 **Adoption Assistance**

Adoption Assessor Training  
Tier One

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 **Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Warm-up
- II. Overview of Subsidy Programs
- III. Title IV-E Adoption Assistance
- IV. State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy
- V. Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses
- VI. Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy
- VII. Putting it All Together (Review)

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 **Questions for Discussion** 

- Adoptive parents need subsidies for things like:
- Resources for addressing special needs of children:
- Subsidies are overused and abused when:
- Cultural barriers to effective use of subsidy:
- Agree or Disagree:
  - “Adequate Incomes” & “Healthy Children”

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### What are the Benefits of Adoption Subsidy?

- Ensures that needs are met
- Allows children to have families
- Reduces family stress
- Provides services otherwise inaccessible
- Preserves families



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### Overview of Subsidy Programs



#### Maintenance Subsidies

- Title IV-E Adoption Assistance
- State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy

#### Services Subsidies



- Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses
- Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy

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### Notification Requirements

- Adoption workers must inform all prospective adoptive parents of all subsidy options
- Public agencies determine eligibility; private agencies inform families and refer
- Adoption workers must inform all prospective adoptive parents of state hearing rights

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**Title IV-E Adoption Assistance (AA)**

- First maintenance subsidy choice
- No income requirements for adoptive parents
- Includes Medicaid coverage in most cases
- Must apply prior to legalization
- Federal/State Share equals \$250

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**Eligibility for AA Related to Custody Status of Child**

Children **IN** the custody of a public or private agency

Children **NOT IN** the custody of a public or private agency



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**AA for Children in Custody**

- Child is Title IV-E AA eligible based on 1996 AFDC standards, or
- Child is SSI eligible, or
- Child meets requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008

**and**

- Child must have special needs
- Reasonable efforts have been made

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### AA for Children Not In Custody

- Child receives SSI and being adopted, or
  - Child's adoption dissolved on or after October 1, 1997, or
  - Adoptive parents deceased on or after October 1, 1997
- and**
- Child must have special needs

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### Small Group Activity

- What are the critical tasks that, if not completed in each permanency planning phase, could lead to ineligibility or a delay in the negotiation of a Title IV-E AA Agreement?



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### State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy (SAMS)

- Child is not eligible for IV-E Adoption Assistance
- Child must meet "special needs" definition
- Family income requirements
- Apply prior to legalization
- Maximum subsidy is \$250
- Reviewed annually

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### Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses

- Covers adoptive parent expenses directly related to the adoption process
- Child must meet “special needs” definition
- Apply prior to legalization, reimbursement afterwards
- Currently reimburses expenses up to \$1,000 per child
- “One time” program

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### Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)

- Available to any Ohio adoptive family, except step-parent adoptions
- For needs identified after legalization
- Apply to county of family’s residence
- Provides assistance for broad range of support
- Designed to prevent adoption dissolution
- Agency can approve up to \$10,000 per SFY per child

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### Wrapping It Up

- Discuss in Pairs
  - List at least three things you learned today
  - How can you use this information in your job?
- Share some ideas with the large group
- Evaluations

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