

LB 820

Provides for the Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee; the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee; a stipend for foster care parents; and defines the exception to foster care licensing.

1) Title IV-E Demonstration Project

- The application date is September 30, 2013 for the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for approval of a Title IV-E demonstration project.
- The Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee is created.
 - Members shall be appointed by Director of CFS-
 - Representatives of the department,
 - At least five child welfare stakeholder entities:
 - One advocate for legal and policy issues including child welfare
 - One advocate that singularly focuses on children's issues
 - Two child welfare service agencies
 - Lead agency
 - One ex-officio member representing the court system
 - Convene within thirty days by director
 - The committee shall review, report, and provide recommendations regarding the Title IV-E demonstration application.
 - The committee may engage a consultant with expertise in Title IV-E demonstration project applications and requirements.
 - The committee will review:
 - Nebraska's Title IV-E participation and penetration rates;
 - Review strategies and solutions for raising participation rates and reimbursement;
 - Recommend specific actions for addressing barriers to participation and reimbursement.
 - The committee shall provide an implementation plan and a time-line for applying for a Title IV-E waiver.
 - Within goals of strategic plan
 - Maximize federal funding
 - As the Nebraska Children's Commission is created the Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee shall come under the commission's jurisdiction
 - The commission may appoint additional members and make any changes it deems necessary to comply with this act.
 - Committee shall report to the HHS Committee on its activities-
 - July 1, 2012
 - September 1, 2012
 - November 1, 2012
 - Final Report December 15, 2012
 - To include the status of the application by September 15, 2012
 - Committee's implementation plan regarding the demonstration project shall meet the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1320a-9 including at least two of the child welfare program improvements policies described in 42 U.S.C. 1320A9 (a) (7)

- 2) LB 820 provides for the creation of the a **Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee**:
- To develop a standard statewide foster care reimbursement rate structure for children in foster care in Nebraska
 - The Committee shall include:
 - The CEO of the department or his/her designee;
 - Representatives of an array of stakeholders involved in the foster care system.
 - The committee shall use the 2007 national foster care compensation study as a beginning standard for setting reimbursement rates and adjust the standard to reflect the reasonable cost of achieving measurable outcomes for foster care in Nebraska.
 - The committee shall:
 - Analyze consumer expenditure data for the costs of caring for children in Nebraska;
 - Identify and account for additional costs specific to foster children;
 - Apply a geographic cost-of-living adjustment for Nebraska;
 - Maximize the utilization of federal funds by supporting compliance with Title IV-E and TANF funding.
 - The committee will develop a **statewide level of care assessment system** to standardize criteria to determine a foster child's placement needs to appropriately identify the foster care reimbursement rate.
 - Review other states' assessment models and reimbursement rate structures;
 - The state wide level of care assessment system will be research based, supported by evidence-based practices, and reflect the commitment to a systems of care, trauma-informed, child-centered, family-involved, coordinated process.
 - The committee shall develop the statewide level of care assessment and foster care reimbursement rate structure to provide incentives to tie performance in achieving the goals of safety, maintaining family connection, permanency, stability, and well-being to reimbursements.
 - The committee will report
 - to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on July 1, 2012; September 1, 2012; November 1, 2012 and
 - a final report will be provided to the HHS committee and the Governor with recommendations for the statewide level of care assessment system and the foster care reimbursement rate structure on December 15, 2012.
 - As the Nebraska Children's Commission is created the committee shall immediately come under the commission's jurisdiction. The commission may change the members and make any changes necessary to comply with the act.
 - **Foster Care stipend**
 - Nebraska foster parents make an essential contribution to the safety and well being of Nebraska's foster children, and
 - Additional compensation, during the determination of a standard state wide foster care reimbursement structure, is needed;
 - Beginning July 1, 2012 and continuing through June 30, 2013, foster parents will be provided an additional stipend.
 - The stipend will be three dollars and ten cents per day per child and will be in addition to the current tiered rate paid to foster parents;
 - The stipend will be paid monthly through the agency or the department contracting with the

foster parent;

- The contracting agency shall receive an administrative fee
 - Twenty-five cents per child per day for processing the stipend,
 - Paid monthly by the state;
 - In addition to the stipend, not funded from it.
- **Licensing of foster parents**
 - No person shall furnish or offer to furnish foster care for one or more children not related to such person by blood, marriage, or adoption
 - Without having in full force and effect a written license issued by the department except as otherwise provided in the section.