



office of
**CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**
safe children | strong families

Office of Children's Services

July 23, 2013

Christy Lawton – Director

● Office of Children's Services Mission

The Office of Children's Services works in partnership with families and communities to achieve safety, permanency and well-being for children, youth and families.

● Office of Children's Services Vision

Safe Children; Strong Families



○ OCS Offices



- Who does OCS serve?

- What is Child Protection?

- What does OCS do?

Office of Children's Services Goals

Indian Child Welfare/Tribal Partnerships

- OCS partnerships with tribes
 - What is the interaction?
 - What is OCS doing to strengthen these partnerships?
- Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978
- Title IV-E pass-through program

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

Safety

Permanency

Well-Being

Safety

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

● Safety

Children are protected from child abuse and neglect and safely maintained in their own homes when possible.

- What does safety mean?
- Prevention
- Early Child Intervention
- Community Partnerships
- Intake and Screening
- Initial Assessment
- Ongoing Family Services

Office of Children's Services - Measures

○ Safety

Priority 1: Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan

Core Service: Provide quality of life in a safe living environment for Alaskans

Objective: Improve the safety of children receiving department services

Effectiveness measure:

Percent of reports of child abuse or neglect that are screened within 24 hrs.

Efficiency measure:

Cost per screening

Effectiveness measure:

Percent of child abuse initial assessments (investigations) that are initiated within required timeframes

Efficiency measure:

Cost per initial assessment (investigation)

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

● Safety

Prevention and Early Childhood Intervention

Infant Learning Program

- Serves children from birth to 3 yrs old with special needs
- Services provided directly to families by 16 grantees
- FY13 923 children were screened; 2055 evaluated; 1914 enrolled

Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education

- How does this program differ from other

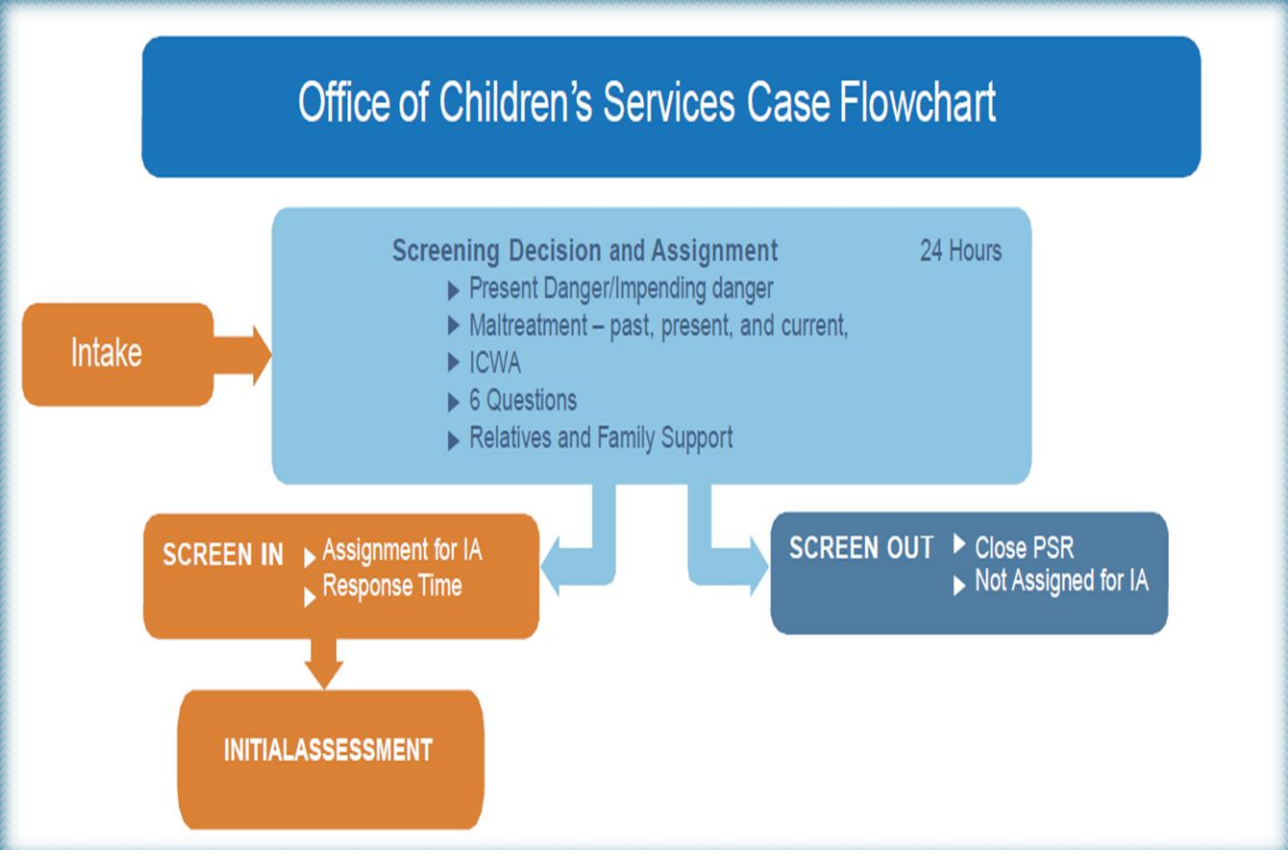
Community Partnerships

- Service Providers – grantees and contractors
- MDT, GAAP
- Tribal Partners

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

Safety

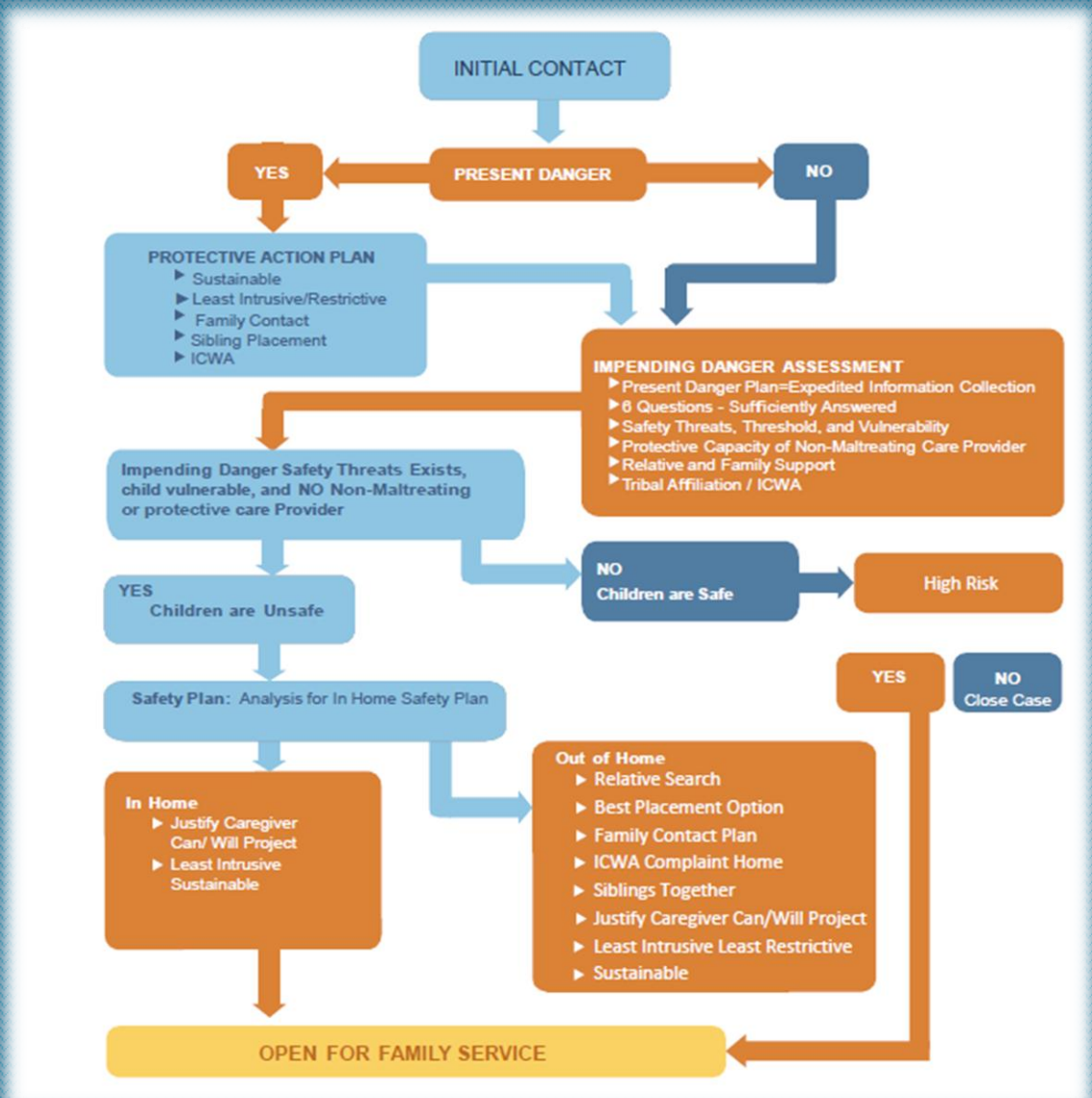
Intake and Screening



Office of Children's Service - Core Services

Safety

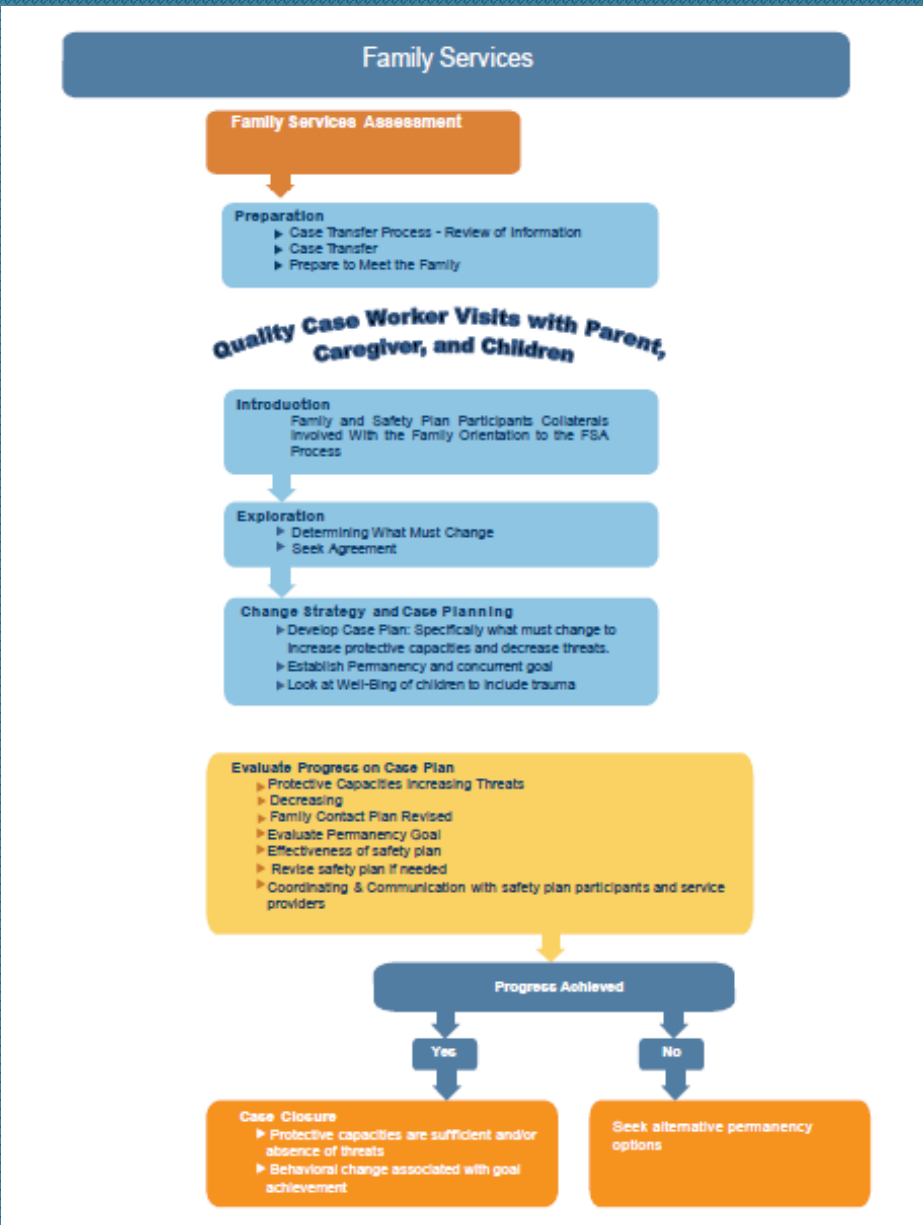
Initial Assessment



Office of Children's Services - Core Services

Safety

Family Services



Core Services

Safety

Permanency

● Permanency

Children have stability in placement and have family and cultural/community connections preserved.

- Importance of permanency for a child
- Options for permanency
- Resource Families
- Legal Parameters, timelines and authority

Office of Children's Services - Measures

● Permanency

