

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008: A Tool for Advocates

Hawaii 2011 Annual Child Welfare Law Update

August 12, 2011



Agenda

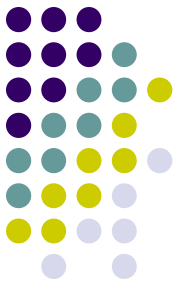


- Education Provisions
- Older Youth Provisions
- Kinship / Relative Connections Provisions
- Other Provisions:
 - Coordinated Health Plan
 - Adoption Provisions
 - Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Access
 - Funds for Expanded Child Welfare Training



Progress for Children and Families

- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351) signed into law on October 7, 2008
- Most significant federal reform for abused and neglected children in more than a decade
- Some provisions are *optional*; most are *mandatory*
 - May require legislation, policy changes and/or submission of amended title IV-E plans



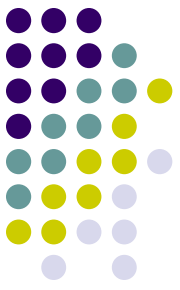
Everyone Has a Role

- Agency should incorporate the requirements of Fostering Connections into practice and policy;
- Attorneys should use the provisions of Fostering Connections to advocate for clients;
- Judges should use oversight at every hearing to ensure successful implementation;
- **Interagency collaboration is essential to effective implementation.**

Education Provisions



- Education Stability Plan (Case Plan)
- Transportation Reimbursement
- Enrollment and Attendance (State Plan)



Why is this Needed?

- Federal data indicate that school age children in foster care in FY 2009 experienced an average of 3.38 living placements.
- One study showed that over two thirds of children in care changed schools shortly after initial placement in care.
- Studies have found that highly mobile children score lower than stably housed children on standardized tests in reading, spelling and math.
- In a national study, youth who had even one fewer placement change per year were almost twice as likely to graduate from high school before leaving care.



What are the benefits of school stability?

- For the child
- For the resource family
- For the school
- For the child welfare agency

School Stability

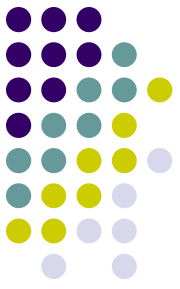


- The child's case plan: appropriateness and proximity to the school. 42 U.S.C.A. 675(1)(G)(i)
- Education Stability Plan:
 - child welfare agency has coordinated with appropriate local education agencies ... to ensure that the child remains enrolled in the school in which the child was enrolled at the time of placement. 42 U.S.C.A. 675(1)(G)(ii).
 - If not in best interest to remain, child welfare agency must ensure immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school, with all of the education records of the child provided to the school.” 42 U.S.C.A. 675(1)(G)(ii).



ACYF-CB-PI-10-11

July 9, 2010 – Program Instruction

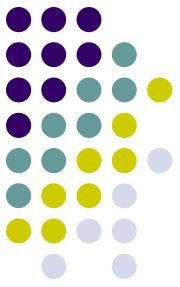


- Education Stability Plan must be a written part of the case plan, reviewed every 6 months.
- Agency should invite school personnel, agency attorneys, guardians ad litem, youth, etc. to discussions about the education stability plan.
- Agency is encouraged to develop standard and deliberate process for determining best interest and properly documenting the steps taken to make the determination.



What factors should be considered related to best interest for school?

Sample Best Interest Questions



- Which school does the student prefer?
- How long is the child's current placement expected to last?
- What is the child's permanency plan?
- How many schools has the child attended over the past few years? How many schools has the child attended this year? How have the school transfers affected the child emotionally, academically and physically?
- How strong is the child academically?
- To what extent are the programs and activities at the potential new school comparable to or better than those at the current school?
- Does one school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the other school does not have?

