

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 15: Eligibility Section 11: Emergency Assistance (EA) Eligibility		
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

Title IV-A/Emergency Assistance (EA) is a federal program that gives money for emergency assistance services to children and families served by the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). The goal is to help children stay in their own home.

POLICY STATEMENT

EA Eligibility

EA services may be given for up to 120 days to a child living at home who has a substantiated case of child abuse and/or neglect (CA/N) that leads to an Informal Adjustment (IA) or Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case. The emergency:

1. Must be a crisis that should be resolved in 120 calendar days or less; and
2. Must not be caused by the parent or caregiver refusing to work or take job-related training.

Initial Eligibility

To get EA, the child must meet all of the following:

1. A substantiated CA/N finding or a CHINS adjudication;
2. Be under age 18;
3. Be a United States (US) citizen or qualified alien;
4. Live with someone during the eligibility month who is a specified relative (see policy [15.02](#)); and
5. Be part of an assistance group (AG) with income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level.

Note: When checking income:

- Assets/resources of AG members not counted,
- Earned and unearned income is counted,
- A minor's earned income is counted if they are in the AG, and
- There are no deductions for earned income, self-employment, or child support.

Subsequent EA Eligibility

A family can only get EA once in a 12-month period. If anyone in the AG received EA in the past 12 months, the child cannot get EA again.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 604: Social Security Act Section 404](#)