Priority 1: Safe and Responsible Individuals, Families and Communities

Core Service: Protect vulnerable Alaskans

Objective: Decrease the rate of maltreatment in children

Effectiveness measure:

Rate of repeat maltreatment of children in out of home care

Efficiency measure:

Not yet determined

- How do children exit care?
 - 50% are reunified with their families
 - 40% are adopted
 - 10% other reasons

○ Permanency

Resource Families

- What are Resource Families?
- What is Foster Care?
- How is it administered?
- What is the funding source?

○ Permanency

Resource Families

- What are Resource Families?
 - Unlicensed Relative
 - Licensed foster homes
 - relative
 - non-relative
 - Adoptive
 - Guardianship

● Permanency

Foster Care

- How many children are currently being served through this program?

1,615 children were in licensed foster home care on July 17, 2013.

Based on the ORCA 6/18/13 provider caseload report, there are 1519 foster homes in Alaska. Of these homes:

- 1343 are OCS licensed foster homes;
- 240 are OCS unlicensed relative homes;
- 32 are DJJ licensed foster homes;
- 201 are Child Placement Agency licensed foster homes.

● Permanency

Foster Care

- What is the funding source?

FY 2014 budget authority for foster care payments, augmentations and special needs include:

Foster Care Base Rate authority for FY 2014 includes:

- \$9.6 million general fund

- \$3.0 million in receipt supported services from child support collected by the Division of Child Support Services

- \$3.7 million federal Title IV-E Foster Care

Foster Care Augmented Rates:

- \$1.0 million general fund

- Authorization includes \$638.5 federal which is no longer available for augmentations and will be reduced

 - This federal fund sources was Medicaid. Recent changes in the Medicaid program disallow claims for these services.

Foster Care Special Needs:

