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|  | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES<br/>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b> |  |
|   | <b>Chapter 15:</b> Eligibility                                       | <b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2020 |
|   | <b>Section 10:</b> Continued Eligibility                             | <b>Version:</b> 3                      |

**STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE**

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will determine a child’s continued eligibility for Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding. The continued eligibility criteria include the following:

1. The child must be placed in a Title IV-E [eligible placement](#);
2. DCS must continue to have responsibility for Placement and Care (PC) of the child; and
3. Reasonable Efforts to Finalize the Permanency Plan (REPP) language must be obtained timely in a written court order. See policy [6.10 Permanency Plan](#) for the timeframe in which REPP language must be obtained.

A child will be considered to have entered foster care (for Title IV-E purposes) on the earlier of:

1. The date of the first judicial finding that the child has been subjected to Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N); or
2. The date that is 60 days after the date on which the child is removed from the home.

A child’s Title IV-E continued eligibility status may change from month to month, depending upon the child’s placement and the timeliness of required court order language. Updates to the eligibility status may result in changes in claiming for funding. Administrative costs may be claimed for a Title IV-E eligible child in an out-of-home care placement under the following circumstances:

1. A child who is on runaway status from a foster care placement;
2. A child who is on a Trial Home Visit (THV). Reimbursement for administrative costs may be claimed for the child for up to six (6) months (the initial three [3] months and a three [3] month extension) unless the THV is extended by order of the court. See policy [8.39 Trial Home Visits](#) for more information;
3. When the child is determined to be initially eligible and placed with a relative who has submitted an application for licensure, administrative costs may be claimed for up to 12 months while the relative is working toward licensure; or
4. When a child moves from an ineligible foster care setting into a licensed foster family home or Child Care Institution (CCI), administrative costs may be claimed for one (1) calendar month.

Administrative costs may also be claimed for a child who remains in the home but is at imminent risk of removal. See policy [7.1 Child at Imminent Risk of Removal](#) for additional information.

The continued eligibility criteria for Title IV-E eligible cases should be reviewed periodically and whenever a change occurs that may affect the child’s continued eligibility status.

Code References

1. [42 USC 671\(a\)\(15\): Requisite features of State plan](#)
2. [42 USC 672\(a\)\(2\), \(c\), \(i\), and \(j\): Removal and foster care placement requirements](#)

3. [45 CFR 1355.20\(a\): Definitions](#)
4. [45 CFR 1356.21\(b\)\(2\): Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan](#)

## PROCEDURE

The DCS Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) will:

1. Review the eligibility information in the case management system; and
2. Make a determination of whether the continued eligibility requirements are met.

## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

## FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

## RELATED INFORMATION

### **Eligible Placements**

In order to claim Title IV-E, the child must reside in an eligible licensed foster care setting, which may include:

1. Relative homes;
2. Foster family homes;
3. Private CCIs;
4. Public CCIs with a licensed capacity of 25 or fewer children;
5. Emergency shelters;
6. Group homes; and
7. Licensed residential family-based treatment facilities for substance abuse in which a child is residing with a parent, if the requirements for an eligible placement are met. See policy [15.1 Eligibility Overview for Field & Legal Staff](#) for additional information.

For youth age 18 and older, supervised settings (i.e., host home, college dorm, and apartment) are considered eligible placements.

### **Ineligible Placements**

Title IV-E cannot be claimed when a child is placed in an ineligible placement setting. These include the following:

1. Detention centers;
2. Forestry camps;
3. Correctional facilities;
4. Hospitals;
5. Nursing homes;
6. Boot camps; and
7. Public CCIs with more than 25 beds.