

THE DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES (ODJFS)
BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY (BAFA)
Benefits of the Title IV-E program

Title IV-E Program:

The Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides federal matching funds to help States pay for foster care placements for children who meet federal eligibility criteria. The federal share called “federal financial participation” (FFP) pays part of the cost of foster care maintenance payments made by the state for the support of eligible children living in foster family homes or child care institutions. FFP is based on each state’s Medicaid matching rate and ranges from 50% to 83% of the foster care maintenance payments. In addition, the federal government pays 50% of the cost of administering the Title IV-E program (such as salaries of caseworkers and administrators, office space, etc.) and 75% of the training costs associated with the program.

Benefits of Title IV-E for the Juvenile Courts:

Title IV-E provides federal resources to help pay the cost of placements, administration, and training for agency staff and providers of care. This funding can help to expand the range of available placement options for youth who cannot live at home. For example, Title IV-E funds can support relative, foster family and group home placement. It can also be used to encourage the development of evidence based practices, such as Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) that provide effective treatment and reduce unnecessary incarceration. In addition, some states have obtained Title IV-E waivers to permit the use of Title IV-E funds for youth who remain at home. Some states have used Title IV-E and Medicaid funding to provide effective alternatives to incarceration through programs, such as Wrap Around programs that combine comprehensive case management and treatment services in a family setting.

In Ohio, the County Juvenile Court and the Board of County Commissioners have an opportunity to enter into a subgrant agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to administer the Title IV-E Program. This allows the Juvenile Court to assume full responsibility for the placement and care of, adjudicated unruly and delinquent children. This enables the court to receive reimbursement for allowable foster care maintenance (FCM), administration and training costs as outlined in the Title IV-E Program.

Benefits of Title IV-E for the County Commissioners:

The County Commissioners can keep up to 25% of the costs that are reimbursed to the Juvenile Courts for Administrative Fees.

Benefits of Title IV-E for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System:

IV-E eligible youth are entitled to foster care maintenance payments made on their behalf and are categorically eligible for Medicaid. Youth who are in foster care on their 18th birthday qualify for transitional Medicaid in those states that

have elected this option. Youth who are 16 or older are entitled to an independent living plan. Former foster care youth are also eligible for transitional housing, education and training vouchers, and other transitional benefits under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act. In addition, Title IV-E provides protections to reduce unnecessary out-of-home placements and support good case planning and regular monitoring of out-of-home placements.

Title IV-E requires states, with some exceptions, to make reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for out-of-home placement and to make it possible for the youth to safely return home if removal is necessary. This is done via developing case plans and case reviews for each child. The case plan must, among other things, assure the youth receives safe and proper care; describe services to be provided to the youth, the youth's parents, and the foster care provider to facilitate return home and address the needs of the youth while in care; include the youth's health and education records; and, for youth 16 years or older, describe programs and services that will help prepare the youth for independent living.

The case review system must ensure that the youth has a plan: designed to achieve placement in a safe setting that is the least restrictive (most family-like) and most appropriate setting available and in close proximity to the parents' home consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child. If the youth is placed out of state, the state must provide reasons for the placement and visit the youth periodically or arrange for courtesy visits and reports by the state where the youth is placed.

The state must also review the youth's case at least every six months and provide other procedural protections.

Because Title IV-E requires facilities to be licensed or approved by the state, Youth may have additional rights under state licensing requirements, including protections related to basic health and safety and personal rights.