Sample Best Interest Questions



- How deep are the child's ties to his or her current school?
- Would the timing of the school transfer coincide with a logical juncture such as after testing, after an event that is significant to the child, or at the end of the school year?
- How would changing schools affect the student's ability to earn full credits, participate in sports or other extra-curricular activities, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time?
- How would the length of the commute to the school of origin impact the child?
- How anxious is the child about having been removed from the home and/or any upcoming moves?
- What school do the child's siblings attend?
- Are there any safety issues to consider?

ACYF-CB-PI-10-11

July 9, 2010 Program Instruction



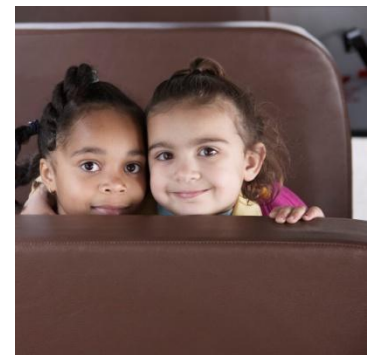
Examples of Best Interest Factors:

- ✓ Child's preference
- ✓ Safety of the child
- ✓ Appropriateness of current educational programs in current or other school and how the schools can serve the child's needs (including special education)
- ✓ *COST SHOULD NOT BE A FACTOR!*

School Transportation



- The term foster care maintenance payments includes “reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.” 42 U.S.C.A. 675(4)(A).
- July 2010 Program Instruction reiterates previous guidance that Title IV-E administrative costs can be used for school transportation.





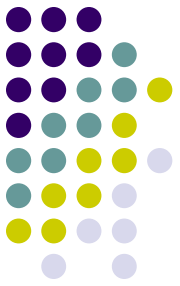
Enrollment & Attendance

- Title IV-E State Plan: Requires state child welfare agency to ensure all children in foster care, or receiving Title IV-E funded guardianship or adoption assistance payments, be *full-time students* or have completed a secondary school



What You Can Do

- Ask questions about enrollment and appropriateness of school
 - Ask if child is enrolled and attending school at each court hearing
 - Was the appropriateness and proximity of the child's school considered when making the initial and all subsequent placement decisions?
- Ensure school stability
 - Make best interest determination - if not maintained in school of origin, ask why not
 - Consider creative transportation solutions
- Ensure immediate enrollment with records
 - Get court order for records under FERPA, when necessary



Challenges

- State budget/transportation costs
 - Child welfare agency vs. education budgets
- Lack of placement options near schools
- Collaboration with education agencies
- Clearly defined role of the court regarding education issues
- Determining education decisionmaker early in the case



Strategies

- Education liaisons (child welfare and education based)
- State legislation or policy (see: Legal Center for Foster Care and Education website)
- Form interagency workgroups
- Judicially appointed committees (see Texas)
- Create agency policy or protocols to address issues

Improving Outcomes for Older Youth



Assistance for Older Youth to age 21



Why is this Needed?



- About 20,000 youth emancipate from foster care each year
- Up to 50% of youth former foster youth end up homeless within 18 months of emancipation
- 27% of the homeless population spent some time in foster care
- 4 years after leaving care, 42% of youth have become parents
- 4 years after leaving care, 46% of youth lack a high school diploma
- Less than half of foster youth are employed 2-4 years after leaving foster care; only 38% of former foster youth have maintained employment for at least one year
- Parents with a history of foster care are almost twice as likely as parents with no such history to see their own children placed in foster care or become homeless

Previous Law: Independent Living Plan and Case Review



- Case plans must include an “independent living plan” “where appropriate for youth ages 16 and older.” 42 U.S.C. 675 (1)(D)
- Case review process (annual hearing) must include, “in the case of a child who has attained age 16, the services needed to assist the child to make the transition from foster care to independent living.” 42 U.S.C. 675(5)

Previous Law: Youth Consultation



- States must implement procedural safeguards to ensure that at all hearings, including “any hearing regarding the transition of the child from foster care to independent living,” the court consults “in an age-appropriate manner, with the child regarding the proposed permanency or transition plan for the child.”

