

New Family Foster Care Model: **ChildSuccessNYC**

NYC's plan to improve stability, enhance well-being and expedite permanency for children in foster care by linking together evidence-based model components to establish a NYC model of care

Current Family Foster Care Model

- There is no model for family foster care in New York City
- There are best practice guidelines, but no specific requirements for critical model components including:
 - Family finding strategies
 - Birth parent engagement model
 - Foster parent support model
 - Caseloads, and staff qualifications
 - Training requirements for case planners and supervisors
 - Expectations for ASFA compliance
 - Youth development practice
 - Aftercare expectations

Feedback from Providers and Stakeholders

- Caseloads are too high
- Staff turnover is too high
- Foster parents are not being supported systematically
- Too many children in each foster home
- A birth parent engagement model is needed across the system
- TPR petitions are not being filed, or considered in accordance with ASFA. Even if a TPR is considered, there is often a lack of work done with the birth parent and documented in the record to support a filing.

Testing a New Model of Foster Care: ChildSuccessNYC

- Goal: Establish, fund, support, and monitor a model of 'regular' foster care that will improve outcomes for children in foster care
- Establish a model that is based on program components that are evidence-based, or evidence-informed, to become the NYC model
- Test the model in Fiscal Year 2013 with 20% of the system, with the intention to bring the model, or some version of the model, system-wide in Fiscal Year 2014, pending funding availability. Learn what works, what doesn't, and what components are critical for the system.

ChildSuccessNYC Pilot Agencies

- The following agencies were selected for participation in the Child Success NYC pilot:
 - Coalition for Hispanic Family Services
 - Good Shepherd
 - Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA)
 - New York Foundling
 - St. Dominic's

ChildSuccessNYC Components

- ChildSuccessNYC will combine aspects of evidence-based programs and other prescribed model components, including the following:
 - **KEEP** will be utilized to support foster parents, limit placement disruptions, reduce lateral moves for children and increase permanency rates.
 - **Parenting through Change (PTC)** is a model of support and behavior change for birth parents. The model works with the birth parent individually and in a group session.
 - **Youth Development Skills Coaching** will focus on working with adolescent youth. This model comes from MTFC.
 - **Family Finding Model (TBD)** will focus on finding permanency resources for foster youth
 - **Functional Family Therapy** as needed for aftercare, in appropriate cases
 - **Concurrent planning prescriptions** to ensure adherence to ASFA timelines
 - **Caseloads** of 10 active children and up to 2 suspended payment children
 - **Supervisory ratio** of 6 staff to each supervisor

ChildSuccessNYC Components, cont.

- **Education Specialist** will coordinate educational needs of children in care
- **Birth Parent Advocate** will provide support for birth parents
- **Three foster child limit** in foster homes, except with large sibling groups
- **Educational Qualifications of Staff**
 - Caseworker/Case planner title to have MSW or equivalent Masters level degree, or BA/BS/BSW with at least 2 years of relevant experience
 - Supervisors to have MSW or equivalent human services degree with at least 2 years relevant experience
- **Administrative requirements** for agencies, including
 - Designating an Agency Director/Champion to oversee implementation of Child Success NYC
 - Contracting with the developer to enable regular case consultation and trainings
 - Technology to support model adherence activities (dedicated laptops, Skype, video cameras, etc.)
 - Space for group meetings with biological parents and foster parents
 - Regular meetings with developers and ACS to facilitate implementation

Funding – Basic Overview

- The new rate will be comprised of the FY 13 RFFC rate plus additional supplemental funds using preventive dollars.
- Agencies will receive \$34 plus a supplemental allocation comprised of PYA, reinvestment, and additional funds. The combined value when turned into a daily rate (based on assumed care-days at the start of the fiscal year) will be up to \$57. We believe that this model, when fully implemented costs between \$51-\$57.
- ACS will work with each provider to determine the funds needed, within the \$51-\$57 range.
- ACS will be investing preventive funding for year one of Child Success NYC, but ultimately will be funded from a reduction in the foster care census. The census reduction target will be established with each agency, up to a 20% reduction. **The lower the supplemental allocation, the lower the census reduction will be.**
- ACS will work with agencies to identify which expenditures are preventive and rate eligible. For preventive expenditures, agencies are expected to adhere to all regulations regarding preventive funding, including cost allocating and the opening of POS lines.

Outcomes and Other Expectations of Pilot Agencies

- Pilot agencies will agree to the following expectations:
 - Increase discharges to kin guardianship, adoption and reunification and shrink the census by an assigned percentage within one year
 - Adhere to the program model and work with the developers
 - Participate in an evaluation of the pilot by Chapin Hall