

Child and Family Services Policy Manual: Substitute Care for Children IV-E Foster Care

Overview

Title IV-E is a Federal entitlement program under the Social Security Act, for children in foster care who meet specific eligibility requirements. For those children in foster care who are determined Title IV-E eligible, the Federal government will contribute approximately 68% of their maintenance costs. In addition, the Federal government will participate in allowable administrative costs at the rate of 50%.

The Federal reimbursement for Title IV-E eligible children makes up a large portion of Montana's foster care budget as well as the administrative budget for the Child and Family Services Division. Early eligibility determination and ongoing compliance are of great financial benefit to the children, and this Division. The following policy covers initial eligibility determination and continuing compliance to maximize Federal Title IV-E funds for Montana's Children.

Process

A child's placement in foster care will generate an electronic alert on CAPS to the IV-E unit at central office and the IV-E Compliance Officer (CO) will begin the eligibility determination process. A pending span will be created on the IVEL (IVE reimbursability screen) will remain in pending until the IV-E determination process is completed. The county designated staff will be responsible to provide the IV-E unit copies of all court documents, that is, reports to the court, petitions and court orders that are necessary to determine the IV-E eligibility and to support continued IV-E compliance. The IV-E compliance officers at the central office location will maintain the hard copy official compliance file. If the compliance documents do not contain information specific to the child's deprivation status during the month of removal, additional information may be requested by E-mail or hard copy. The CO will then begin inquiry into the State's automated systems to gain the information necessary to determine IV-E eligibility.

Once all the necessary financial, legal and licensing requirements are met in CAPS the system will create an approved span of IV-E eligibility on the IVEL screen. If we are out of compliance because court deadlines, permanency hearings, etc. are not met, the system will create a suspended span on IVEL until all requirements

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are resolved. All IV-E funding will be continually monitored.

All annual IV-E eligibility redeterminations will be completed by the CO.

Questions regarding this process should be directed to the IV-E Eligibility Unit Supervisor at Central Office.

Attachment 405-1 which is a copy of the IV-E manual follows this introduction.

This manual has 4 sections. Section (000) includes basic information including the income standards; Section 100 contains the financial requirements; Section 200 the legal requirements and Section 300 the placement requirements.

Public Law 104-193 signed by President Clinton on August 22, 1996 effectively ended the AFDC entitlement program for cash assistance but specifically required states to use the AFDC state plan in effect on July 16, 1996 as the guiding document to establish Title IV-E financial eligibility criteria. You will note the reference used in various sections of this manual is the 1996 AFDC State Plan since that is the document from which the policy is derived. You may find in your research that different regulations may exist in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), but policy in this manual is written to the advantage of a child's eligibility within the parameters of the State Plan.