42 U.S.C. § 675(5);

Fostering Connections Act: 90 Day Transition Plan



Each state's **case review system** (court) must include procedures that ensure that:

During the 90-day period immediately prior to the date the child will attain age 18 (or other age if the state elects), the agency must provide the child with assistance and support in developing a transition plan that is personalized at the direction of the child, includes specific options on housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services, and work force supports and employment services, and is as detailed as the child may elect.

42 U.S.C. § 675(5)(H).



Transition Planning Questions

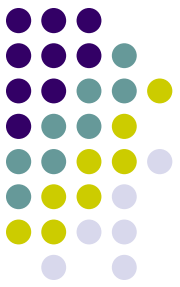
- Inquire about and **review** transition plan –

Education and Employment

- What is the youth's plan for post-secondary education or training?
- What services has the youth received to prepare for and apply to post-secondary education or training, including financial aid applications?
- What is the source of current and future income (job, training, educational program) after discharge?
- Has the young adult accessed Chafee services and Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs)?

Health

- What behavioral health, mental retardation, drug/alcohol or medical services are in place for the youth if continued services are needed?



Transition Planning Questions

- What is the source of future medical coverage? (They must re-apply for Medicaid if necessary)?
- Does the young adult have an understanding about the importance of having a health care power of attorney to make health care decisions on their behalf?

Housing

- What is the youth's/young adult's plan for housing?
- Does the youth have an understanding of the basic governmental, community and housing services available to them after discharge?



Transition Planning Questions

- Does the youth have a general understanding of tenant and homeowner rights?

Permanent Connections

- Who are his/her permanent connections?
- What is the plan for the youth/young adult to be connected to siblings and other relatives?
- Who are the stable adults the young adult is able to identify as resources he or she can rely on for advice and in emergencies?

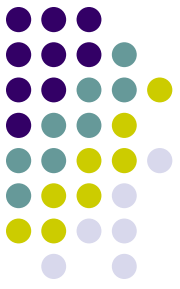
Misc.

- Is there anything else you need assistance with?
- Are additional hearings or extended jurisdiction (if possible) needed to ensure the youth's/young adult's successful transition to adulthood?

Older Youth: IL and ETV

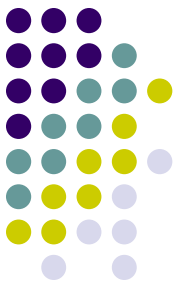


- Children 16 and older adopted from foster care or in a legal guardianship with a relative are eligible for Chafee independent living services and education and training (ETV) vouchers



What You Can Do

- Encourage youth to apply for IL services and ETV upon discharge to adoption or guardianship
- Ensure transition planning is youth-directed, begins early (at least by 16)
 - Continue to seek permanency while transition planning
 - Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangements (APPLA) should only be used in extreme cases and with documented compelling reasons
- Ensure youth attend court and that court discusses and approves transition plan



Extension of Care

- Beginning 10/1/10, provides federal support to states that **elect** to exercise the option to change the definition of "child" and increase the age limit to support youth in foster care, kinship or adoptive families to age 19, 20 or 21, if youth is:
 - Completing high school or an equivalency program
 - Enrolled in a post-secondary or vocational school
 - Participating in a program to promote employment
 - Employed for at least 80 hours a month; or
 - Incapable of doing any of the above activities due to a medical condition
- Permits federal support for youth 18 and older placed in “supervised independent living setting”



Status of Extension of Care

- 6 States have approved Title IV-E plans: Nebraska (up to age 19), Alabama (21), Illinois (21), Maryland (21), Minnesota (21), New York (21)
- 5 States have submitted plans and are awaiting approval: Arkansas, DC, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia
- 6 states have enacted **new** legislation that allows youth to remain in care beyond age 18: Alaska, California, Delaware, Tennessee, Texas, Washington
- 7 states have pending legislation to extend care: Arkansas, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island



