

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility Section 01: Title IV-E Eligibility Overview	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 7

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) gives federal money to help pay for foster care costs. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) uses this money, called Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding, to make sure children in foster care have safe and stable homes. This support for eligible homes continues until the child finds permanency.

POLICY STATEMENT

There are two (2) types of Title IV-E eligibility:

1. Initial eligibility; and
2. Continued eligibility (see policy [15.10](#)).

Initial Eligibility Criteria

A Title IV-E eligibility determination must be done for every child who enters out-of-home care. The child must be placed in out-of-home care for at least one (1) night for it to count as a removal. The child's eligibility determination is based on the month they were removed.

Once a child is found eligible, they stay eligible while in out-of-home care unless:

1. DCS Placement and Care (PC) responsibility is terminated by a court order; or
2. A Trial Home Visit (THV) lasts over six (6) months without a court ordered extension.

If the out-of-home care episode ends and the child later re-enters out-of-home care, a **new** Title IV-E initial eligibility determination must be done again.

Continued Title IV-E Eligibility Criteria

Continued Title IV-E eligibility means DCS can keep getting Title IV-E reimbursement for a child in out-of-home care.

Youth can stay eligible until age 21 if they are:

1. Enrolled in school;
2. Employed at least 80 hours per month;
3. In a program or activity designed to help them get a job; or
4. Unable to work or go to school because of a mental or physical condition.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 671: State plan for foster care and adoption assistance](#)
- [42 USC 672: Foster care maintenance payments program](#)
- [465 IAC 2-7-5: Title IV-E; foster care eligibility](#)