- \$7.2 million general fund

- \$1.8 million interagency receipts for child care provided

- \$632.1 federal

 - Collections are about half – this authorized amount will be reduced

● Permanency

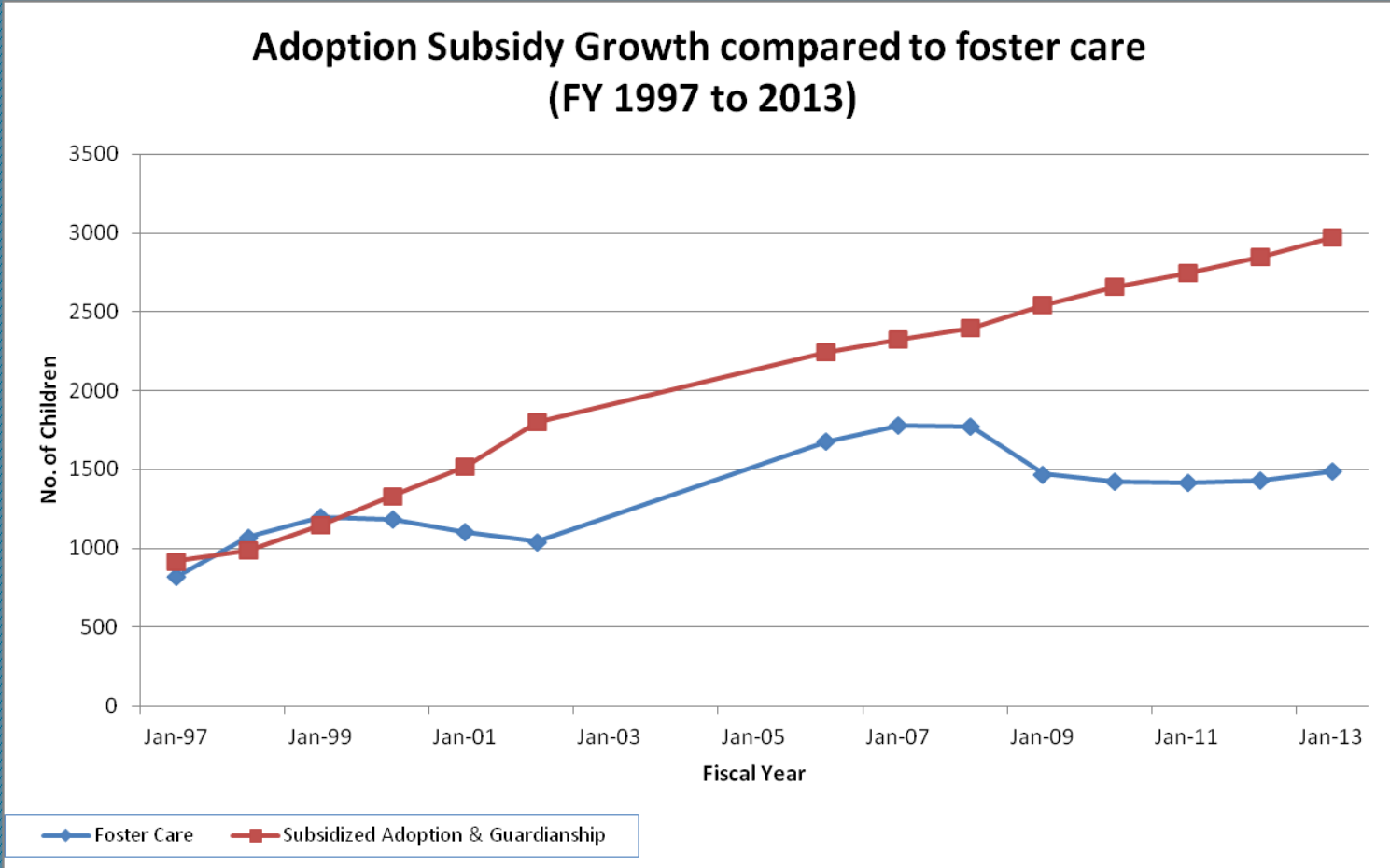
Adoption and Guardianship

- How is this program administered?
- How has this program expanded?
- What are Forever Families?
- What are the costs associated?
- If an adoptive home is not available, where are the children placed?

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

Permanency

Adoption and Guardianship



Annual expenditures for this program have increased between 5% and 6% for each of the last 4 years.

● Permanency

Adoption and Guardianship

•What does it cost the State if a child is not adopted?

Nationally, the costs of keeping a child in foster care vs. the costs of child moving to adoption are generally 2:1.

For FY13 in Alaska:

- The total annual cost to support and maintain all foster children in foster care was 27,181,800.
- The total annual cost to support and maintain all children in the adoption program was 22,518,800.

Per child:

- 16,401 per child/per year in foster care
- 8532 per child/per year in adoption

Core Services

Safety

Permanency

Well-Being

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

Well Being

Children receive appropriate educational, physical and mental health services to meet their individual needs.

