

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 15: Eligibility Section 09: Age and Citizenship Requirements		
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 5

POLICY OVERVIEW

DCS will check a child's age and citizenship to determine if they qualify for Title IV-E Foster Care funding.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will confirm the child's age and citizenship to see if the child qualifies for Title IV-E funding.

Age

To qualify for Title IV-E, the child must be under 18 years old when removed from the home or when entering the Collaborative Care (CC) program.

Citizenship

To qualify for Title IV-E, the child must be one (1) of the following:

1. A U.S. citizen, or
2. A Lawfully admitted permanent resident (a legal immigrant with permission to live in the U.S. permanently).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-13: "Child"](#)
- [IC 31-28-5.8: Chapter 5.8. Collaborative Care](#)
- [42 USC 671\(a\)\(27\): State Plan for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance](#)
- [42 USC 672\(a\)\(3\): Foster care maintenance payments program](#)
- [42 USC 675\(8\): Definitions](#)