

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility Section 08: Financial Resource Requirements for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility	
	Effective Date: February 1, 2022	Version: 4

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POLICY OVERVIEW

Financial resources must be considered in order to determine a child’s eligibility for Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding.

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PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will identify the financial resources available to the child’s assistance group during the removal month when determining eligibility for Title IV-E funding. See policy 15.05 Determining a Child’s Assistance Group for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility for additional information.

The financial resources considered are the resources owned by and available to the assistance group members during the removal month. In evaluating the assistance group’s resources, there are several key considerations:

1. Identification of exempt and countable resources;
2. Availability of the resource; and

Note: Resources must be available to the assistance group in order to be counted. If the resources are not available to the assistance group in the removal month, they are exempt.

3. Equity value of the resource.

The combined countable resources of the assistance group in the removal month must not exceed \$10,000. If the combined resources exceed \$10,000, the child is ineligible for Title IV-E funding.

Note: Income received during the removal month should not be considered part of the assistance group’s resources, but rather as earned or unearned income. See policy 15.07 Income Requirements for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility for additional guidance.

A child placed with a parent residing in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse may be eligible for Title IV-E regardless of whether the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) criteria are met.

The DCS Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) will:

1. Review the eligibility information in the case management system. Examples of acceptable supporting documentation of the assistance groups resources may be found in the CEU Eligibility Binder; and
2. Make a determination of whether the assistance group's financial resources are under the resource limit.

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RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Countable Resources

Examples of countable resources for Title IV-E include, but are not limited to:

1. Cash on hand or cash savings;
2. Current balance of a savings account in a bank, savings and loan, credit union, or other financial institution;
3. Checking accounts excluding any monthly income deposited in the removal month;
4. Stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, revocable retirement plans, and trust funds;
5. Equity value of items offered for sale (this does not include the primary residence of the assistance group);
6. Equity value of motor vehicles;
7. Equity value of farm or business equipment;
8. Cash surrender value of life insurance policies; and
9. Property settlements which are part of a legal action in the dissolution of a marriage.

Equity Value of the Resource

Equity value is used to determine the value of a resource. The equity value is the fair market value of the item, less any lien or amount owed on the item.

Exempt Resources

Examples of exempt resources (i.e., not counted in the calculation of resources) include, but are not limited to:

1. Primary residence in which the child and his or her family reside;
2. Household items and personal effects (e.g., furniture, television, food, clothing, and jewelry);
3. Proceeds or interest earned from proceeds of casualty insurance received as the result of damage, loss, or theft of exempt property if it is demonstrated the proceeds are being used to replace the property;
4. Funds in an irrevocable retirement plan;
5. Funds in an irrevocable burial trust;
6. Property involved in litigation; and
7. Property jointly owned with someone outside the assistance group (with the exception of bank accounts).

Forms and Tools

- [CEU Eligibility Binder](#)

Related Policies

- [15.05 Determining a Child's Assistance Group for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility](#)
- [15.07 Income Requirements for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility](#)

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LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 672\(a\), \(h\), and \(i\): Removal and foster care placement requirements](#)
- [45 CFR 1356.21\(l\): Living with a specified relative](#)
- [45 CFR 233.10: General provisions regarding coverage and eligibility](#)
- [45 CFR 233.20: Need and amount of assistance](#)
- [465 IAC 2-7-5: Title IV-E; foster care eligibility](#)

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PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 15.08

Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.

N/A

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