What You Can Do

- Consider extending foster care, adoption, and guardianship beyond age 18

See Program Instruction for more details about how to extend care and develop a system that serves “legal adults”

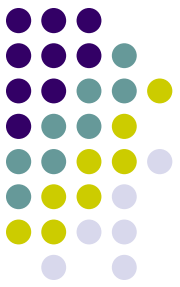
ABA Sample Legislation to Extend Care

- http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/center_on_children_and_the_law/empowerment/sample_leg_18_with_cover_final.authcheckdam.pdf

Challenges



- State budget
- Creating a child welfare/court system for legal adults
- Extending court jurisdiction
- Engaging and empowering youth around transition planning
- Coordinating transition plans with other agencies (e.g. education. Mental health, housing)



Strategies

- Encourage youth attendance in court
- Empower youth alumni organizations
- Use data to justify and support state extension of care
- Use flexibility around definition of “supervised setting where individual is living independently” to support best practice and create appropriate placements for young adults

Supporting Kinship Families and Connections with Relatives



Promoting Permanent Placements
with Grandparents and Other Relatives



Why is this Needed?



- 6.7 million children live with relatives with/without parents in the home
 - 2.5 million have no parents in the home
 - 2010 data: 6.5 % of children in the US live with their grandparents, a 20-year high and an increase of 8 % compared with 2009
 - Vast majority of children are outside of the foster care system
 - 1 of every 18 children living with relative is in foster care

Kinship Care Improves Child Welfare Outcomes



- Relative foster placements tend to be more stable placements
- Reinforces safety, stability, well-being
- Reduces trauma
- Reinforces child's sense of identity
- Helps keep siblings together
- Honors family and cultural ties
- Expands permanency options
- Can reduce racial disproportionality



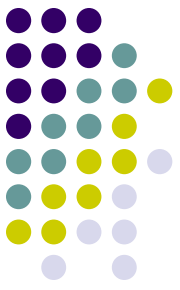
**Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?*, Tiffany Conway and Rutledge Q. Hutson, Center for Law and Social Policy, March 2007



Notice Requirements



- **Requires** states to use *due diligence* to identify and notify all adult relatives
- Notice within **30 days** of removal from parents' custody
- Exception for family and domestic violence only



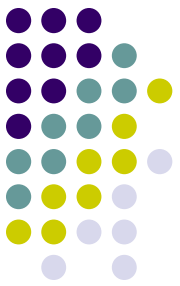
Haw. Rev. Stat. § 587A-10 (9/10)

- The department shall provide the child's relative an application to be the child's resource family within fifteen days of the relative's request to provide foster placement for the child. If the application is submitted and denied, the department shall provide the applicant with the specific reasons for the denial and an explanation of the procedures for an administrative appeal.
- The department and authorized agencies shall make reasonable efforts to identify and notify all relatives of the child within thirty days after assuming foster custody of the child.

Hawaii Child Protective Act



- **"Relative"** means a person related to a child by blood or adoption, or a hanai relative as defined in this chapter, who, as determined by the court or the department, is willing and able to safely provide support to the child and the child's family.



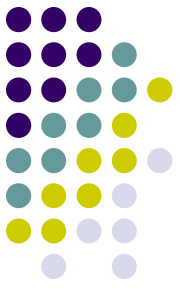
What You Can Do

- Ask agency if they have identified and notified relatives at the first hearing and all subsequent hearings (paternal, maternal and non-custodial?)
- Ask parents and child from the bench to help identify relatives and possible placement and family resources
 - if parents refuse, advise them child may be placed with people they don't know
- Help clarify placement options and make sure relatives understand ALL options – formal and informal
- Make sure all family members, including the relative caregiver, understand the important role of relatives in the process
 - Are the family members aware of ways that they may stay connected with the child and engaged in the child's case, even if they are not a placement option for the child?

