

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 2: Administration of Child Welfare Section 28: Regional Services Council (RSC)	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The purpose of a Regional Services Council (RSC) is to assess the local child welfare service needs and identify how best to meet those needs.

POLICY STATEMENT

Each county in Indiana is part of a Regional Services Council (RSC) based on its service region. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) decides which counties are in each service region. A county cannot be split between regions. The RSC meets quarterly to review needs, recommend services, and manage funding.

RSC Plan (Plan)

The Plan should support children and families who are:

1. Alleged or adjudicated a Child in Need of Services (CHINS), Informal Adjustment (IA), or Juvenile Delinquency/Juvenile Status (JD/JS); or
2. At risk of becoming a CHINS, IA, or JD/JS and referred to DCS for services (by or with the consent of the parent, guardian, or custodian), in accordance with a child's individual case plan.

The Plan includes:

1. Organization;
2. Staffing;
3. Mode of operations;
4. Financing of the child protection services;
5. The provisions made for the purchase of services; and
6. Interagency relations.

RSC Requirements

Each RSC must:

1. Evaluate local child welfare service needs and decide the best way to provide those services. The RSC will hear public feedback about local service needs and system changes;
2. Develop, approve, and recommend the Plan designed to meet those needs;
3. Recommend how to divide and use the funds, including:
 - a. Title IV-B of the Social Security Act,
 - b. Title IV-E of the Social Security Act,
 - c. Title XX of the Social Security Act,
 - d. The Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA),
 - e. Special Education programs under IC 20-35-6-2,

- f. All programs designed to prevent child abuse, neglect, or delinquency or to enhance child welfare and family preservation administered by or funded through DCS, Division of Family Resources (DFR), prosecuting attorneys, and juvenile courts, including programs funded through law, and
 - g. A child advocacy fund.
4. Develop, review, or revise strategies to:
 - a. Provide or improve prevention and early intervention services,
 - b. Strengthen local collaboration, and
 - c. Use funds more effectively.
 5. Review program applications and make recommendations to the DCS Agency Director;
 6. Review the implementation of the Plan and prepare revisions, additions, or updates of the Plan that the RSC believes will improve service quality;
 7. Reorganize, as needed, and select a vice chairperson for the ensuing year;
 8. Collaborate with Central Office for obtaining services (e.g., Request for Proposals [RFPs]); and
 9. Ensure the meeting agenda, minutes, and notices are posted on the DCS website.

The chairperson or vice chairperson of an RSC (selected by the RSC) may call additional meetings, if necessary.

A majority of the voting members appointed to the RSC constitutes a quorum. A quorum must be present for the matter of official business that includes taking final action. The RSC may hold a meeting without a quorum to discuss public business related to its responsibilities and functions, without taking final action.

Note: A proxy may represent an RSC member during meetings.

Open Door Law

All RSC meetings follow Indiana's Open Door Law. The RSC will:

1. Publicize the existence and availability of the Plan, including locating the Plan on the DCS website; and
2. Post meeting agendas and a memorandum of each meeting to the DCS website and make the general public aware this information is available. In accordance with law, the memorandum will state the name of each member who:
 - a. Was physically present,
 - b. Joined remotely, or
 - c. Was absent.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 5-14-1.5: Chapter 1.5. Public Meetings \(Open Door Law\)](#)
- [IC 5-14-1.5-2\(g\): "Final action"](#)
- [IC 20-35-6-2: Contracts for services; payment of costs; rules](#)
- [IC 31-26-3.5: Chapter 3.5. Child Welfare Programs](#)
- [IC 31-26-6: Chapter 6. Regional Service Strategic Plans](#)
- [IC 31-26-6-5.5: Description of plan implementation](#)
- [IC 31-40: ARTICLE 40. JUVENILE LAW: FUNDING](#)