

Plan for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance —Title IV–E

OMB Information Collection Request

0970-0433

Supporting Statement Part A – Justification

July 2025

Type of Request: Revision

Submitted by
Children's Bureau
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary

Section 471 under title IV-E of the Social Security Act (the Act) authorizes collection of information through the title IV-E plan (Plan for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance). A title IV-E plan is required from each state, territorial and tribal child welfare agency requesting Federal funding for the title IV-E foster care, adoption assistance and as well as for the optional guardianship assistance, kinship navigator and prevention services programs. Section 479B of the Act provides for an Indian tribe, tribal organization or tribal consortium (tribe) to operate a title IV-E program in the same manner as a state with minimal exceptions. The tribe must have an approved title IV-E Plan. The plan also includes information required for participation in the optional programs authorized by Public Law 115-123, the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

The FFPSA authorized optional title IV-E funding for time-limited (one year) prevention services for mental health/substance abuse and in-home parent skill-based programs for: (1) A child who is a candidate for foster care (as defined in section 475(13) of the Act), (2) pregnant/parenting foster youth, and (3) the parents/kin caregivers of those children and youth (sections 471(e), 474(a)(6), and 475(13) of the Act). A state or tribal title IV-E agency electing to participate in the program must submit a five-year title IV-E prevention program plan that meets the statutory requirements. See Program Instructions [ACYF-CB-PI-18-09](#) and [ACYF-CB-PI-18-10](#) for more information.)

The FFPSA also amended Section 474(a)(7) of the Act to reimburse state and tribal IV-E agencies for a portion of the costs of operating kinship navigator programs that meet certain criteria. To qualify for funding under the title IV-E Kinship Navigator program, the program must meet the requirements of a kinship navigator program described in section 427(a)(1) of the Act. The kinship navigator program must also meet practice criteria of promising, supported, or well-supported in accordance with HHS criteria and be approved by HHS (section 471(e)(4)(C) of the Act). To begin participation in the title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program, a title IV-E agency must submit an attachment to its title IV-E plan that specifies the Kinship Navigator model it has chosen to implement, the date on which the provision of program services began or will begin, and that provides an assurance that the model meets the requirements of section 427(a)(1) of the Act as well as a brief narrative describing how the program will be operated. (Please see Program Instruction [ACYF-CB-PI-18-11](#) for additional information.)

This request is necessary to extend approval of the title IV-E plan and incorporate necessary changes to reflect recent changes in statutory, regulatory and policy requirements or options and to remove outdated information. Additional information is provided in section A15.

2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection

The Children's Bureau (CB) uses each component of the title IV-E plan to determine that an agency has met the applicable requirements to participate in the Title IV-E programs;

evaluate and monitor program implementation; identify practice and systemic issues; target areas for potential or enhanced technical assistance; and support monitoring reviews. Each title IV-E agency must make its title IV-E plan publicly available. In addition, CB uses information from the title IV-E plan to respond to inquiries from Congress or oversight bodies, the media or other stakeholders. Details about each component follows.

Title IV-E Plan for Foster Care, Adoption and Guardianship Assistance

Each public child welfare agency (title IV-E agency) requesting federal funding under the Act for the foster care, adoption assistance and as well as for the optional guardianship assistance, kinship navigator and prevention services programs is required to submit a title IV-E plan. Title IV-E agencies include state and territorial public child welfare agencies and those tribes, tribal organizations and tribal consortia (hereafter referred to as tribes) who elect to operate a title IV-E program. Through the plan, a Title IV-E agency describes the nature and scope of the agency's programs; document program compliance; and provide assurances the programs will be administered in conformity with specific requirements stipulated in title IV-E. ACF uses the information to confirm that the title IV-E agency's statutory, regulatory, or policy references and citations are in compliance with each of the federal requirements.

Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan

Title IV-E agencies electing to participate in the optional title IV-E prevention services program must submit a 5-year Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan that meets the statutory requirements. This program requires a plan submission every five years, and amendments as needed. (See Program Instructions [ACYF-CB-PI-18-09](#) and [ACYF-CB-PI-18-10](#) for more information.)

