



**Department of
Job and Family Services**

Mike DeWine, Governor
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Office of Families
and Children

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.

Program Objectives

- Reduce reliance on out-of-home care
- Encourage the use of preventive and reunification services
- Require permanency planning

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 can not 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

Examples of Court Funded Programs and Services with IV-E Funds

- 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

Federal Share of Costs

- 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 63.09% for October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018 (FFY2019)
- 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

Responsibilities of the Court

- 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)

Responsibilities of the Court, cont'd

- 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
- Shelter
- Clothing
- Personal Incidentals
 - Personal hygiene
 - Special dietary foods
 - Over-the-counter medicines
 - Special lessons, etc.
- School supplies
- Travel Costs - reasonable cost of travel to a child's home for visitation (or other locations for parental visitation)
- Daily Supervision
- Liability Insurance with respect to the child

Administration Costs

- Overhead associated with administering the Title IV-E program
- Case Management Activities
- Cost of travel to children's judicial or case review

Training Costs

- Child Welfare Training
- Guardian *ad litem* (GALs)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)

Responsibilities of the Court

- The court will not deliberately adjudicate a child unruly or delinquent for the sole purpose of receiving 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.

Reimbursement of Costs

- 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 to:

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Families and Children
P.O. Box 183204
Columbus, Ohio 43218-3204
Attn: Ricardo Murph

- or by email to:

Ricardo Murph - ricardo.murph@jfs.ohio.gov

or

Patricia Wilson - patricia.wilson01@jfs.ohio.gov

or

Juvenile-Court-Mailbox@jfs.ohio.gov

How to get started, cont'd

- 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

How to get started, cont'd

- 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