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

- OCS role in supporting all of a child's individual needs
 - Education
 - Mental Health
 - Medical

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

Well Being

Children receive appropriate educational, physical and mental health services to meet their individual needs.

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

- OCS programs supporting all of a child's individual needs
 - Resources
 - Services
 - Partnerships
 - Family Preservation
 - Independent Living

Office of Children's Services - Measures

Well Being

Priority 1: Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan

Core Service: Provide quality of life in a safe living environment for Alaskans

Objective: Improve the safety of children receiving department services

Effectiveness measure:

Percent of caseworker visit that occur monthly

Efficiency measure:

Cost per case worker visit

Well Being

Family Preservation

- Explain this program and how it is administered?
 - Continuum of services to families
 - Family Support
 - Family Preservation
 - Time-limited family reunification
 - Independent Living
 - Child Advocacy Centers

Well Being

Family Preservation

- What is the funding source?
 - General Funds
 - Federal Funds
 - Title IV-B, subparts 1 & 2
 - Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
 - Community-based child abuse prevention (CBCAP)
 - Chafee
 - Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)
 - Independent Living

Well Being

Independent Living

FY 2013 – Chafee Independent Living Program

•Through the Regional Independent Living Specialists, regular coordinated training sessions increased and 584 services were provided to 290 Youth in and out of care from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

76% of the youth in Foster Care (Statewide) completed 1 or more Independent Living Trainings

Training Completed:

89 youth completed Career preparation Training

160 youth completed Housing education and Home Management Training

55 youth completed Health Education and Risk Prevention Training

52 youth completed Family Support and Healthy Marriage Education Training

89 youth completed Budget and Financial Management Training

78 youth completed Post-secondary Educational Support Training

61 youth completed Academic Support Training

Other services and supports included:

Mentorships

Rental Assistance

Referral to employment programs or vocational training

Office of Children's Services - Core Services

Well Being

Independent Living

FY 2013 - Educational Training Voucher Training Program

A total of 48 Youth attended College (In and Out of State)

Foster youth who engaged in the Educational and Training Program showed an increase in the average overall GPA from the fall 2012 to spring 2013 semester, and the number of students who failed to meet satisfactory academic progress declined.

With the help of the Youth Education Coordinator, youth were provided regular on campus case management services to developing skills to meet the demands of college life.

•What is the success rate of the program?

A total of 48 Youth attended College (In and Out of State)

Foster youth who engaged in the Educational and Training Program showed an increase in the average overall GPA from the fall 2012 to spring 2013 semester, and the number of students who failed to meet satisfactory academic progress declined.

With the help of the Youth Education Coordinator, youth were provided regular on campus case management services to developing skills to meet the demands of college life.

Core Services

Safety

Permanency

Well-Being

Primary Source of Federal Revenue
\$32 Million – 73% All Revenue –
23% of Total OCS Budget

Why is Budgeting OCS

Title IV-E Fickle?

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care
Administration for Children and
Families - Social Security Act

IV-E will only reimburse for services provided to children that meet eligibility and reimbursable criteria that must be *re-calculated quarterly*.

Foster Care

Eligibility is determined on a **one-time basis** when a child enters care. Eligibility requires:

- Voluntary placement or removal order from the Court; and
- Judicial finding that it is “contrary to the welfare of the minor to return home”; and
- Judicial finding that OCS made “reasonable efforts to prevent the breakup of the family” have been made within 60 days of removal; and
- Child meets Aid to Families with Dependent Children standards including income standards set in 1996.

If any criteria is not met, the child is not eligible for reimbursement for the entire time in care.

Reimbursement standards include, but are not limited to:

- Completed fingerprinting with no barriers
- Meets State and federal licensing and safety standards
- Reference checks
- Home is then fully licensed

If at any time all of the reimbursement requirements are not met, OCS must stop claiming IV-E.

Primary Source of Federal Revenue
\$32 Million – 73% All Revenue –
23% of Total OCS Budget

Why is Budgeting OCS

Title IV-E Fickle?

