



# Adoption Assistance Pilot

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# Process Improvement Project

- ▶ Issues Identified
  - ▶ Incomplete IV-E paperwork-Internal DHHS Fix
  - ▶ Fingerprints expired/missing background checks-Internal DHHS Fix
  - ▶ Eligibility requirements determined different in different service areas
  - ▶ Negotiating is left to CFSS with no tool to support them, inconsistent negotiations
  - ▶ Eligibility requirements determined different in different service areas
  - ▶ Do rates negotiated get good outcomes

# Eligibility Requirements

- ▶ “At risk children”
  - ▶ Medical professional has determined the child to be at risk of a behavioral, emotional, physical or mental disability.
- ▶ How do other states handle this category?
  - ▶ Iowa; offers deferred adoption assistance agreements; initial monthly maintenance amount is \$0, are eligible for Medicaid
  - ▶ Kansas; yes, if guarded prognosis, initial monthly maintenance amount is \$0, Medical card can be issued if problem arises later
  - ▶ South Dakota; yes, but website unclear
  - ▶ Missouri; offers deferred adoption assistance agreements
  - ▶ Minnesota; At risk only agreement. No monthly payment, receive authorization for medical and adoption fees

# Negotiation Tool

## ▶ Other States

- ▶ Iowa; 65% of USDA; ranges from \$16.78-19.35; additional for special needs ranging from \$4.81-\$14.44.
- ▶ Kansas; \$500, case by case basis additional funding approval
- ▶ South Dakota; Ages 0-12, \$518.01 and Ages 13-18 \$622.17
- ▶ Missouri; Ages 0-5, \$232, Ages 6-12, \$283, Ages 13+, \$313; Specialized Rates at \$671, must meet specific criteria.
- ▶ Minnesota; changed rates July 2016 based on the USDA rates

# Current Tool

Age of Ward	USDA 65%	Behavioral Needs Stipend	Medical Needs Stipend	Insurance Stipend *Must be approved by Central Office	Misc. Cultural/Social *Must be approved by Central Office
0-5 years old	\$13.51 (at risk) \$13.68 (has diagnosis)	Negotiated up to Max NCR Rate -.10 cents	Negotiated up to Max NCR Rate -.10 cents	+\$2.19	+\$5.00 (\$2.50 for points; so could receive 5.00)
6-11 years old	\$14.99 (at risk) \$16.04 (has diagnosis)	Negotiated up to Max NCR Rate -.10 cents	Negotiated up to Max NCR Rate -.10 cents	+\$2.44	+\$5.00 (\$2.50 for points 2 and up; so could receive 5.00-7.50 more)
12+ years old	\$16.34 (at risk) \$16.62 (has diagnosis)	Negotiated up to Max NCR Rate -.10 cents	Negotiated up to Max NCR Rate -.10 cents	+\$2.47	+\$5.00 (\$2.50 for points 2 and up; so could receive 5.00-7.50 more)

# Daily Rate Negotiations

- ▶ USDA, Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015; 65% rate based off age. Taken from estimated annual expenditures on a child by couple, urban Midwest. (Health Care, and Child Care, removed from rate used)
- ▶ If special Behavioral Health Need
  - ▶ Additional Stipend Approved: when attending three or more appointments per week (examples: occupational therapy, speech therapy, mental health therapy or an IOP program with 3 appointments)
- ▶ If special Medical Need
  - ▶ Additional Stipend: Qualified for DD and/or A&D Waiver Program and/or SSI (examples: feeding tubes, medically fragile youth)
- ▶ Insurance Stipend-Only can be approved after consulting with Central Office Permanency Staff.
  - ▶ Review and Approved on individual/case by case basis (Example: State funded subsidy, no access to Medicaid, family adding to insurance.)
- ▶ Miscellaneous Stipend- Only can be approved after consulting with Central Office Permanency Staff.
  - ▶ Review and Approved on individual/case by case basis (Example: Review NCR, LOC 5; situations where family is providing payment, transportation, attendance and additional support for social/cultural activities that positively impacts the child's overall well-being.) NCR would reflect L2 or L3; NCR weighted categories are worth \$2.50 per point, so L2 or L3 would result in \$5.00 or \$7.50 increase.

**\*\*The negotiated rate cannot be more than what they would receive if the child remained in foster care.**

# Feedback and Changes

- ▶ Changes from the Pilot;
  - ▶ Case Staffings with SESA CFS staff
  - ▶ Feedback from stakeholders
  - ▶ Updates:
    - ▶ reflects USDA rates calculated off the tables Foster Care Rate Committee used (Pilot uses 2015 rates)
    - ▶ Housing added back into the 65%
    - ▶ Misc Column Added

# Requests for Subsidy Increase/Annual Reviews

- ▶ DHHS-CFS has received 150 requests from January –October 2018
  - ▶ 75% have been approved for increases
    - ▶ 112 were approved for increases
    - ▶ 38 were denied
      - ▶ No change in circumstances
      - ▶ No supporting documentation
      - ▶ Approved, but at Maximum Subsidy for age already.