Sibling Connections



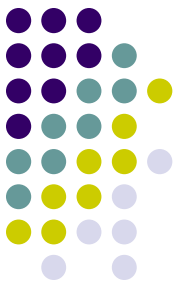
- States **must** make *reasonable efforts* to place siblings together in foster, kinship and adoptive homes unless contrary to the safety or well-being of a child
- If siblings not placed together, states **must**:
 - Document why they are not together, and
 - **Must** make *reasonable efforts* to provide frequent visitation or other on-going contact between siblings
 - unless states document that contact would be contrary to the safety or well-being
- PI encourages periodic assessment of placement and visitation and allows states to define siblings
 - Frequent visitation defined as at least monthly



What You Can Do

- Were reasonable efforts to keep siblings together documented and if not together, why not?
 - Inquire at **each** hearing if circumstances have changed that would allow for placement with siblings
- Siblings should have written visitation plan to ensure visits
 - Sibling visits are not be dependent on parental visits
 - Support informal visits/communication when possible

Guardianship Assistance (GAP)



- State **option** to use Title IV-E funds to provide assistance to children who leave foster care for legal guardianship with a relative
 - Known as subsidized guardianship or GAP
- Children are eligible for Medicaid
- Children not required to have “special needs”
- Monthly amount up to foster care payment amount (may not exceed)
- Payments available until child turns 18 (or 21)
- States must share, under the federal match, the total cost of nonrecurring expenses of legal guardianship (e.g., legal fees) of a child up to \$2,000

Guardianship Assistance: Eligible Children



- Must be eligible for Title IV-E foster care
- Must live with licensed relative for 6 consecutive months prior to guardianship
- Must demonstrate a strong attachment to the prospective relative guardian
- If age 14 and older, must be consulted about guardianship arrangement before it is finalized
- If child is eligible for federal adoption assistance when placed with guardian, child continues to be eligible if guardian wants to adopt the child later
- Guardianship agreement remains in effect even if the guardian moves to another state.

Guardianship Assistance: Eligible Guardians



- Must be relatives
 - PI gives states discretion to define “relative” either narrowly or broadly
 - Should have consistent definition with notice
- Willing to assume legal guardianship of the child
- Have a strong commitment to care for the child permanently
- Must have cared for child for at least 6 consecutive months as a licensed foster parent (need criminal record and child abuse registry checks)

Status of State Guardianship Option



- 19 state Title IV- E plans have been approved: [Alabama](#), [Colorado](#), [District of Columbia](#), [Hawaii](#), [Illinois](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), [Missouri](#), [Montana](#), [South Dakota](#), [Nebraska](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Tennessee](#) and [Texas](#).
- 9 states have submitted plans to HHS and are awaiting approval: [Alaska](#), [California](#), [Connecticut](#), [Idaho](#), [Louisiana](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Vermont](#), and [Washington](#).
- 9 states have passed laws adopting this option: [Alabama](#), [Arkansas](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Michigan](#), [New York](#), [Texas](#), [Vermont](#) and [Washington](#).
 - By law, no state legislation is required to implement
- 1 State has pending legislation: [Pennsylvania](#)
- See: www.grandfamilies.org to track this legislation



What You Can Do

- Is guardianship the most appropriate option and in child's best interest?
 - Why reunification and adoption are not an option
 - Does child demonstrate a strong attachment to the prospective relative guardian?
 - Was the child age 14 and older consulted and any children younger than 14, if developmentally appropriate?
 - Is the guardian committed and able to care for child permanently?



