



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2024

Contact: mediainquiry@acs.nyc.gov

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES CELEBRATES SEPTEMBER AS
‘NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH’ RECOGNIZING THE RELATIVES &
FAMILY FRIENDS WHO PROVIDE LOVING CARE FOR NYC CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE**

*As the City Foster Care Population Continues to Decline, the Proportion of Those Being Cared
For By Relatives & Friends Continues to Grow*

*Approximately 45 Percent of Youth in NYC Foster Care Are Being Cared for By People They
Already Know*

NEW YORK, NY– The New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) today recognized “Kinship Care Awareness Month” by spotlighting the city’s grandparents, aunts, uncles, other relatives, and close family friends who have stepped up to become kinship caregivers to children in foster care. ACS has dramatically reduced the number of children in New York City’s foster care system while increasing the proportion of youth in care placed with kinship caregivers. Research shows that, when placed with people they already know, children in foster care experience less trauma, and have greater overall well-being.

“As we mark National Kinship Care Month, we extend our gratitude to all those that care for children and young people in foster care especially family members and close friends. Family members and friends are now caring for more than 4/10 young people in foster care, a number that has increased in recent years. We will continue to support children and families at every turn and kinship caregivers are an important part of that network,” **said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom.**

“The phrase it takes a village to raise a child takes on special meaning in September as we recognize ‘Kinship Care Awareness Month’. The Administration for Children’s Services takes this opportunity to thank all of the city’s kinship caregivers who have opened their hearts and homes to children in foster care,” **said ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser.**

As a result of ACS's targeted strategies and initiatives, 45.3% percent of children in New York City's foster care system are living with kinship caregivers – up from 31% in 2018—even as the total number of NYC children in foster care continues to decrease. At the end of May 2024, 6,511 children were in foster care, and more than 2,900 were living with kin.

The agency has successfully implemented a number of strategies to increase the proportion of children in care placed with kin, including intensifying efforts to find and work with kin once it becomes clear that a child cannot remain safely at home and must come into care. ACS and its partner foster care agencies continue to look for kin who can care for a child, if they were not found initially. Kin are held to the same safety standards and training expectations as non-kin foster parent, must meet all foster parent requirements and foster care case planners work with resource to certify their home as a foster home. They receive the same financial resources and other supports that non-kinship foster parents receive. ACS and its community partners strive to support kin so that children can stay closely connected to their families and the people in their lives whom they are closest to.

##