCPS to implement a variety of new initiatives to equip high school students in foster care with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to navigate post-secondary pathways successfully.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
All children entering foster care	2,910	2,848	3,102	3,097	2,927	*	*	Neutral	*
★ 🌟 Average number of children in foster care	7,140	6,728	6,441	6,414	6,268	↓	↓	Down	Down
– Children in foster kinship homes	3,040	2,955	2,890	2,826	2,611	*	*	Down	*
– Children in nonrelative foster boarding homes	3,455	3,142	2,997	3,037	3,097	*	*	Neutral	Down
– Children in residential care	645	628	554	552	561	*	*	Down	Down
Total days all children spent in foster care	3,268,026	3,100,632	2,993,778	2,895,102	2,827,326	*	*	Down	Down
★ Moves in foster care per 1,000 care days	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	Neutral	Down
★ Children who re-enter foster care within a year of discharge to a family (%)	7.5%	8.5%	8.1%	9.4%	8.9%	6.0%	6.0%	Up	Down
★ Children maltreated during family foster care placement per 100,000 care days	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	2.3	3.5	3.5	Down	Down
School attendance rate — Children in foster care (%)	79.8%	82.5%	83.8%	82.8%	80.1%	*	*	Neutral	Up
Youth in foster care receiving Fair Futures services	3,172	3,932	4,115	4,330	4,430	4,686	4,847	Up	Up
Youth in foster care enrolled in College Choice	NA	342	408	472	523	430	530	NA	Up
Youth in foster care who feel very supported or somewhat supported by their foster parents or residential facility staff (%)	89%	91%	93%	91%	93%	*	*	Neutral	Up
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

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

The percentage of children entering care who ACS placed with relatives in kinship care declined five percentage points from 42.2 percent in Fiscal 2025 to 37.0 percent in Fiscal 2026. As poverty rates have increased in New York City in recent years, families have found it more difficult to care for kin. ACS is making efforts to counter this trend and maintain its commitment to placing children with relatives by providing additional resources to families to secure and strengthen kin placements, including a monthly stipend, trauma-responsive training, and connections to therapeutic services.

The proportion of siblings who enter care at the same time and are placed together in the same foster home increased four percentage points from 94.4 percent in Fiscal 2025 to all-time high of 98.3 percent in Fiscal 2026. The number of foster homes able and willing to accept sibling groups has increased as a result of an increase in the number of foster homes

recruited and conversations with existing foster parents that have space to accommodate sibling groups. Additionally, from November 2025 to March 2026 ACS conducted a pilot program with two agencies, asking them to review all their sibling groups that were separated to see if they could be reunited, which resulted in several additional sibling groups being placed together and increased awareness about the importance of keeping siblings together. ACS intends to expand this pilot to all partnering agencies.

The percent of children entering care who were placed in their community of origin rose from 29.3 percent in Fiscal 2025 to 31.8 percent in Fiscal 2026, and the percent placed in their borough of origin increased from 58.8 percent to 62.4 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. ACS continues to implement strategies for children to remain in their community and borough of origin, including recruiting foster homes in the communities where children are from and requiring that foster homes are based in the five boroughs. The Office of Placement Administration utilizes various tools to support the identification of foster parents in specific communities and boroughs. Simultaneously, ACS and partnering foster care agencies continue to seek out kin who often live in the same borough and communities where the child is from.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Children entering foster care who are placed with relatives (%)	54.8%	51.8%	48.7%	42.2%	37.0%	50.0%	50.0%	Down	Up
Siblings placed simultaneously in the same foster home (%)	95.8%	94.9%	94.7%	94.4%	98.3%	*	*	Neutral	Up
★ Children placed in foster care in their community (%)	27.2%	29.8%	32.6%	29.3%	31.8%	36.0%	36.0%	Up	Up
Children placed in foster care in their borough (%)	52.7%	52.9%	54.2%	58.8%	62.4%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↕↔ Directional Target		* None			

Goal 1e

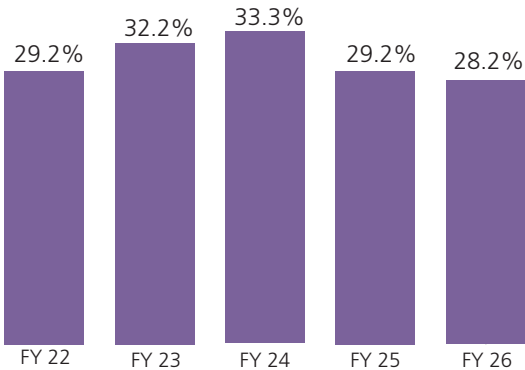
Reduce time to reunification, kinship guardianship and/or adoption and maintain strong family connections for children.

