

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility	Effective Date: August 1, 2021
	Section 10: Continued Title IV-E Eligibility Requirements	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

A child’s continued Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) eligibility must be determined to maintain Title IV-E funding. The child’s eligibility status is reviewed periodically and whenever a change occurs that may affect the child’s continued eligibility for Title IV-E funding.

PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will determine a child’s continued eligibility for 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.

Exception: Youth in Collaborative Care (CC) with a Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement between the Older Youth and the Department of Child Services are not required to meet the REPP requirement for continued eligibility for Title IV-E funding.

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 was 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 is in an Eligible Placement;

Note: Administrative costs may be claimed for a Title IV-E eligible child’s placement in a Child Caring Institution (CCI) regardless of whether the placement meets the requirements for Title IV-E funding to continue beyond 14 days. See policy 15.13 Title IV-E Eligible Placements for additional information regarding eligible CCI placements.

2. A child is on runaway status from a foster care placement;
3. A child 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;

4. A child is determined to be initially eligible and placed with a relative who has submitted an application for licensure. In this circumstance, the administrative costs may be claimed for up to 12 months while the relative is working toward licensure; or
5. A child moves from an ineligible foster care setting into a licensed foster family home or CCI. In this circumstance, the 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 7.01 Child at Imminent Risk of Removal for additional information.

The DCS Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) will:

1. Review the eligibility information in the case management system; and
2. Determine whether the continued eligibility requirements are met.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 671\(a\)\(15\): Requisite features of State plan](#)
- [42 USC 672\(a\)\(2\), \(c\), \(i\), and \(j\): Removal and foster care placement requirements](#)
- [45 CFR 1355.20\(a\): Definitions](#)
- [45 CFR 1356.21\(b\)\(2\): Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan](#)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Eligible Placements

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. CCI, which includes:
 - a. Private CCIs,
 - b. Public CCIs with a licensed capacity of 25 or fewer children,
 - c. Emergency shelters, and
 - d. Group homes.

Note: See policy 15.13 Title IV-E Eligible Placements for additional information regarding eligible CCI placements.

4. Licensed residential family-based treatment facilities for substance abuse in which a child is residing with a parent for up to 12 months, if the requirements for an eligible placement are met. In order for the placement to be eligible, the treatment facility must:
 - a. Provide parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling, and
 - b. Provide substance abuse treatment, parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling. These services must be provided under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of traumas, and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address the consequences of trauma to facilitate healing.

Note: A licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse is not considered a CCI for the purposes of Title IV-E; therefore, the costs of administration and operation of the facility cannot be included in the Title IV-E foster care maintenance payment.

For youth aged 18 and older, supervised independent living settings (i.e., host home, college dorm, shared housing, 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:

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.

Forms and Tools

- [Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement between Older Youth and the Department of Child Services \(SF 55159\)](#)

Related Policies

- [6.10 Permanency Plan](#)
- [7.01 Child at Imminent Risk of Removal](#)
- [8.39 Trial Home Visits](#)
- [15.01 Title IV-E Eligibility Overview for Field and Legal Staff](#)
- [15.13 Title IV-E Eligible Placements](#)