Judicial Considerations

- What is relationship between guardian and parents – orders should include:
 - Contact, visitation plan - supervised, location, frequency, best interest controls
 - Plan to keep siblings connected/visitation plan
 - Rights of guardians and rights of parents
 - Named successor or standby guardian or require hearing
- Are there any other necessary provisions or conditions?
- Is there a clear process for modifications, parental petitions for visitation and to re-gain custody?
- Are there trained lawyers to represent relatives in your area - legal fees are covered by non-recurring costs

Family Connection Grant Recipients



- Up to \$1,000,000 per year for up to 3 years
- 24 recipients awarded in September 2009:
 - up to one million dollars per year for up to 3 years
 - Information on each grant available at:
<http://www.nrcpfc.org/grantees.html>
- New grant opportunities will be announced Fall 2011





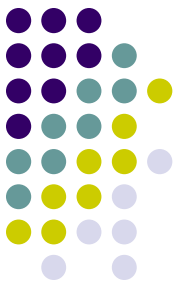
Licensing for Relative Caregivers

- To increase the availability of licensed foster care homes with relatives, the new law:
 - Allows states to waive “non-safety”-related licensing standards for relatives on a case-by-case basis (e.g. square footage requirements)
 - States have discretion to establish licensing standards and define which are non-safety
- See www.grandfamilies.org for all state waiver laws and policies and new resource: *Relative Foster Care Licensing Waivers in the States: Policies and Possibilities*

Haw. Code R. § 17-828-6



An exception may be made when the foster family boarding home under study will accept only a specific child or a child for whom service is requested is already living in the foster family boarding home and the department social worker determines that the home offers some assets to the child.



Challenges

- Breaking down myths and getting buy in on positive aspects of kinship care
- Defining relatives, siblings, due diligence
- Identifying and notifying ALL relatives in short timeframe
- Distinguishing non safety licensing standards for relatives
- Encouraging use of waivers
- Locating placements for large sibling groups

Strategies



- Determine the administrative savings expected when you move children from foster care to guardianship in GAP
- Conduct cost/benefit analysis of GAP vs. remaining in care
- Use of accurate and reliable technology to find relatives
- Build flexibility into licensing standards
- Ensure staff receives regular training on licensing policies
- Include protections to ensure waivers are used appropriately
- Use relatives for sibling placements and to facilitate visits



Other Provisions

- Coordinated Health Plan
- Adoption Provisions
- Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Access
- Funds for Expanded Child Welfare Training

Coordinated Health Plan



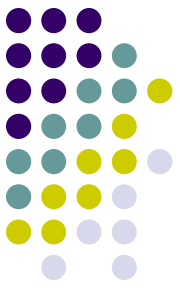
- The new law **requires** states to develop a plan as part of their IV-B Plan for the ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for children in foster care
- The plan must be developed in coordination & collaboration with the state Medicaid agency, pediatricians and other appropriate experts



Coordinated Health Plan



- The plan must describe how:
 - Initial and follow up health screenings will be provided (schedule)
 - Health needs will be monitored and treated
 - Medical information will be updated and shared
 - Steps to ensure continuity of health care services (may include establishing a medical home)
 - Oversight of prescription medications, including psychotropic drugs, will be ensured



What You Can Do

- Ask how the child's health care needs are being coordinated?
- Ensure regular, proper health, mental health, dental services are being provided
 - How often does the child see a doctor?
 - What is the overall quality of the health care the child is receiving?
 - Does the child have a medical passport?
- Have there been periodic assessments of prescription medication, including psychotropic drugs?
- Courts can act as powerful and effective conveners of multiple systems
 - If necessary, a judge can request a meeting or order the provision of specific services



Adoption Provisions

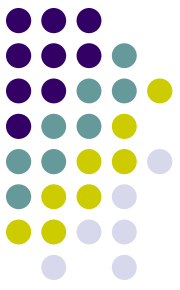
Supporting Adoptive Families for Children in Foster Care