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care
Administration for Children and
Families - Social Security Act

IV-E will only reimburse for services provided to children that meet eligibility criteria that must be *re-calculated quarterly*.

Adoptions

Basic Eligibility Requirements (the child must be determined to have special needs):

- The child cannot or should not be returned to the home; and
- There is a factor which makes it difficult to place the child without a subsidy; and
- A reasonable, but unsuccessful effort has been made to place the child without subsidy unless it would be against the best interest of the child.

Title IV-E Eligibility Requirements:

- The child meets Aid to Families with Dependent Children standards including income standards set in 1996 (Federal law effective in 2008 eliminates this requirement over a 10 year period); or
- The child meets all Social Security Income medical or disability requirements prior to filing of the adoption petition; or
- At adoption proceeding initiation, the child was in the care of OCS by judicial determination that staying in the home was contrary to the child's welfare and the state has determined the child is a child with special needs; or
- The child's minor parent is in OCS custody; or
- The child received a IV-E adoption subsidy in a prior adoption.

Primary Source of Federal Revenue
\$32 Million – 73% All Revenue –
23% of Total OCS Budget

Why is Budgeting OCS

Title IV-E Fickle?

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care
Administration for Children and
Families - Social Security Act

IV-E will only reimburse for services provided to children that meet eligibility criteria that must be *re-calculated quarterly*.

Guardianships

Basic Eligibility Requirements (the child must be determined to have special needs):

- The child was eligible for Title IV-E foster care, and payments were made for at least six months in the home of the prospective guardian; and
- Reunification or adoptions are not appropriate permanency options for the child; and
- The child demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective guardian; and
- If the child is over age 14, the child has been consulted about the guardianship arrangement; or
- The child is a sibling of a child who meets these requirements and is placed with the same guardian.

Title IV-E Eligibility Requirements for the Prospective Guardian:

- The guardian is related to the child by blood, marriage, fictive kin or tribal custom (“fictive kin” is an individual who is unrelated by birth or marriage, but has an emotionally significant relationship with the child that has the characteristics of a family relationship); and
- The guardian has a strong commitment to caring for the child permanently; and
- The guardian has an approved home study including finger-print based criminal records check and child protective services checks on the guardian and all adults living in the home; and
- The guardian was fully licensed for at least six months while the child was placed in the home.

Why is Budgeting OCS

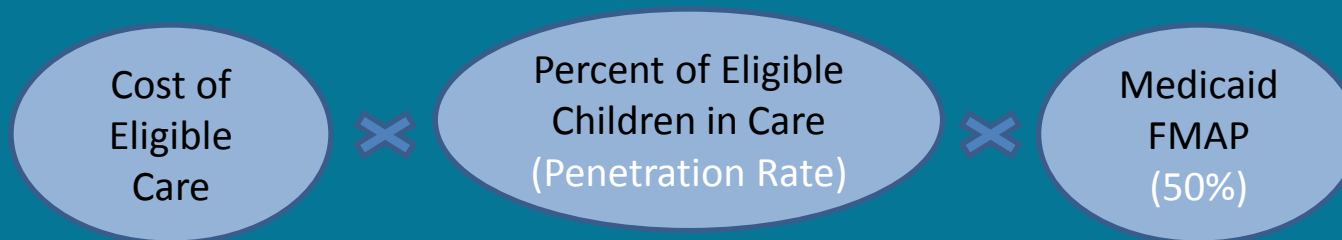
Title IV-E Fickle?

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care Administration for Children and Families - Social Security Act

Primary Source of Federal Revenue
\$32 Million – 73% All Revenue –
23% of Total OCS Budget

IV-E requires three allocation methods that **vary quarterly**: 1) Foster Care Maintenance, 2) Adoption and Guardianship Subsidies and 3) Administration.

