

Child Welfare Policy Manual

Questions & Answers

8.2E TITLE IV-E, Adoption Assistance Program, Promoting Adoption Assistance

1. Question: What is the title IV-E agency's responsibility for notifying prospective adoptive parents about the availability of adoption assistance?

Answer: The title IV-E agency is required to actively seek ways to promote the adoption assistance program. This means that it is incumbent upon the title IV-E agency to notify prospective adoptive parents about the availability of adoption assistance for the adoption of a child with special needs. There is no prescribed way in which promotion of the program must be accomplished. One example would be to alert potential adoptive parents during a recruitment campaign for adoptive homes (websites, newspapers, flyers, etc.). Another example would be to alert every prospective adoptive parent who inquires to the title IV-E agency about adoption.

The primary goal of the title IV-E adoption assistance program is to provide financial support to families who adopt difficult-to-place children from the public child welfare system. These are children who otherwise would grow up in foster care systems if a suitable adoptive parent could not be found. Thus, the title IV-E agency is responsible for assuring that prospective adoptive families with whom they place eligible children who are under their responsibility are apprised of the availability of title IV-E adoption assistance.

However, in circumstances where the title IV-E agency does not have responsibility for placement and care, or is otherwise unaware of the adoption of a potentially special needs child, it is incumbent upon the adoptive family to request adoption assistance on behalf of the child. It is not the responsibility of the title IV-E agency to seek out and inform individuals who are unknown to the agency about the possibility of title IV-E adoption assistance for special needs children who also are unknown to the agency. This policy is consistent with the intent and purpose of the statute, and that is to promote the adoption of special needs children who are in the public foster care system.

- **Source/Date:** ACYF-CB-PA-01-01 (1/23/01); (03/03/2020)
- **Legal and Related References:** 45 CFR 1356.40(f)