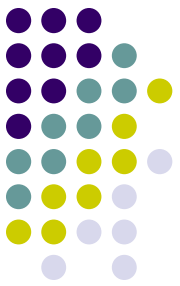
Adoption Assistance: De-Link

- Gradually removes the link between a child's eligibility for federal adoption assistance payments and the parent's AFDC-eligibility requirements at time of removal, as required by Title IV-E
 - Child must still be special needs to qualify
- Automatically qualifies SSI-eligible children (based solely on medical and disability requirements) for adoption assistance
- Requires states to reinvest any state funds saved in other child welfare services
- Program instruction listing criteria for de linking:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/pi/2009/pi0910.htm



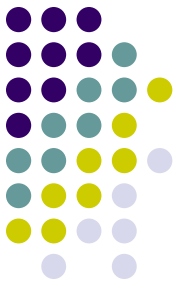
Adoption Assistance: Phased-in Eligibility

- Beginning with adoptions finalized on 10/1/09, makes eligible those children who are special needs and:
 - Have been in care 60 consecutive months
 - Siblings of eligible children placed in same home
- Incremental, beginning with the oldest youth
 - Adds, by age, a new group of children, by 2 years, each fiscal year—16 and older on 10/1/2009
 - 14 and older on 10/1/10 (FFY 2011) and so on
 - Also includes siblings of eligible children
- By 10/1/17, makes all children with special needs, regardless of income or age, eligible for federal adoption assistance
- PI – states may not target to a subset of children



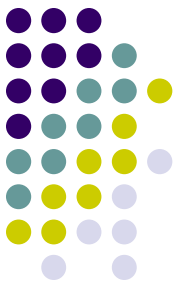
Adoption Incentive Payments Program

- Renews Adoption Incentive Payments Program until 2013
- Resets adoption baseline based on # of adoptions in FY 2007
- Doubles the incentive payments for adoptions of older children and children with special needs
 - Increase for children ages nine and older to \$8000
 - Increase for children with special needs to \$4000
- Gives states 24 months to spend their adoption incentive payments (previously had 12 months)
- Awards additional incentive payments to states that exceed their highest adoption rates since 2002 (if sufficient funds)
- Adoption incentive information memo:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2009/im0903.htm



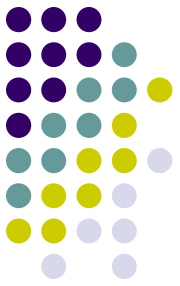
What You Can Do

- What are the agency's recruitment efforts for adoptive parents?
- What efforts has the agency made to find an adoptive placement for this child?
- What are the barriers to finalizing an adoption?
 - Who has the ability to remove the barriers to adoption?
 - When will those barriers be removed?
- Review timelines for completing adoptions in your jurisdiction
 - Expedite backlogs and appeals for adoption cases
- Conduct frequent reviews of freed children to speed finalization



What You Can Do

- Has the child been in care for greater than 60 months or older than 16 years of age?
 - Create a sense of urgency for adoption of youth in care over 60 months
- Encourage adoptions of older youth and youth with special needs
- Has adoption been explained and discussed with the child?
- Ask prior to finalization if the adoptive parent has received information about the adoption tax credit
 - What efforts are made to ensure they understand the eligibility requirements?



Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Access

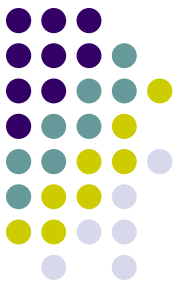
Direct Tribal Access to IV-E funds



Direct Tribal Access to IV-E funds



- Allows tribes or tribal consortia, as of 10/1/09, to administer their own Title IV-E programs and receive funds directly from the federal government
 - Allows for direct tribal access to foster care, adoption assistance and guardianship assistance for IV-E eligible children only
 - Must submit a plan including a description of service areas and populations to be served (one tribe to date)
- Alternatively tribes may choose to continue to administer child welfare programs and receive funds through tribal/state agreements
 - PI - Title IV-E agency required to negotiate agreement “in good faith” (all parties have opportunity for input)
- Tribes may apply for state’s Chaffee funds, to be taken from tribe’s allotment and provided directly to the tribe



