

What did we learn?

A Recap of the Title IV-E Technical Assistance Review

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Why This? Why Now?



What is the Title IV-E Waiver?

- ▶ Allows states to waive certain provisions of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. These provisions govern Federal programs relating to foster care and other child welfare services.
- ▶ Allows Federal Title IV-E foster care funds to be used for a wide variety of child welfare purposes rather than being restricted to eligible children in licensed foster care homes or institutions, as is the case under federal law.

Why This? Why Now?

- ▶ Waiver Expiration Date: September 2019
- ▶ With the sunseting of the Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver, the Department has begun to explore ways to draw down additional funding to support the state's child welfare system while ensuring to maintain a quality level of enhanced services being offered to Florida citizens.

▶ **The Path Forward Initiative**

The Path Forward Initiative



- ▶ Transitioning current Extended Foster Care program from a state to federal funded
 - ▶ Includes Extension of Maintenance Adoption Subsidy and Guardianship Assistance Program
- ▶ Guardianship Assistance Program
- ▶ Title IV-E Candidacy
- ▶ Title IV-E Eligibility Enhancements

What does Title IV-E Fund?

- ▶ **Foster Care Maintenance Payments:** cost of (and the cost of providing) food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, child's personal incidentals, liability insurance, reasonable travel to child's visitation, and reasonable travel to child's school at time of removal.
- ▶ **Maintenance Adoption Subsidy Payments:** monthly subsidy and nonrecurring expenses
- ▶ **Administration Costs:** case planning and management, eligibility determinations, provider management and agency management.
- ▶ **Training**
- ▶ **SACWIS/CCWIS**

Post Waiver Impacts

- ▶ Florida will be unable to earn an estimated **\$90 million** of current Title IV-E budget.
- ▶ Limitations on using Title IV-E funds for certain populations of children.
- ▶ Additional Other Cost Accumulators (OCA).
- ▶ Clearly defined service types: example cannot blend maintenance payments, social services and child placing agency fees.
- ▶ Cost Allocations are no longer capped.
- ▶ Penetrations Rates: every 1 percentage translates to **\$2.5 million**.

AND...

Title IV-E Federal Reviews Resume

- ▶ The 1994 Amendments to the Social Security Act authorize the Children’s Bureau to review state child and family services programs for ensure compliance with the requirements.
 - ▶ Primary reviews occur at 3-year intervals.
 - ▶ If State not found in “substantial compliance”, a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is required.
 - ▶ Upon completion of PIP, a Secondary review is conducted and 3-year interval resumes.

Review Type	Sample Size	Error Threshold
Primary	80	4
Secondary	150	10%

What are the IV~E Eligibility Requirements?

▶ Valid Removal

▶ Sanctioned by:

- ▶ Voluntary Placement Agreement executed by parent and Department.
- ▶ Judicial finding of contrary to welfare (CTW) in first order.
- ▶ Child cannot remain with the person who was subject of CTW finding.

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INELIGIBLE

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

- ▶ Child must have been Living With/Removed From a Specified Relative who was subject of CTW finding.
- ▶ Financial Need
 - ▶ Income cannot exceed Consolidated Need Standard (CNS) as established in 1996.
 - ▶ Assets cannot exceed \$10,000.
- ▶ Deprivation: child must be deprived of parental support.
 - ▶ Death
 - ▶ Absence from home
 - ▶ Incapacity
 - ▶ Underemployment/ Unemployment

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INELIGIBLE

Additional Judicial Requirements

Reasonable Efforts to Prevent Removal

Finding must be made within 60 days from when child was removed/sheltered. If not, Ineligible for the remainder of the removal episode.

Reasonable Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plan

Finding must be made within first 12 months from when child considered to have entered foster care and ongoing every 12 months. If not, cannot claim until finding made.

Placement & Care Responsibility

Must be vested with the Department. If not, cannot claim for any period in which the court has not made finding.

Judicial Requirements~VPA

- ▶ If child remains in care beyond 180 days from placement, a judicial hearing must have occurred and a finding made that continued placement is in the child's best interest.
- ▶ If not, cannot claim Title IV-E funding for the remainder of the removal episode as of day 181.
- ▶ Placement & Care Responsibility must be vested with the Department.
- ▶ If not, cannot claim for any period in which the court has not made finding.