Permanency rates declined slightly from Fiscal 2025 to Fiscal 2026 across all three time-in-care categories (within one year of placement, 12 to 23 months, and 24 months or more), with rates generally in the 20 to 30 percent range, which may be attributable to teenagers comprising a larger percentage of the foster care population than just five years ago, and historically this population has been harder to place into permanent homes.

ACS is implementing a framework with provider agencies to increase permanency rates. The framework will increase the capacity of provider agencies to engage in structured, data-driven technical assistance to improve permanency outcomes for children and youth in out-of-home placement. Technical assistance will be individually tailored, using a collaborative approach and focusing on incremental continuous quality improvement efforts.

The number of foster children who reunified with family increased by 11 to 1,769 in Fiscal 2026. The Kinship Guardian Assistance Program (KinGAP), in which a relative foster parent receives permanent guardianship and financial supports, experienced eight percent more discharges from Fiscal 2025 to Fiscal 2026, rising from 396 to 428. The number of adoptions declined 22 percent to 405 and the number of children in care who are eligible for adoption declined 11 percent to 524 over the same period due to a decline in the number of youth in foster care with long periods of stay who are freed for adoption by the courts. The decline in the number of children adopted reflects the combined impact of a decrease in the number of children eligible for adoption and an increase in the number of children who reached permanency via KinGAP, which is available sooner than adoption and does not require a termination of parental rights by the Family Court. Nonetheless, ACS is continuously assessing children’s eligibility for adoption and working with foster care providers to move these cases forward toward finalization.

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



Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Children discharged to permanency within a year of placement (%)	29.2%	32.2%	33.3%	29.2%	28.2%	35.0%	35.0%	Neutral	Up
★ Children in care 12–23 months discharged to permanency (%)	18.3%	23.0%	23.9%	24.2%	22.9%	27.0%	27.0%	Up	Up
★ Children in care 24 or more months discharged to permanency (%)	23.1%	23.3%	24.0%	25.6%	25.2%	27.0%	27.0%	Up	Up
Average number of children eligible for adoption	702	715	624	587	524	*	*	Down	*
Children adopted	469	562	535	522	405	*	*	Down	*
Kinship Guardianship Assistance discharges	396	354	347	396	428	*	*	Up	Up
Children returned to parents (reunifications)	1,770	1,562	1,657	1,758	1,769	*	*	Neutral	*
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

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

Goal 2a Provide access to affordable child care.

Average child care voucher enrollment rose 20 percent from 91,227 in Fiscal 2025 to 109,875 in Fiscal 2026. This increase was driven by a 26 percent increase in usage of non-mandated, low-income vouchers, which rose from 56,931 to 71,499. Despite the pause on issuing new non-mandated vouchers due to program funding gaps, the average number of children enrolled with these vouchers grew over the past fiscal year as a result of several years of sustained expansion and recertification of vouchers for those already enrolled. Mandated voucher enrollment for families receiving public assistance rose 13 percent from 25,932 to 29,386 during the fiscal year, and vouchers for families involved in child welfare services increased nearly eight percent from 8,364 to 8,990.

In Fiscal 2026, enrollment in center-based care increased 22 percent to 64,488, enrollment in family-based child care rose 18 percent to 40,381, and enrollment in informal child care increased 18 percent to 5,005. The percent of voucher applications with eligibility determinations within 30 days remained at 92 percent in Fiscal 2025 and 2026.

