Title IV-E Plan – State/Tribe of Ohio

PLAN SUBMISSION CERTIFICATION

Instructions: This Certification must be signed and submitted by the official authorized to submit the title IV-E plan, each time the state/tribal submits an amendment to the title IV-E plan.

I, Kimberly Henderson, Director, (name) hereby certify that I am authorized to submit the title IV-E Plan on behalf of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. I also certify that the title IV-E plan was submitted to the governor or tribal leader for his or her review and approval in accordance with 45 CFR 1356.20(c)(2) and 45 CFR 204.1.

Date__________________________ __________________________
__________________________________________________________
(Signature) (Title)

APPROVAL DATE__________________________ 11/17/2021

EFFECTIVE DATE:__________________________ 10/01/2021

__________________________________________________________
(Signature, Associate Commissioner, Children’s Bureau)
Title IV-E Plan – State/Tribe of Ohio

STATE/TRIBAL REQUEST FOR “QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS” WAIVER
AND REQUEST FOR ALTERNATE ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION

Instructions: This request and certification must be used if a title IV-E agency requests: (1) a waiver to allow “qualified individuals” with responsibility for performing the assessments under section 475A(c)(1)(A), to be employees of the agency and/or connected to or affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed by the agency per section 475A(c)(1)(D)(ii) of the Act; and/or (2) the Secretary approve any other independent, not-for-profit accrediting organization of a similar type and kind as those identified in the Act.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services requests:

(check each box that applies)

X A waiver to allow “qualified individuals” with responsibility for performing the assessments under section 475A(c)(1)(A) of the Act to be employees of the agency and/or connected to or affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed by the agency per section 475A(c)(1)(D)(ii) of the Act. Pursuant to this request, I certify the title IV-E agency will ensure that such qualified individuals will maintain objectivity with respect to determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child in accordance with 475A(c)(1)(D)(ii) of the Act.

The Secretary approve ________________ (Name of Accrediting Organization) as an independent, non-for-profit accrediting organization for purposes of section 472(k)(4)(G) of the Act, and has attached documentation supporting such request.

Not effective until 10/1/19, unless the title IV-E agency elects a delayed effective date

10/1/2021 (date) _______________________________ (signature)

_________________________ (Signature, Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau)
In accordance with the Social Security Act Section 475A(c)(1)(D) as required under the Family First Prevention Services Act, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) requests a waiver from the Secretary to allow employees of the State of Ohio and the Title IV-E agencies in each county to perform the functions of the “qualified individual” for the purpose of providing the 30-day assessments of placement in qualified residential treatment programs (QRTP).

ODJFS certifies that trained professionals or licensed clinicians with responsibility for performing the assessment shall maintain objectivity with respect to determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child, as required by law.

Section 475A(c)(1)(D)

(D)(i) Subject to clause (ii), in this subsection, the term ‘qualified individual’ means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of the State agency and who is not connected to, or affiliated with, any placement setting in which children are placed by the State.

(ii) The Secretary may approve a request of a State to waive any requirement in clause (i) upon a submission by the State, in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary, that certifies that the trained professionals or licensed clinicians with responsibility for performing the assessments described in subparagraph (A) shall maintain objectivity with respect to determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child.

As a county administered state, Ohio is requesting a waiver to allow Title IV-E agencies four options to meet the requirements for the qualified individual requirement:

Option 1 – State Contractor/State Staff will be the Qualified Individual

ODJFS will contract with a vendor or use State staff to be the Qualified Individual and present the findings to the Family Permanency Team and the Court. The Qualified Individual must be knowledgeable on local resources to support a child’s ongoing needs. The State Contractor/State staff must not be in the chain of command of a fiscal or licensing bureau.

Option 2 – Agency Employee will be the Qualified Individual

Title IV-E agencies will use staff who are not in the chain of command of the case oversight and placement decision-making to fulfill the role of the Qualified Individual. For example, agencies with a separate unit able to conduct the assessment will have the Qualified Individual report to someone outside of the chain of command of case management or placement responsibilities.

Option 3 – Community Resource will be the Qualified Individual
The Title IV-E agency will identify and enter into an agreement with a local community resource to conduct the assessments. The community resource may be from the local Mental Health and Addiction Services Board, Family and Children First Council, or other service provider. If a service provider is under Title IV-E agency contract (e.g. Family and Children First), their objectivity is compromised, and cannot be used for this assessment.

Option 4 – Administrative Agency will be the Qualified Individual

One Title IV-E agency, serving as the administrative agent, will establish and maintain an agreement (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding or Regional Council of Government (http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/167)) with at least one other Title IV-E agency to provide a Qualified Individual. The administrative agent will be the fiscal agency and direct the Qualified Individual to Title IV-E agencies that are part of the agreement. Although the Qualified Individual will conduct assessments for partner counties, no such assurance can be made for assessments done for the administrative agent.