



David A. Hansell
Commissioner

Jacqueline O. McKnight, PHD,
LMSW
Executive Deputy Commissioner
Child Welfare Programs

Julie Farber, MSW
Deputy Commissioner
Family Permanency Services

150 William Street
New York, NY 10038

212-341-0981 tel
212-341-0926 fax

Home Away from Home Certification Flexible Fund Announcement

Through the Home Away from Home initiative, ACS is pleased to announce the issuance of the Certification Flexible Fund for all Foster Care agencies. ACS is issuing approximately \$300,000 annually in funding to agencies to support a more customer-service driven approach to recruitment as we work toward recruiting more foster homes. These funds will be allocated to all agencies based on their recruitment targets with the intention to provide customer service through defraying the cost of items that prospective foster parents may need to in order to be certified (e.g., radiator covers, medical exams), but which pose a financial barrier to certification. These funds would be available to cover barriers to certification for both regular foster boarding home caregivers and kinship caregivers.

The guidelines and reporting forms for the Certification Flexible Fund will be housed in the Child Welfare Fiscal Manual (<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/child-welfare-providers.page>). All completed and signed reporting forms should be emailed to HAHFHI@acs.nyc.gov.

An allocation equation can be found in the guidelines to determine your individual agencies funding allocation. The individual agency allocation was also sent via email to each agency. Expenses toward FY2017's funding allocation must be incurred by the end of FY2017 (June 30, 2017). At the beginning of FY2018 (July 1, 2017) the funding allocation will reset for the next 6 months to the end of CY2017. At the end of CY2017, an evaluation of the items requested and expenses incurred will be conducted. Adjustments to funding allocations or the spending parameters for the Certification Flexible Funds may be made at that time.