From Fiscal 2025 to Fiscal 2026, fiscal year spending per child increased from \$15,239 to \$16,740 for center-based vouchers and from \$15,624 to \$15,975 for family vouchers, and decreased from \$10,739 to \$10,467 for legally exempt (informal) vouchers. Spending per child across all child care voucher types has increased steadily since Fiscal 2018, when spending per child was \$8,646 for center-based vouchers, \$7,740 for family-based vouchers, and \$4,327 for legally exempt (informal) vouchers. The increase in cost is due to the New York State Office of Child and Family Services’ (OCFS) 2024 Market Rate increase, which was implemented in October 2024. Fiscal 2026 was the first full fiscal year with this Market Rate in place and a greater percentage of children enrolled with a voucher at the 2024 Market Rate than in Fiscal 2025.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
Average child care voucher enrollment	47,535	56,978	71,039	91,227	109,875	*	*	Up	*
★ Average number of children accessing child care services through use of a mandated voucher	20,714	21,897	22,803	25,932	29,386	*	*	Up	*
Average number of children accessing child care services through use of a non-mandated low-income voucher	9,393	16,236	31,948	56,931	71,499	*	*	Up	Up
🌟 Average number of children accessing child care services through use of a child welfare voucher	17,428	18,846	16,288	8,364	8,990	*	*	Down	Up
★ Average center-based child care voucher enrollment	25,301	30,751	39,657	52,730	64,488	*	*	Up	*
★ Average family child care voucher enrollment	20,620	23,942	28,386	34,248	40,381	*	*	Up	*
★ Average informal child care voucher enrollment	1,614	2,285	2,996	4,249	5,005	*	*	Up	*
Child care assistance applicants with eligibility determinations within 30 days (%)	96%	92%	80%	92%	92%	90%	90%	Neutral	Up
Fiscal year spending per child – Center-based child care vouchers	\$10,104	\$11,892	\$12,106	\$15,239	\$16,740	*	*	Up	*
– Family child care vouchers	\$8,468	\$12,634	\$13,902	\$15,624	\$15,975	*	*	Up	*
– Legally exempt (informal child care) vouchers	\$5,497	\$7,023	\$7,985	\$10,739	\$10,467	*	*	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 rose seven percent from 528 in Fiscal 2025 to 564 in Fiscal 2026. 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. The percentage of reports concerning abuse and/or neglect that were indicated nearly doubled from a low of 13.1 percent in Fiscal 2025 to 24.4 percent in Fiscal 2026. ACS is working with child protection leadership to understand factors that may be leading to a higher indication rate in investigations of alleged abuse and/or neglect that occur in child care programs.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
Abuse and/or neglect reports for children in child care	377	506	545	528	564	*	*	Up	*
Abuse and/or neglect reports for children in child care that are substantiated (%)	18.6%	13.6%	19.5%	13.1%	24.4%	*	*	Up	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.

Admissions to juvenile detention decreased for the first time since Fiscal 2021, declining four percent to 2,381 due to a decrease in arrests of young people eligible to enter detention. However, the average daily population continued to trend upward due to increases in the average length of stay. The overall average daily population rose 19 percent from 336.4 to 400.9. The secure detention average daily population increased 23 percent from 276.4 to 341.1 and the non-secure detention population remained stable at 59.8 in Fiscal 2026. The overall average length of stay in detention rose 22 percent to 56 days due to a 33 percent increase in length of stay in secure detention from 80 days in Fiscal 2025 to 106 days in Fiscal 2026. These increases reflect a higher proportion of youth with complex or serious cases requiring extended periods in detention. ACS is actively engaged with the court system to improve case processing times, in addition to working with the New York City Sheriff and the Department of Probation to process eligible youth for release. The length of stay in non-secure detention remained stable at 18 days for the third consecutive year.

Safety indicators in detention during Fiscal 2026 reflect stable or improving trends despite the increased population. The rate of youth-on-youth assault and altercation with injury per 100 average daily population remained stable at 0.17 in Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026, well below historic rates. The youth-on-staff assault with injury rate per 100 average daily population rose slightly from 0.12 in Fiscal 2025 to 0.13 in Fiscal 2026 but remained well below prior year levels and the established target. The rate of cases in detention where investigators found a preponderance of evidence of abuse and/or neglect declined from 0.08 in Fiscal 2025 per 100 average daily population to 0.05 in Fiscal 2026. The abscond rate per 100 daily population in non-secure detention halved to 0.06 in Fiscal 2026. ACS continues to implement enhanced behavior management, strengthen security practices, and expand clinical supports to address the needs of a growing and increasingly complex youth population in detention.

Trends in contraband presence in detention also demonstrated notable improvement. The weapon recovery rate per 100 daily population in detention decreased from 0.42 in Fiscal 2025 to 0.40 in Fiscal 2026. The illegal substance/prescription or over-the-counter medication recovery rate declined from 0.30 to 0.19. These trends reflect the Agency’s commitment to deterring and detecting contraband through more frequent and effective searches and screening procedures, including the introduction of new millimeter wave body scanners in Fiscal 2026.

The number of young people entering Close to Home, which allows young people who are found to be responsible in Family Court to receive placement services in a program close to the communities where they live, rose from 133 in Fiscal 2025 to 168 in Fiscal 2026. The average number of youth in Close to Home placement from 102 to 112, reflecting the increase in admissions. Consistent with the greater number of youth in care, releases from Close to Home residential care to aftercare, average number of youth in aftercare, and discharges from Close to Home all increased in Fiscal 2026: releases to aftercare increased from 122 to 151, the average number of youth in aftercare increased from 41 to 49, and discharges from Close to Home, including youth whose dispositional orders were completed, increased from 111 to 152. The number of Close to Home admissions reflects the number of young people whose cases have been resolved in court with a determination that the youth be placed. As the number of young people in detention grew in recent years, so has the number of young people whose cases were ultimately resolved with a disposition requiring placement.

