Overview of the Title IV-E Program for Juvenile Courts

The Bureau of Fiscal Operations
What is Title IV-E?

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (42 U.S. Code § 671-679b) is an important funding stream for foster care costs. It provides for federal reimbursement for a portion of the maintenance, administration and training costs of foster care for children who meet specific federal eligibility requirements.
To reduce the number of children removed and placed in substitute care

To improve the quality of care provided to children placed in substitute care

To return children from substitute care to their homes as soon as possible

To facilitate the adoption of or other permanent placement for those children who cannot return to their own homes.

(Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-47-01)
Overall Benefits

- Improve services for children and youth
- Emphasize the development of community and neighborhood foster care resources
- Conduct service improvements with the county Family and Children First Council to improve the well being of children and families
- County Commissioners can retain 25% of reimbursed administrative funds to the court
- Reimbursement to courts for allowable costs, activities and youth
Benefits for your County

- Can help to expand the range of available placement options for youth who cannot live at home
- Can fund evidence-based practices such as Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care that provide effective treatment and reduce unnecessary incarceration
- Can fund Wrap Around programs that combine comprehensive case management and treatment services in a family setting, as an effective alternative to incarceration
Sex Offender Programs

Maintenance of the crisis management system for children in court sponsored foster care

Employment of licensed mental health counselors

Contractual services
  • Juvenile Treatment Court Contract Services
  • Contract services to assist with volunteer services in the CASA Department

Training expenses for court staff

Probation officers’ salaries and benefits (help to save positions)

Truancy Prevention Programs

Partnering with Habitat for Humanity to give felon offenders an opportunity to learn a trade and give back to the community by building houses for the underprivileged

Home Detention Staff

Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment
Benefits for Youth

- Case plans and case reviews of each child, assures the youth receives:
  - Safe and proper care
  - Services for themselves and their parents
  - Assistance from foster care provider to facilitate the return home and addresses the needs of the youth while in care
  - Independent Living Services if 14 years of age or older
Foster Care Maintenance (FCM) reimbursement rate is set every year at the beginning of the new Federal Financial Year (FFY). The current reimbursement rate is 70.30% for October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 (FFY2022).

- Administration reimbursement is 50% of the cost of administering the Title IV-E program.

- Training reimbursement is 75% of the costs associated with the program.
To be eligible for Foster Care Maintenance reimbursement, the child must:

- Be removed from a specified relative
- Be in the legal responsibility for care and placement of the court
- Have a judicial determination of best interest to be removed from a specified relative who was causing harm or unable to protect
- Have a judicial determination that the court made reasonable efforts to prevent removal
- Meet Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) relatedness standards from 1996
- Be placed in a licensed or approved setting (with a IV-E rate)
The placement of the child is:

• In the least restrictive setting
• In close proximity to the child’s family
• Is consistent with the best interest of the child
• Is in a licensed Title IV-E eligible setting
Maintenance Costs

The cost of providing:

- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Daily Supervision
- School supplies
- Personal Incidentals
  - Personal hygiene
  - Special dietary foods
  - Over-the-counter medicines
  - Special lessons, etc.
- Liability insurance with respect to the child
- Reasonable cost to travel for the child to remain in the school the child was enrolled prior to placement in foster care
- Reasonable cost to travel for a child’s home for visitation

(OAC 5101:2-47-01)
Administration Costs

- Overhead associated with administering the Title IV-E program
- The costs of Providing Case Management Activities
- Cost of travel for the child's judicial or case review
Training Costs

- Training Related to Child Welfare Services and charged in proportion to the percentage of Title IV-E eligible children

- Guardian *ad litem* (GALs)

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
The court will not deliberately adjudicate a child unruly or delinquent for the sole purpose of receiving Federal Financial Participation (FFP) under the Subgrant Agreement.

“No Cherry picking”
Costs that are claimed for Title IV-E reimbursements must originally be paid from local and state funds and further cannot be claimed by any other federal reimbursement program.
For a Juvenile Court to receive reimbursement for Title IV-E they must enter into a sub-grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Board of County Commissioners.

This allows the Juvenile Court to assume full responsibility for the placement and care of adjudicated unruly and delinquent children.

The sub-grant agreement enables courts to receive Title IV-E reimbursement for allowable foster care maintenance (FCM), administration, and training costs.
Learning Opportunities

- Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) Training
- Foster Care Maintenance Eligibility Training-How to determine eligibility-(Webinar on line)
- Bi-Annual Juvenile Court Round Table (Forum for Discussion and Information)
- Regional Round Tables by the Bureau for Systems and Practice Advancement with topics of interest to courts (led by Technical Assistance Specialists)
Additional Information

Title IV-E website:
http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/titleiveprograms.stm
How to get started

- Send a letter of interest in becoming a Title IV-E court to:
  Juvenile-Court-Mailbox@jfs.ohio.gov
ODJFS e-mails information package to interested court

Court reviews the material (model of the subgrant agreement and other Title IV-E related information) with County Commissioners

After internal discussions, court contacts ODJFS to clarify any questions regarding the Title IV-E program

The Readiness Review process (that determines the court’s understanding of the Title IV-E rules) will be scheduled by contacting ODJFS
Once the Readiness Review is approved, ODJFS will start the subgrant agreement process:

• ODJFS will forward the original agreement to the interested court.

• The court is responsible for obtaining signatures of the authorized court representative and the county commissioners, returning the agreement to ODJFS, in a timely manner.

• After the ODJFS Director’s signature is obtained and the agreement has been processed, an executed copy of the final agreement will be provided to the court.

• The executed copy of the agreement is the legal document that authorizes the juvenile court to act as a Title IV-E agency.