1) Foster Care Maintenance Costs directly associated with eligible children placed in reimbursable foster homes:



Title IV-E Penetration Rate is calculated by dividing the total number of IV-E eligible children by the total number of children in care. Example:

$$\frac{\text{Eligible and Reimbursable (593)} + \text{Eligible Not Reimbursable (115)}}{\text{All children in out-of-home care (1,579)}} = \text{Penetration Rate (44.8\%)}$$

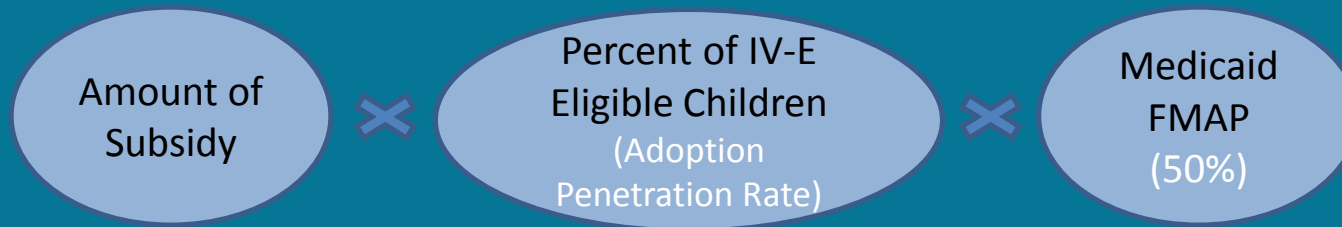
Actual percent of reimbursement = 22.4% for the quarter.

Why is Budgeting OCS Title IV-E Fickle?

Primary Source of Federal Revenue
\$32 Million – 73% All Revenue –
23% of Total OCS Budget

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care
Administration for Children and
Families - Social Security Act

2) Adoption and Guardianship subsidies directly associated with eligible children placed in a home receiving adoption or guardianship subsidies:



Title IV-E Penetration Rate is calculated by dividing the total number of IV-E eligible children by the total number of children in care. Example:

$$\frac{\text{Eligible Adoptions (2,193) + Eligible Guardianships (27)}}{\text{Total Number of Adoptions and Guardianships (2,943)}} = \text{Adoption Penetration Rate (75.4\%)}$$

Actual percent of reimbursement = 37.7% for the quarter.

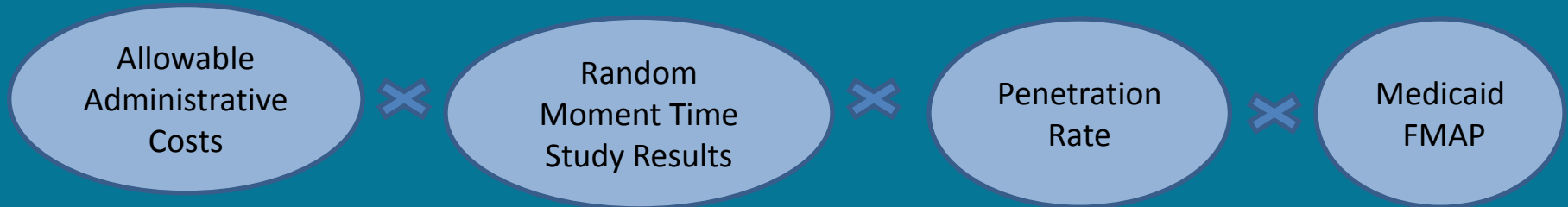
Why is Budgeting OCS

Title IV-E Fickle?

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care Administration for Children and Families - Social Security Act

Primary Source of Federal Revenue
\$32 Million – 73% All Revenue –
23% of Total OCS Budget

3) Administration includes costs incurred when working with a child, a family, and the care provider. Examples: referrals to services, judicial activities, placements, case plan development, case management, recruitment, eligibility determinations. IV-E will not Reimburse for investigation of child protective services reports or treatment services.



Example:

Allowable Costs		RMTS Results		Penetration Rate		FMAP		Federal Reimbursement
\$1,000,000	x	65.38%**	x	49.89%	x	50%	=	\$163,090.00

** Workers spent 65.38% of their time working on reimbursable tasks.

Actual percent of reimbursement = 16.3% for the quarter.



office of
**CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**
safe children | strong families