The absent without consent (AWOC) rate in Close to Home fell from 0.21 in Fiscal 2025 to 0.14 in Fiscal 2026. Over the same reporting period, the rate of youth-on-staff assaults with injury per 100 care days in Close to Home increased slightly from 0.08 to 0.09 and the rate of youth-on-youth assaults and altercations with injury declined from 0.24 to 0.17. ACS remains committed to supporting providers in delivering safe, therapeutic, and individualized care for youth in Close to Home through ongoing collaboration with the provider network to strengthen clinical services, treatment planning, and improve outcomes for youth.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Admissions to detention	1,319	1,775	1,981	2,487	2,381	↓	↓	Up	Down
★ Average daily population in detention	170.0	233.0	278.9	336.4	400.9	↓	↓	Up	Down
– In secure detention	142.6	198.3	237.3	276.4	341.1	*	*	Up	Down
– In non-secure detention	27.4	34.7	41.7	60.0	59.8	*	*	Up	Down
★ Average length of stay in detention (days) (total)	38	39	40	46	56	↓	↓	Up	Down
– In secure detention	38	59	67	80	106	*	*	Up	Down
– In non-secure detention	37	17	18	18	18	*	*	Down	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)	0.09	0.09	0.21	0.13	0.06	0.10	0.10	Neutral	Down
★ Youth-on-youth assaults and altercations with injury rate in detention (per 100 total ADP)	0.29	0.21	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.25	0.25	Down	Down
★ Youth-on-staff assaults and altercations with injury rate in detention (per 100 total ADP)	0.21	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.15	Down	Down
★ Weapon recovery rate in detention (average per 100 total ADP)	0.33	0.46	0.40	0.42	0.40	↓	↓	Up	Down
★ Illegal substance/prescription or OTC medication recovery rate in detention (average per 100 total ADP)	0.25	0.36	0.38	0.30	0.19	↓	↓	Down	Down
★ Child abuse and/or neglect reports for youth in detention that are substantiated, rate (average per 100 total ADP)	0.13	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.05	↓	↓	Down	Down
★ Average daily cost per juvenile in detention (\$)	\$1,576	\$1,231	\$1,137	\$1,021	\$1,071	*	*	Down	*
🌟 Admissions to Close to Home placement	72	82	142	133	168	*	*	Up	Down
★ Average number of children in Close to Home placement	47	50	78	102	112	↓	↓	Up	Down
Releases from Close to Home placement to aftercare	46	63	93	122	151	*	*	Up	*
★ Average number of children in Close to Home aftercare	18	28	28	41	49	*	*	Up	*
Discharges from Close to Home placement (dispositional order complete)	63	56	90	111	152	*	*	Up	*
Absent without consent rate, Close to Home placement	0.24	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.14	0.25	0.25	Down	Down
Youth-on-staff assault with injury rate in Close to Home placement	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.15	0.15	Down	Down
Youth-on-youth assault with injury rate in Close to Home placement	0.09	0.10	0.16	0.24	0.17	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. Health screenings within 24 hours of admission declined eight percentage points from 98 percent in Fiscal 2025 to 90 percent in Fiscal 2026. The percent of youth who received a general mental health screening or services while in detention declined nearly four percentage points from 78.8 percent to 75.1 percent. These reductions reflect youth movement patterns including short court return dates and transfers between facilities, and youth refusals, which remain barriers to timely screening. Despite these challenges, ACS continued to meet its target of 100 percent of youth seen within 24 hours of sick call requests.

General health care cost per youth per day in detention decreased slightly from \$67 to \$65. Overall healthcare expenditures have increased in recent years and continued to increase in Fiscal 2026, while the growing number of youth in detention has resulted in a slight decrease in healthcare cost per youth.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Youth who received mental health screening or services while in detention (%)	86.6%	76.1%	81.6%	78.8%	75.1%	⬆	⬆	Neutral	Up
Youth with health screening within 24 hours of admission to detention (%)	100%	100%	99%	98%	90%	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 (\$)	\$171	\$87	\$73	\$67	\$65	*	*	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 remained at 47.0 percent in Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026. The number of youth in the Family Assessment Program, which offers supports to families with at-risk youth, increased 11 percent from 312 to 347. The number of young people in the Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI) program, which allows young people who the Family Court finds to be juvenile delinquents to stay at home and receive intensive services in the community, rose 33 percent from 45 to 60. Recent data shows sustained increases in both programs since Fiscal 2022, when 236 youth were in the Family Assessment Program and 31 were in JJJ. The Family Assessment Program continues to conduct community outreach in high volume zip codes. JJJ has been consistently engaging court stakeholders to encourage and advocate for referrals.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
● Youth admitted to detention with previous admission(s) to detention (%)	42.0%	41.0%	43.0%	47.0%	47.0%	*	*	Up	*
★ Youth in the Family Assessment Program	236	279	331	312	347	⬆	⬆	Up	Up
Youth in the Juvenile Justice Initiative	31	33	38	45	60	*	*	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ⬆⬇ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY-WIDE MANAGEMENT

