

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IV-B

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Adoption Assistance Program IV-B is to provide adoption assistance to certain children with special needs, following entry of a final adoption decree. In addition, this program is intended to establish, extend, and strengthen child welfare services provided by state and local public welfare agencies. It also funds services that enable children to remain in their homes, or if possible, to provide alternate permanent homes for them.

II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES

The cognizant federal agency is the Administration for Children and Families, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. The State Division of Social Services, which administers the services program under Title IV of the Social Security Act, is the designated single State agency to administer child welfare services. The Division prepares the annual CFS-101 report to estimate need; however, states are awarded funds based on availability. These funds require a 25% state or county match and can be cash or in-kind. Due to limited federal IV-B I funds the State supports this program at the rate of 75%. However, when federal IV-B I funds are available they may be used to support this program at the rate of 75%. The county is required to provide the 25% match for either funding source.

IV-B Adoption Assistance cash benefits are provided to adoptive families on behalf of eligible children who have special needs but who do not meet eligibility requirements for Title IV-E. Adoption Assistance payments begin for qualified children after the final order of adoption. For Adoption Assistance reimbursement, County DSS enter data into the Child Placement and Payment System for each child for whom Adoption Assistance is planned. Payments are made through the Child Placement and Payment System (CPPS) and must be no greater than the foster care board rates. The State reimburses the counties for eligible expenditures, sends Adoption Assistance checks directly to eligible families, and provides policy and legal interpretation. In addition, vendor payments for medical and non-medical specialized services may be provided up to \$2,400 per year (change in policy effective October 2010).

The approved State IV-B plan, which may be found at the North Carolina Division of Social Services, Children's Services Section, reflects all allowable uses of IV-B I funds including Adoption Assistance.

Audits are conducted in accordance with the requirements in 2 CFR, Part 200.

III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Crosscutting Requirements

The compliance requirements in the Division of Social Services "Crosscutting Requirements" in Section D (Supplement #DSS-0) are applicable to this grant.

A. ACTIVITIES ALLOWED OR UNALLOWED

Individuals receiving aid must meet the eligibility requirements defined in the approved state plan and specified in Family Services Manual, Volume I, Chapter XIII, Section 1600. A copy of this reference material should be available in the agency, or at the following web site: <https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/info/olm/manuals/dss/csm-78/man/>. There are no income eligibility requirements. In general, these children must have been determined to be ineligible to receive a monthly Cash Payment from Title IV-E adoption assistance funds and must be or have been

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IV-B

in the custody of a North Carolina child welfare agency. The agency must demonstrate that a reasonable, but unsuccessful effort was made to place the child with suitable adoptive parents without providing adoption or medical assistance, unless such efforts would not be in the best interest of the child. Documentation on the eligibility determination process and results should be available on a per-case basis within the agency.

County Social Service Agencies are monitored in accordance with the NC Division of Social Services Local Social Service Agencies Monitoring Plan, found at: <https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/Monitoring/index.htm>.

B. ALLOWABLE COSTS/COST PRINCIPLES

Children receiving benefits must meet the eligibility requirements defined in the approved state plan and specified in Child Welfare Funding Manual, Section 1600. A copy of this reference material should be available in the agency, or at the following web site: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-78/man/>. There are no income eligibility requirements. In general, these children must have been determined to be ineligible to receive a monthly Cash Payment from Title IV-E adoption assistance funds, nor to have been the placement responsibility of a North Carolina licensed private adoption agency. The agency must demonstrate that a reasonable, but unsuccessful effort was made to place the child with suitable adoptive parents without providing adoption or medical assistance, unless such efforts would not be in the best interest of the child. Documentation on the eligibility determination process and results should be available on a per-case basis within the agency.

Certain equipment such as orthopedic appliances, orthodontic appliances, eyeglasses, wheelchairs, hearing aids, computers, and other learning aids may be purchased for pre-existing physical, emotional or psychological handicapping condition through vendor agreements. The item(s) must be determined by a therapeutic provider to be necessary due to the child's pre-adoptive condition. Additionally, if after adoption, the child is diagnosed as having had a degenerative bone disease which becomes known only after adoption, vendor benefits for this condition, as it existed, but was not known to anyone, prior to the adoptive placement. Reimbursement and/or coverage for these costs must not be available through other funding sources. This equipment is purchased for the child and belongs thereafter to the child and family. Reporting claims for reimbursement of vendor payments is on the form DSS-5095 (crosscutting requirements) and documentation should appear in individual case records.

All grantees that expend State funds (including federal funds passed through the N. C. Department of Health and Human Services) are required to comply with the cost principles described in the N. C. Administrative Code at 09 NCAC 03M .0201.

C. CASH MANAGEMENT

Subrecipients receive funding under this program on a reimbursement rather than an advance basis. Therefore, no audit testing is necessary with respect to the federal cash management requirements of 2 CFR, Part 200

E. ELIGIBILITY

Individuals receiving aid must meet the eligibility requirements defined in the approved state plan and specified in the Child Welfare Manual, Chapter XIII, which can be viewed at: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-78/man/> on the specific section referenced above. Individual case records must contain documentation of the eligibility determination process.

G. MATCHING, LEVEL OF EFFORT, EARMARKING

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IV-B

This program is funded at the rate of 75% state funds and 25% county funds. A county must budget local funds in order to secure the required local matching share when federal/state participation is less than one hundred percent to the county department of social services.

H. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Federal funds are available for expenditure by counties during the State fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) for which they are disbursed to counties.

L. REPORTING

This program is required to report Title IV-B I funds on form SF-425 on an annual basis. This requirement has not been passed to the subrecipients; therefore, additional testing is not required.