



February 23, 2017

## **SB 102: Adoption Applicable Child Savings Fund Allowable Ways to Spend the Savings**



**General Requirements:** Adoption Applicable Child Savings (“Adoption Savings”) must be reinvested in new or expanded child welfare services that could be provided under Titles IV-E or IV-B, the primary federal funding sources for child welfare. These services are intended to prevent the abuse or neglect of children; ensure that children have safe, permanent homes; and promote the well-being of children and their families.

**30% of Spending:** Thirty percent of the spending must be on post-adoption services, post-guardianship services and services to support positive permanent outcomes for children at risk of entering foster care. Two-thirds of the 30% must be spent on post-adoption and post-guardianship services.

**DHS Priority: Post-adoption and post-guardianship services.** DHS has begun to expand spending in this required area. Most of the spending is planned for in-home crisis intervention for guardianship and adoptive families. This incorporates a comprehensive treatment approach with family treatment, parenting skills education and help in accessing community resources. Another intervention is the Adoptive and Foster Family Therapy Certificate program, a series of advanced, evidence-based courses on specialized theories and practices for treating adopted and foster children and their families. A small amount of the money supplements the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center, which provides training, a lending library and support groups.

**70% of Spending:** Seventy percent of the spending must be on services that could be provided under Titles IV-E or IV-B. Title IV-E provides funding for foster care, adoption assistance, and guardianship assistance on behalf of eligible children. Allowable Title IV-E costs include monthly reimbursement for the care of foster, guardian and adoptive children; administrative costs to manage the program; training of staff and providers; and recruitment of foster and adoptive parents. Child care provided for foster children is also an allowable Title IV-E cost.

Title IV-B funds may be spent on child welfare social services. Key service areas are the prevention of maltreatment; family preservation; community-based family support; family reunification; and adoption promotion and support activities.

**DHS Priority: Child care for employed foster parents.** Currently, foster parents certified by DHS are not compensated to pay for child care for children in the State’s legal custody. Often the lack of affordable or reimbursable child care is a deterrent to prospective and continuing foster parents when there is no financial assistance for child care. Many families have two employed parents and DHS often is unable to recruit or retain families to provide foster care because of the high cost of child care. Paying a stipend to offset the cost of child care for employed foster parents will go a long way in helping the State recruit and retain caring homes for children in the State’s care.

**Not Allowable:** Adoption Savings spending must not replace (“supplant”) any federal or non-federal funds used to provide any service under Titles IV-E or IV-B. In addition, Adoption Savings may not be spent on medical or healthcare expenses, educational costs, or the purchase or construction of facilities.