	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES **CHILD WELFARE POLICY**	
	Chapter 10: Guardianship and Adoption **Section 14:** Indiana Adoption Assistance Program Overview (AAP and SAS)	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	**Version:** 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) helps families who want to adopt children with special needs by providing adoption assistance. This assistance may help cover costs, promote timely adoptions and ensure long-term stability for families by providing a monthly subsidy and Medicaid coverage.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Adoption Assistance Program offers three (3) types of help for families who adopt children with special needs:

1. Medicaid: Health coverage through Indiana's Title XIX Medicaid Program;
2. Non-recurring adoption expenses (NRAE): A one-time payment to help with adoption costs; and
3. Monthly Payments: These come from either the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) or State Adoption Subsidy (SAS).

Note: DCS will not provide Adoption Assistance for international adoption.

DCS will check if the child qualifies:

- If the child qualifies for AAP, they will also qualify for Medicaid and NRAE.
- If the child qualifies for SAS, they will also get NRAE. A separate decision will be made to evaluate the child's Medicaid eligibility. See policy 10.15 for eligibility requirements of periodic payments through AAP and SAS.

Once DCS changes the child's permanency plan to adoption, and finds a prospective adoptive home, they will meet with the family to explain the following:

1. How the Indiana Adoption Assistance Program works;
2. The child's needs and history:
3. Possible tax credits for adoptive; and
4. The background check process. To learn more, see policies 13.07 and 13.08.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- IC 31-19-9-8(a)(10): Consent to adoption not required; written denial of paternity precludes challenge to adoption
- IC 31-19-26.5: Chapter 26.5. Adoption Subsidies
- 42 USC 673: Adoption and guardianship assistance program
- 45 CFR 1356.40: Adoption assistance program: Administrative requirements to implement section 473 of the Act

- 45 CFR 1356.41: Nonrecurring expenses of adoption
- 465 IAC 3: Administrative Reviews and Hearings
- 465 IAC 4: Indiana Adoption Assistance and Guardianship Assistance Programs