

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility	Effective Date: August 1, 2021
	Section 13: Title IV-E Eligible Placements	Version: 1

POLICY OVERVIEW

For purposes of continued Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding, a determination must be made as to whether a child’s placement meets the criteria of an eligible placement. See policy 15.10 Continued Title IV-E Eligibility Requirements for additional information.

PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) will review the eligibility and placement information in the case management system.

Note: Continued eligibility based on the child’s placement automatically updates in the case management system, based on the placement type/designation entered in the system.

The type of placements that may be considered an eligible Title IV-E placement include:

1. Licensed relative home;
2. Licensed foster family home;
3. Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), when the facility has a verified QRTP designation and additional requirements outlined in policy 17.03 Verification of QRTP Designation have been met;
4. A licensed residential facility listed in the following section of this policy which provides prenatal, postpartum, or parenting supports for youth;
5. A licensed residential facility listed in the following section of this policy which provides high-quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who have been found to be, or are at risk of becoming, sex trafficking victims;
6. A licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse in which a child is residing with a parent may be an eligible placement if the requirements for an eligible placement listed in the following section are met;
7. Supervised independent living settings (i.e., host home, college dorm, shared housing, and apartment) for youth aged 18 years and older; and
8. The following licensed residential facilities for the **first 14 days** of a child’s placement in the facility, even when the facility is not a QRTP:
 - a. Private Child Care Institution (CCI);
 - b. Public CCI with a licensed capacity of 25 or fewer children;
 - c. Emergency Shelter; and
 - d. Group Home.

Note: The following are not considered an eligible Title IV-E placements:

1. Detention center;
2. Forestry camp;
3. Correctional facility;
4. Hospital;
5. Nursing home;
6. Boot camp; and
7. Public CCI with more than 25 beds.

Eligibility Beyond 14 Days for a QRTP

Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments may continue beyond 14 days for a child receiving treatment in a QRTP when all the following requirements are met:

1. A 30-Day Assessment regarding the appropriateness of the child's admission is completed by a qualified individual, as defined by 475A(c), within 30 days of the child's admission in the facility. A 30-Day Assessment must be completed each time a child begins treatment in a QRTP, even if the child is being moved from one (1) QRTP to another QRTP. The 30-Day Assessment must include:
 - a. An assessment of the child's strengths and needs,
 - b. A determination of whether the needs of the child can be met with family members or through placement in a foster family home or, if not, which allowable CCI setting would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals for the child,
 - c. A list of child-specific short-term and long-term mental and behavioral health goals, and
 - d. Collaboration with the child's family and permanency team.

Note: If the 30-Day Assessment is not completed within 30 days, the child is not eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement for the duration of the child's treatment in the QRTP. If the 30-Day Assessment determines that the QRTP is not appropriate, eligibility ends 30 days after the 30-Day Assessment completion date. Administrative costs can be claimed for a Title IV-E eligible child's admission in a QRTP regardless of whether the QRTP requirements are met for the child.

2. Within 60 days of the start of each admission to a QRTP, the court must review the 30-Day Assessment results provided on the QRTP Determination Report and approve or disapprove the child's admission to the QRTP:
 - a. If the court does not review the 30-Day Assessment within 60 days of admission, the child's eligibility ends on the 60th day, or
 - b. If the court reviews the 30-Day Assessment within 60 days but does not approve the child's admission to the QRTP, eligibility ends 30 days from the date of the court's review.

Note: This review must include consideration of the assessment, determination, and documentation that the qualified individual conducts. In addition, the review must determine whether that child's needs can be met with relatives or in a foster family home and, if not, whether a QRTP provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment, and whether the admission is consistent with the child's short- and long-term goals in the child's permanency plan.

3. For a child receiving treatment in a QRTP, DCS must document the following in the child's Case Plan/Prevention Plan:
 - a. The reasonable and good faith effort of the agency to identify and include all the individuals required to be on the Child and Family Team (CFT),
 - b. All contact information for members of the family and permanency team, as well as contact information for other family members and fictive kin who are not part of the family and permanency team,
 - c. Evidence that CFT Meetings, including meetings relating to the required 30-Day Assessment of the appropriateness of the QRTP, are held at a time and place convenient for family,
 - d. If reunification is the goal, evidence demonstrating that the parent from whom the child was removed provided input on the members of the CFT, and

- e. Evidence that the required 30-Day Assessment to determine the appropriateness of the QRTP is determined in conjunction with the CFT.
4. For children aged 13 years and older, who are in a specific QRTP for 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive months:
 - a. The DCS Agency Director must provide written approval for continued treatment in the QRTP. DCS must document the approval in the child's Case Plan/Prevention Plan, along with the most recent versions of the evidence and documentation submitted at the most recent status review or permanency hearing, which demonstrates that the assessments of the child support a continued QRTP, documenting treatment or service needs, and preparation for return home or other placement, or
 - b. If the DCS Agency Director does not give written approval for continued treatment in the QRTP, eligibility ends on the last day of the month that approval was required.
 5. For children aged 12 years and younger, who are in a specific QRTP for more than six (6) consecutive or nonconsecutive months:
 - a. The DCS Agency Director must provide written approval for continued treatment in the QRTP. DCS must document the approval in the child's Case Plan/Prevention Plan, along with the most recent versions of the evidence and documentation submitted at the most recent status review or permanency hearing, which demonstrates that the assessments of the child support a continued QRTP, documenting treatment or service needs, and preparation for return home or other placement, or
 - b. If the DCS Agency Director does not give written approval for continued treatment in the QRTP, eligibility ends on the last day of the month that approval was required.

Note: If a child was receiving treatment in a residential facility **prior to October 1, 2021** and was eligible for Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments while in that facility, payments for the child may continue to be eligible for foster care maintenance payments beyond 14 days as long as the child remains continuously in that same residential facility. Payments under this provision are not time limited.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 671\(a\)\(10\): State Plan for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance](#)
- [42 USC 672\(a\)\(2\)\(C\), \(c\), \(j\) and \(k\): Foster Care Maintenance Payments Program](#)
- [45 CFR 1355.20\(a\): Definitions](#)
- [475A\(c\): Assessment, Documentation, Judicial Determination Requirements for Placement in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program](#)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Eligible Placements

In order to claim Title IV-E, the child must reside in an eligible licensed foster care setting, which may include:

1. Relative homes;
2. Foster family homes;
3. CCI;
 - a. Private CCIs,
 - b. Public CCIs with a licensed capacity of 25 or fewer children,
 - c. Emergency shelters, and
 - e. Group homes.

4. Beginning October 1, 2018, licensed residential family-based treatment facilities for substance abuse in which a child is residing with a parent for up to 12 months, if the requirements for an eligible placement are met. In order for the placement to be eligible, the treatment facility must:
 - a. Provide parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling, and
 - b. Provide substance abuse treatment, parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling. These services must be provided under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address the consequences of trauma to facilitate healing.

Note: A licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse is not considered a CCI for the purposes of Title IV-E; therefore, the costs of administration and operation of the facility cannot be included in the Title IV-E foster care maintenance payment.

For youth age 18 and older, supervised independent living settings (i.e., host home, college dorm, shared housing, and apartment) are considered eligible placements.

Forms and Tools

- Case Plan/Prevention Plan (SF 2956) – available in the case management system

Related Policies

- [15.10 Continued Title IV-E Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [17.03 Verification of QRTP Designation](#)