

Van Buren Triple
R. Monitoring Assessment Tool – Title IV-B CFDA# 93.556
Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Child Welfare)

Background:

Authorization:

Social Security Act, as amended, Title IV, Part B, Section Subpart 2.

Objectives:

To prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. This is accomplished through issuance of grants to State child welfare agencies and eligible Indian Tribes to serve families at risk or in crisis, including provision of the following services: reunification and adoption services, pre-placement/preventive services, follow-up services after return of a child from foster care, respite care, services designed to improve parenting skills; and infant safe haven programs; to fund community-based family support services that promote the safety and well-being of children and families, to afford children a safe, stable and supportive family environment, to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages, and otherwise to enhance child development; time-limited family reunification services to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately within a timely fashion; and adoption promotion and support services designed to encourage more adoptions out of the foster care system, when adoption, promotes the best interests of the child. In addition, a portion of funds also is reserved in FY 2008 - FY 2011 for a separate formula grant for States and territories to support monthly caseworker visits with children who are in foster care. A small proportion of appropriated funds are reserved for research, evaluation and technical assistance, which may be awarded competitively through contracts or discretionary grants.

Uses and Use Restrictions:

For the main Promoting Safe and Stable Families Formula Grants, a significant portion of funds must be spent on each of the service categories of family preservation, family support services, time-limited family reunification services and adoption promotion and support services. State grantees must limit administrative costs to 10 percent of the total expenditures required to draw their allotment. Caseworker visit formula grants: States and territories are required to spend funds to support monthly caseworker visits with children in foster care with a primary emphasis on activities designed to improve caseworker retention, recruitment, training and ability to access the benefits of technology. Discretionary Grants: Grants are awarded for research, evaluation and technical assistance activities relating to family support, family preservation, time-limited family reunification and adoption promotion support.

Eligibility Requirements

Beneficiary Eligibility:

Families and children who need services to assist them to stabilize their lives, strengthen family functioning, prevent out-of-home placement of children, enhance child development and increase competence in parenting abilities, facilitate timely reunification of the child, and promote appropriate adoptions.

Credentials/Documentation (083):

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Formula Grants: The State agency which administers the social services program under Title XX of the Social Security Act (Social Services Block Grant) must also be the agency which administers the Title IV-B programs. Discretionary Grants: Nonprofit agencies must submit proof of nonprofit status. Applicable costs and administrative procedures will be determined in accordance with parts 74 and 92 of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations. OMB Circular No. A-87 applies to this program.

Objectives: To determine whether:

- To determine whether child welfare costs were allowable and charged appropriately; and
- To determine whether adequate documentation exists to support a federal claim.

Procedures:

	Program Step	Date/ Initials	Work Paper Reference
1.	From the financial statement detail for the six month review period, identify any costs charged directly to Title IV-B funding.		
2.	<p>Direct Charges - Select two invoices claimed to Child Welfare – Title IV-B during the review period. For the cost in question, determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost was for an allowable Child Welfare activity; • The agency has appropriate documentation to support the charge to the program; • The goods or service meet the program needs; and • The cost was charged to an appropriate code. 		
3.	<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Consider whether there are any instances of non compliance or a systemic problem due to a lack of adequate internal control exists with regards to your procedures. If so, make an appropriate notation as an Issue in Auto Audit.</p> <p>Prepare a segment summary to reflect work completed and results of your testing. (Note: An example index/segment summary can be obtained from the Auto Audit Library.)</p>		