Placement

- ▶ Must be in a licensed foster home or child care institution
 - ▶ Provider must meet criteria for full licensure
- ▶ Safety Requirements must be met by the child's foster care provider
 - ▶ Background checks

Results from Title IV-E Technical Assistance

44 Cases

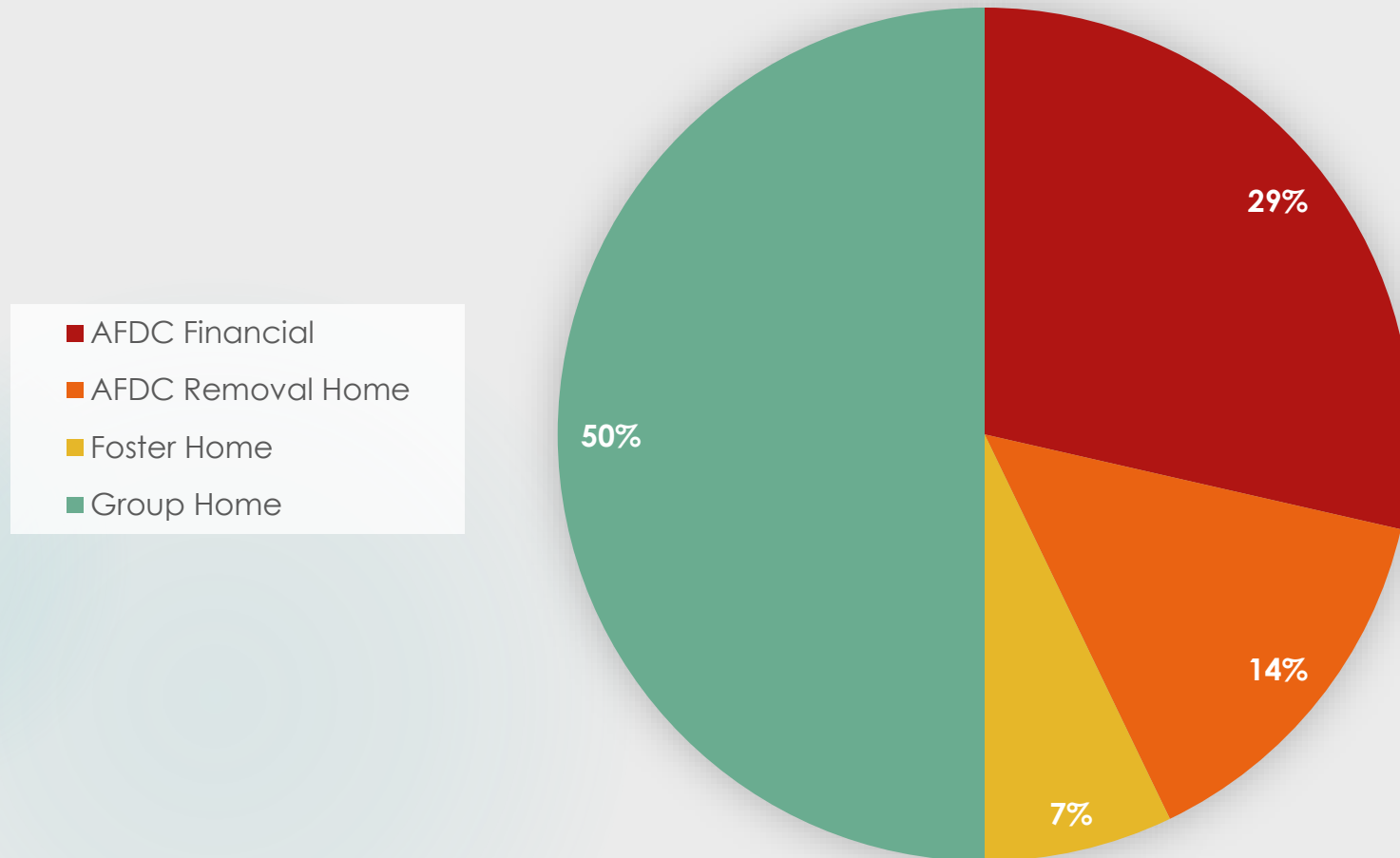
14

Error Cases

4

Non-Error/Improper Payments

The Breakdown...



Results from Title IV-E Technical Assistance

14 Error Cases

- 7 Group Home Safety Requirements
- 1 Foster Home Criminal Record Checks

Group Homes

- Combination of locals, civils, sexual predator, and abuse
- 1 – Employee resided out of state within 5 years – no Adam Walsh – Exemption Granted
- 1 – Improper screening result

Foster Home

- ICPC – Foster Home located in another state – we did not have sufficient documentation of fingerprint-based Federal/State CRCs

Upcoming Changes

- ▶ Uniformed convention for labeling documents uploaded in FSFN will be established for statewide use.
 - ▶ Licensing (Foster and Group) and Eligibility
- ▶ ICPC – Foster Home Background Checks
 - ▶ Statewide letter in draft to include in all ICPC requests for out-of-state licensure that outlines requirements.
- ▶ Group Homes
 - ▶ Exemptions are not permitted for licensure
 - ▶ Employee Log must be maintained



Comments & Questions?