Workplace injuries increased from 501 in Fiscal 2025 to 554 in Fiscal 2026. This increase is driven by an uptick in injuries to Youth Development Specialists in secure detention facilities requiring Worker’s Compensation Reports, concurrent with the increase in the average daily population in secure detention.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
Workplace injuries reported	467	384	403	501	554	*	*	Up	Down
Human services contracts	NA	NA	NA	40	NA	*	*	NA	*
Human services contract registration within 30 days of the contract start date (%)	NA	NA	NA	90%	NA	*	*	NA	Up
Total dollars disbursed for human services contracts (\$000,000)	NA	NA	NA	\$419.54	NA	*	*	NA	*
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	5-Year	Desired Direction
Customer Experience									
Completed requests for interpretation	118,857	121,076	145,801	146,441	121,697	*	*	Neutral	*
Letters responded to within 14 days (%)	43.8%	97.0%	97.3%	93.3%	83.3%	*	*	Up	Up
E-mails responded to within 14 days (%)	79.1%	87.1%	92.4%	93.8%	93.7%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator “NA” Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual ¹					Plan ²		5yr Trend
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	
Expenditures (\$000,000) ³	\$2,646.8	\$2,988.3	\$3,355.1	\$3,949.1	\$4,431.0	\$3,832.1	\$3,523.8	Up
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$6.0	\$5.5	\$3.8	\$4.9	\$8.8	\$3.4	\$5.0	Up
Personnel	6,341	6,222	6,483	6,504	6,514	7,114	7,056	Neutral
Overtime paid (\$000,000)	\$39.8	\$53.9	\$53.2	\$52.8	\$39.2	\$39.2	\$39.2	Up
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$15.7	\$10.0	\$36.6	\$106.1	\$92.1	\$231.1	\$228.7	Up
Human services contract budget (\$000,000)	\$1,403.3	\$1,667.5	\$2,009.0	\$2,626.2	\$2,962.3	\$2,293.0	\$2,086.1	Up
¹ Actual financial amounts for the current fiscal year are not yet final. Final fiscal year actuals, from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports, 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 FY25 ¹ (\$000,000)	Modified Budget FY26 ² (\$000,000)	Applicable MMR Goals ³
Personal Services - Total	\$609.4	\$609.6	
001 - Personal Services	\$385.9	\$404.4	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a
003 - Head Start/Day Care	\$15.6	\$17.7	2a
005 - Administrative	\$117.9	\$100.6	All
007 - Juvenile Justice	\$86.2	\$83.6	3a, 3b, 3c
009 - Adoption Subsidy	\$3.8	\$3.4	1e
Other Than Personal Services - Total	\$3,339.7	\$3,821.4	
002 - Other Than Personal Services	\$128.5	\$186.3	All
004 - Head Start/Day Care	\$1,548.8	\$1,814.5	2a
006 - Child Welfare	\$1,165.0	\$1,276.0	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e
008 - Juvenile Justice	\$158.5	\$195.9	3a, 3b, 3c
010 - Adoption Subsidy	\$251.8	\$257.0	1e
011 - Juvenile Justice - OCFS Payments	\$13.5	\$13.3	3a
012 - Committee on Special Education	\$73.5	\$78.5	2a
Agency Total	\$3,949.1	\$4,431.0	

¹Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025. Includes all funds. ²Includes all funds. ³Refer to agency goals listed at front of chapter.

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- Rebecca Jones Gaston was appointed as Commissioner of the Administration for Children’s Services in April 2026.
- The Fiscal 2027 target for ‘Youth in foster care receiving Fair Futures services’ in Goal 1c was revised from 5,340 to 4,847 to reflect the service level funded in the Fiscal 2027 budget.
- The indicator ‘Youth in the Family Assessment Program’ in Goal 3c was designated as critical.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information go to:

- The Social Indicators and Equity Report, EquityNYC:
<https://equity.nyc.gov/>
- The Mayor’s Office of Contract Services’ Citywide Indicators Report:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/resources/citywide-indicator-reports.page>

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