What You Can Do

- Has the agency determined if the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies?
 - Has the Tribe taken jurisdiction over a specific Indian child for purposes of ICWA and IV-E purposes?
 - How will services continue to be provided to the child and family once the case is transferred?
- Does the tribe require a *nunc pro tunc* order and if so, what were the reasonable efforts and contrary to the welfare circumstances at the time of the removal?
- Have any tribes, tribal organizations or consortia applied to administer their own Title IV E program in your jurisdiction?
 - http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/discretionary/2009.htm

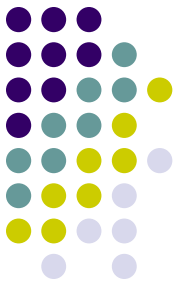
Funds for Expanded Child Welfare Training



Expands Training

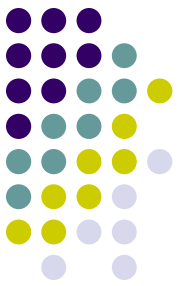


- Allows states to claim Title IV-E training funds for:
 - CASAs,
 - private child welfare staff,
 - court personnel,
 - attorneys,
 - guardian ad litem and
 - prospective relative guardians
- Phases in the match rate for new trainees starting at 60% in FFY 2010, to increase by 5% each FFY, up to 75% in FFY 2013



What You Can Do

- Identify specific training needs and necessary resource materials for the education and training of professionals
- Develop or contract for training curricula and/or collaborate on providing training for lawyers, volunteer GAL/CASAs, court personnel and legal training for relative caregivers and private agency staff
 - Has the court conducted any such training?
- Has the court encouraged cross training between the judiciary and other professionals?



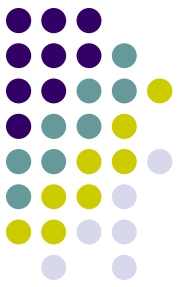
What You Can Do

- How has the state planned for the use of training dollars for these legal training purposes?
 - Can the training dollars be combined with other resources, such as Court Improvement Project funding?
 - In order to claim these IV E Funds, courts should enter an inter-agency agreement with the state IV E agency
- Has the state child welfare agency amended its Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan (PACAP), if deemed necessary, to indicate that it will be expanding its IV-E short term training plan to include these additional categories of trainees?
 - **See:** [ACYF-CB-PI-10-07](#)



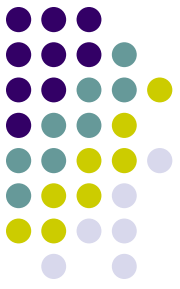
Children's Bureau Guidance

- Program Instruction (PI) on the law (7/9/10):
ACF-CB-PI-10-11
 - [ACYF-CB-PI-10-11 - http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1011.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/pi/2010/pi1011.htm)
- A list of key Children's Bureau policy, guidance and other implementation activities related to Fostering Connections:
 - http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/implementation_foster.htm



Additional Resources

- Judicial Guide to Implementing the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, available at: www.grandfamilies.org
- Kinship Q & A - New Help for Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives: www.grandfamilies.org
- Older Youth Q & A: <http://www.nationalfostercare.org/pdfs/NFCC-FAQ-olderyouth-2009.pdf>
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Educational Checklists - www.ncjfcj.org



Additional Resources

- **Legal Center for Foster Care and Education** –
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/projects_initiatives/legal_center_for_foster_care_education.html
 - Fostering Connections Education Provisions Implementation Toolkit
 - State Implementation Checklist
 - Issue Briefs: Best Interest Determinations, Transportation Considerations, Collaborating with Education Agencies, State-by-State Chart of Stability Laws and Policies
- **Bar-Youth Empowerment Project** -
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/projects_initiatives/bar_youth_aging_out_of_foster_care.html
 - Youth in Court Training and TA Package
 - Judicial Bench Cards
 - Sample Legislation on Extending Care Beyond Age 18



For more information contact:

National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues

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