Attachment to Title IV-E plan for Kinship Navigator Program

Title IV-E agencies electing to participate in the optional title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program, must submit an attachment to its title IV-E plan that specifies the Kinship Navigator model it has chosen to implement, the date on which the provision of program services began or will begin, and that provides an assurance that the model meets the requirements of section 427(a)(1) of the Act as well as a brief narrative describing how the program will be operated. This submission will remain in effect unless the title IV-E agency chooses to change its Kinship Navigator model or service area, in which case the title IV-E agency must submit an updated attachment no later than the end of the calendar quarter in which the stated program changes are to be in effect.

3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction

Title IV-E agencies complete an electronic version of the title IV-E plan pre-print that can be accessed through CB's website, which may be submitted electronically to CB. A title IV-E agency may use the pre-print plan format issued by CB or a different format, on the condition that the format used includes all of the title IV-E plan requirements.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information

This information collection does not duplicate information collected for other purposes or from other data sources. Through extensive contacts with organizations and individuals in the public and private sectors, program staff is certain there is no similar information available.

5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities

This information collection does not impact small businesses or other small entities. Only title IV-E agencies are required to collect and report this information.

6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently.

A title IV-E agency cannot receive federal reimbursement for allowable program activities if the information collection is not conducted or is conducted in a manner contrary to federal provisions. The title IV-E plan is required by federal statute. Legislative change is the only means to reduce or eliminate this burden.

Once the initial title IV-E plan for the foster care, adoption and, if applicable, for the optional guardianship assistance, kinship navigator and prevention services programs has been submitted by the title IV-E agency and approved by the Department, the plan remains in effect until an amendment is required due to a significant and pertinent change in the title IV-E plan information. The same is true for the attachment that must be submitted to participate in the optional title IV-E Kinship Navigator program. The title IV-E Prevention Services plan must be submitted once every five years by participating title IV-E agencies and may be amended more frequently, if the title IV-E agency wants to make programmatic changes.

7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5

There are no special circumstances that require the collection of the requested information in a manner other than that required by OMB.

8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice and Efforts to Consult Outside the Agency

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), ACF published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the agency's intention to request an OMB review of this information collection activity. This notice was published on May 6, 2025 (90 FR 19206) and provided a sixty-day period for public comment. CB received one non-substantive comment from an individual and no comments from title IV-E

agencies.

Based on ongoing and regular interaction with title IV-E agencies responsible for submitting the title IV-E plan, CB has not heard concerns about the collection of information in the title IV-E plan or the burden estimate. If CB receives feedback that the requirements for preparation and submission of the title IV-E plan take title IV-E agencies longer than the current estimated average burden, CB will submit a change request to OMB with a revised burden estimate.

9. Explanation of Any Payment or Gift to Respondents

No gift or payment will be provided to any respondents other than reimbursement for legitimate financial claims under this program.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents

Title IV-E plans are public documents posted on the title IV-E agencies websites or available electronically upon request. The plans do not contain identifying, personal information on individuals and must be made available for public review. The plans must include assurances of compliance with section 471(a)(8) of the Act, which provides for safeguarding the use and disclosure of information on applicants and recipients of services.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

There are no questions or other information of a sensitive nature in this information collection.

12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs

Estimated Burden Hours

Title IV-E Plan

There are 64 Title IV-E agencies representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 14 tribes. Each Title IV-E agency has submitted an initial IV-E plan for approval to participate in the title IV-E program. Thereafter, they submit one Plan referencing amendments whenever necessary to reflect changes in federal statute or regulation, or material changes in state, territorial or tribal law/code, policy or program operation. CB's experience is that a title IV-E agency will amend a plan once every four years and that about one-fourth of agencies (~ 18) will amend their plans annually. We estimate, based on prior experience and informal reports from title IV-E agencies that it will take approximately 16 hours to abstract, assemble and transmit necessary information. We have had no comments on the burden estimate over several iterations.

Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan

A title IV-E agency electing to participate in the prevention services program must submit a five-year title IV-E prevention services plan that meets statutory requirements. A title IV-E agency must complete and submit the checklist in Attachment B, with all required documentation, to request transitional payments for a title IV-E prevention program or service which has not yet been rated by the Clearinghouse. We estimate 16 title IV-E agencies will submit new or amended prevention plans annually over the next three years at an average burden of 5 hours each. We did not receive any comments on this burden estimate in response to the first Federal Register notice.

Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program

A title IV-E agency wishing to participate in the Kinship Navigator program must submit an attachment to its title IV-E that specifies the Kinship Navigator model it has chosen to implement, the date on which the provision of program services began or will begin, and that provides an assurance that the model meets the requirement of section 427(a)(1) of the Act as well as a brief narrative describing how the program will be operated. We estimate 5 states will submit plans annually over the next three years at an average burden of 1 hour each. We did not receive any comments on this burden estimate in response to the first Federal Register notice.

Information Collection Title	Total Number of Respondents	Total Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden Hours per Response	Total Burden Hours	Annual Burden Hours	Average Hourly Wage	Total Cost
Title IV-E Plan	54	1	16	864	288	\$45.28	\$13,040.64
Title IV-E prevention services plan	48	1	5	240	80	\$45.28	\$3,622.40
Attachment to the Title IV-E plan for kinship navigator	15	1	1	15	5	\$45.28	\$226.40
Estimated Annual Burden and Costs Total:					373		\$16,889.44

Estimated Costs to Respondents

The cost to respondents was calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) job code for Social and Human Services Assistants [21-1093] and wage data from May 2024, which is \$22.64 per hour. To account for fringe benefits and overhead the rate was multiplied by two which is \$45.28. <https://data.bls.gov/oesprofile/>

13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents and Record Keepers

There are no other costs to respondents and record keepers.

14. Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The cost of federal hourly wage was calculated using the General Schedule Pay Scale for a GS-13 staff employee in the Washington DC area from January 2025, which is \$57.78 per hour¹. To account for fringe benefits and overhead the rate was multiplied by two which is \$115.56. We estimate Federal staff spend 9 hours analyzing submissions and therefore estimate the annual cost to the federal government at \$16,525.08.

Reporting Requirement	Annual Responses	Review Hours per Response	Total Federal Review Hours	Federal Hourly Wage	Annualized Cost to The Federal Government
Title IV-E Plan	18	5	90	\$115.56	\$10,400.40
Title IV-E prevention services plan	16	3	48	\$115.56	\$5,546.88
Attachment to the Title IV-E plan for kinship navigator	5	1	5	\$115.56	\$577.80
Annual Total	39	9	143	\$346.68	\$16,525.08

15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments

CB is requesting an extension with minor revisions to reflect recent changes in statutory, regulatory and policy requirements or options and to remove outdated information. All revisions in policy and requirements have been communicated to title IV–E agencies through prior policy issuances. The estimated time per response has not changed, but the number of respondents has been updated to reflect the current number of title IV-E agencies expected to submit information over the next three years.

Revisions in Section A include:

- Updates to provisions relating to children missing from foster care, enacted through Public Law 117–348, the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022; and
- Updates to requirements and flexibilities for relative and kin foster care homes, including allowing separate licensing standards for relative and kin foster homes

Revisions in Section B include:

- A streamlined approach for title IV–E agencies to request renewal of a previously approved 5-year plan; and
- Revisions reflecting additional flexibilities in program requirements for tribes participating in the program through an agreement with another title IV–E agency.

16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule

¹ https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2025/DCB_h.pdf

CB does not plan to publish the information collected, however the title IV-E agency is required to make the plans publicly available on their website or to share it with stakeholders.

17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration date is Inappropriate

The OMB control number and expiration date are displayed on the front page of the pre-print format issued by CB.

18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.