

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility Section 13: Title IV-E Eligible Placements	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

To continue receiving Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding, Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) must decide if a child's placement meets the rules for an eligible placement. See policy 15.10.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS can only recommend or pay for a placement if the provider is licensed and the placement meets Title IV-E rules.

Eligible Title IV-E placements include:

1. Licensed relative home;
2. Licensed foster family home;
3. Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) with verified designation (see policy 17.03);
4. Licensed residential facility that supports pregnant, parenting, or postpartum youth;
5. Licensed residential facility that helps youth who are or may be victims of sex trafficking;
6. Licensed family-based treatment facility for substance abuse where a child lives with a parent;
7. Supervised independent living settings for youth age 18 and older (e.g., host home, dorm, apartment); and
8. The following licensed residential settings for the **first 14 days** of placement, even if not a QRTP:
 - a. Private Child Care Institution (CCI),
 - b. Public CCI with a licensed capacity of 25 or less,
 - c. Emergency Shelter, and
 - d. Group Home.

Not eligible Title IV-E placements:

1. Detention center;
2. Forestry camp;
3. Correctional facility;
4. Hospital;
5. Nursing home;
6. Boot camp; and
7. Public CCI with more than 25 beds.

QRTP Eligibility Beyond 14 Days

To keep Title IV-E funding after 14 days in a QRTP, all of the following must happen:

1. 30-Day Assessment:

- a. Completed by a qualified person within 30 days of admission,

Note: If not completed in 30 days, Title IV-E funding stops. If QRTP is found not appropriate during the assessment, eligibility ends 30 days after the assessment. DCS can claim administrative costs for a Title IV-E eligible child placed in a QRTP, even if the child does not meet all QRTP requirements.

b. Must include:

- i. An assessment of the child's strengths and needs,
- ii. A decision whether the child's needs can be met by family or placement in foster care, or if not, which CCI setting would be most effective, appropriate, and least restrictive,
- iii. Short and long term mental and behavioral health goals, and
- iv. Input from the child's family and permanency team.

2. Court Review within 60 Days of Admission:

- a. Court must review and approve the 30-Day Assessment results on the QRTP Determination Report:
- b. If not reviewed within 60 days, funding ends on day 60, or
- c. If reviewed but not approved, eligibility ends 30 days after the court's review.

Note: The court must review the assessment, decision, and documents completed by the qualified individual. The court must also decide if the child's needs can be met by relatives or in a foster home. If not, the court must decide if the QRTP is the best and least restrictive option. The court must also check if the placement supports the child's short- and long-term goals in the permanency plan.

3. Case Plan/Prevention Plan Documentation

For a child receiving treatment in a QRTP, DCS must show:

- a. Efforts to include individuals required to be on the Child and Family Team (CFT),
- b. Contact information for members of the family and permanency team, as well as other family members and fictive kin,
- c. That CFT Meetings, including meetings about the appropriateness of the QRTP, were held at times convenient for the family,
- d. That the parent gave input on the members of the CFT (if reunification is the goal), and
- e. That the 30-Day Assessment was done with the CFT.

4. Director Approval for Long Stays

The DCS Director must give written approval and it must be in the Case Plan/Prevention Plan and reported during the status review or permanency hearing:

- a. For children 13 years and older in a QRTP for 12 consecutive or 18 total months,
- b. For youth 12 and under in a QRTP for more than six months,

Note: If not approved, eligibility ends the last day of the month approval was due.

Special Note: If a child was in a residential facility before **October 1, 2021**, and was already Title IV-E eligible, funding can continue beyond 14 days as long as the child stays in the same facility. There is no time limit for this.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 671\(a\)\(10\): State Plan for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance](#)
- [42 USC 672\(a\)\(2\)\(C\), \(c\), \(j\) and \(k\): Foster Care Maintenance Payments Program](#)
- [45 CFR 1355.20\(a\): Definitions](#)
- [475A\(c\): Assessment, Documentation, Judicial Determination Requirements for Placement in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program](#)