



TITLE IV-E: CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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Overview

P.L. 110-351 (Section 301) provides funding to support a variety of placement services for tribal children under tribal jurisdiction, including foster care, adoption and guardianship placements, and independent living services.



Overview

- Tribes can apply directly to the federal government individually or as part of a consortium.
- Tribes can also operate the program through an agreement with a state (existing or new).
- Tribes can also collaborate with a variety of other governments or institutions to help implement.

Overview

- Within the Title IV-E program there are 3 different components: maintenance, administrative and training.
- Each have different policy, administrative and fiscal requirements.
- In order to successfully apply for and operate the program you will need to have addressed each of these areas.

Benefits

- Increase exercise of tribal sovereignty
- Increase supports to care providers and children
- Shift previously used foster care funding to other areas such as prevention, family support/reunification
- Improve training to care providers and tribal staff



Assessing Current Capacity

Minimum Requirements

- Tribal court
- Tribal child welfare services agency
- Fiscal management
- Data collection and reporting
- Foster care recruitment and licensing



Assessing Current Capacity

Understanding the data:

- How many children are placed in out of home care on an annual basis?
- How many of these might be IV-E eligible (penetration rate)?
- How would the distribution of tribal revenues to families and children affect their eligibility?

Assessing Current Capacity

Understanding the data:

- What do we estimate the Federal Medical Assistance Payment rate would be in our service area?
- How much federal funding might we be able to secure in administrative and training reimbursements?
- How many tribal foster care, adoptive and guardianship homes are currently licensed?

Assessing Current Capacity

Relationships:

- Have we identified partners that we may want to collaborate with?
- Do key leaders, staff and partners understand the challenges and benefits of IV-E?
- Are these leaders, staff and partners on board and do they understand their roles?

Assessing Current Capacity

Programmatic Assessment:

- Service delivery system (array of services and capacity).
- Program procedures (guide work).
- Personnel (fiscal, social work, court and management).
- Data collection capabilities (hardware, software, support and training).

Assessing Current Capacity

Fiscal Assessment:

- Income eligibility determinations (could also be done by CW agency).
- Cost allocation capacity.
- Coordination of matching funds.
- Reporting

Assessing Current Capacity

Policy Assessment:

- Tribal juvenile codes
- Court procedures
- Agreements/contracts with partners
- Foster care, adoptive and guardianship home licensing standards

Assessing Current Capacity

Training Assessment:

- Training needs of care providers, social workers, court personnel and others.
- Training resources (trainers, curriculum, etc.)



Assessing Current Capacity

Evaluation:

- Data system design that captures both federal data requirements and tribal management data.
- Process for regular program level evaluation and corrective action.
- Process for participating in federal reviews.

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National Indian Child Welfare Association

*Let us put our minds together and
see what kind of life we can build for
our children*
-
Sitting Bull

