



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY

### Chapter 15: Eligibility

### Section 05: Determining a Child's Assistance Group for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility

**Effective Date:** February 1, 2022

**Version:** 4

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## POLICY OVERVIEW

Information about the child's household composition, upon removal from the home, is required to determine the child's Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) assistance group.

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## PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will collect and verify information about the child's household composition, upon removal from the home, in order to determine the child's Title IV-E assistance group.

The DCS Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) will:

1. Review the eligibility information in the case management system. See the CEU Eligibility Binder for examples for documentation to support the child's assistance group; and
2. Determine the child's assistance group composition.

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## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

#### Assistance Group

The assistance group includes members of the removal household whose income, resources, and needs are considered. The relationship between the child and the various household members will determine who should be included in the child's assistance group.

**Note:** A child placed with a parent residing in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse may be eligible for Title IV-E regardless of whether the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) criteria are met.

#### Mandatory Members of the Child's Assistance Group

Title IV-E defines the following individuals as mandatory members of the child's assistance group:

1. The child for whom eligibility is being determined;
2. The child's whole, half, or adoptive siblings who are under the age of 18 and deprived (see policy 15.06 Deprivation Criteria for Title IV-E Eligibility); and
3. The biological or adoptive parents of any child included in the assistance group.

### Mandatory Members Excluded from the Child's Assistance Group

Title IV-E defines the following mandatory members as being excluded from the child's assistance group:

1. Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
2. Recipients of Adoption Assistance periodic payments;
3. Recipients of a Foster Care per diem;
4. Recipients of Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) periodic payments;
5. Unqualified aliens. See policy 2.23 Verifying Citizenship or Immigration Status for more information;
6. The focus child's half sibling who is not deprived of parental support by the non-common parent; and
7. The non-common parent of the excluded half sibling.

### Optional Members of a Child's Assistance Group

Title IV-E defines the following individuals as optional members of the child's assistance group and should only be included when it is advantageous for Title IV-E eligibility:

1. The spouse of the focus child's physically or mentally incapacitated parent;
2. A relative caretaker, other than a parent; and

**Note:** In instances where a relative caretaker, who has the responsibility for care and control of the child, and the parent live in the same household as the child, both the parent and the relative caretaker may be included in the child's assistance group.

3. The child of a minor parent.

### **Forms and Tools**

- [CEU Eligibility Binder](#)

### **Related Policies**

- [2.23 Verifying Citizenship or Immigration Status](#)
- [15.06 Deprivation Criteria for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility](#)

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## **LEGAL REFERENCES**

- [42 USC 672\(a\), \(h\), and \(j\): Removal and foster care placement requirements](#)
- [45 CFR 233.10: General provisions regarding coverage and eligibility](#)
- [45 CFR 233.20: Need and amount of assistance](#)
- [465 IAC 2-7-5: Title IV-E; foster care eligibility](#)

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## PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 15.05

*Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.*

N/A

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