

## **Oregon Title IV-E Waiver Overview**

Title IV-E payments in general are used to pay the costs of room and board for IV-E eligible children in foster care. In 1997 Oregon was one of a few states that was granted a IV-E waiver which allowed some flexibility in the use of IV-E dollars. The Waiver permits us to pioneer and evaluate innovative services rather than only pay for foster care room and board. This affords Oregon a unique opportunity to improve the safety and permanency of our children and families and at the same time make a contribution to child welfare research. Our IV-E waiver was renewed as of July 1, 2011. The expectation of the federal government is for the IV-E waiver to implement cutting edge and cost neutral approaches that safely prevent family break-up or that reunify families. The ultimate goal of the program is to develop an intervention model that is effective, sustainable and can be replicated.

We can most successfully achieve these program objectives by implementing and rigorously evaluating the interventions Oregon is implementing with its current waiver. These interventions include:

- **Parent Mentoring**
- **Relationship Based Visitation**

### **FAQs**

#### **Q: What is the Title IV-E Foster Care Program?**

This program, authorized under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, provides federal matching funds to help states provide out-of-home care for children until they can safely return home or another permanent plan is put in place.

#### **Q: What is a Title IV-E waiver?**

Several states have received a waiver to use IV-E funds to use in demonstration projects intended to prevent entrance into foster or increase reunification. The waiver allows us greater flexibility to use IV-E funds to pioneer cutting edge services.

#### **Q: Why has DHS chosen to focus on two specific interventions?**

In order to have Oregon's IV-Waiver re-authorized, we needed to make significant improvements to the current methodology for our pilot programs. Two specific interventions were chosen as demonstration projects as a way to test these interventions.

**Q: Are there specific requirements for getting a waiver?**

Yes, programs and services must contribute to overall knowledge of best practices in child welfare by developing and testing innovative approaches that can be sustained and replicated. Approaches must emphasize family preservation and reunification, and cannot cost more than the same amount that would have been spent for traditional programs. Pilot programs must be independently evaluated and reported twice a year to the feds.

**Q: What is the evaluation model?**

ACF expects states with Waivers to improve methodologies in developing and piloting services to reduce foster care, improve evaluation design, provide the oversight needed to effectively implement and evaluate the demonstration project and make corrections based upon lessons learned throughout the history of the IV-E Waiver. Because of this, the two current demonstration projects will be evaluated using a random assignment approach. This means that some clients will receive the intervention and some will not.