

§ 1355.58 Failure to meet the conditions of the approved APD.

(a) In accordance with 45 CFR 75.371 through 75.375 and 45 CFR 95.635, ACF may suspend title IV-B and title IV-E funding approved in the APD for a CCWIS if ACF determines that the title IV-E agency fails to comply with APD requirements in 45 CFR part 95, subpart F, or meet the requirements at § 1355.52 or, if applicable, § 1355.53, § 1355.54, or § 1355.56.

(b) Suspension of CCWIS funding begins on the date that ACF determines the title IV-E agency failed to:

(1) Comply with APD requirements in 45 CFR part 95, subpart F; or

(2) Meet the requirements at § 1355.52 or, if applicable, § 1355.53, § 1355.54, or § 1355.56 and has not corrected the failed requirements according to the time frame in the approved APD.

(c) The suspension will remain in effect until the date that ACF:

(1) Determines that the title IV-E agency complies with 45 CFR part 95, subpart F; or

(2) Approves a plan to change the application to meet the requirements at § 1355.52 and, if applicable, § 1355.53, § 1355.54, or § 1355.56.

(d) If ACF suspends an APD, or the title IV-E agency voluntarily ceases the design, development, installation, operation, or maintenance of an approved CCWIS, ACF may recoup all title IV-E funds claimed for the CCWIS project.

[81 FR 35482, June 2, 2016]

§ 1355.59 [Reserved]**PART 1356—REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO TITLE IV-E**

Sec.

1356.10 Scope.

1356.20 Title IV-E plan document and submission requirements.

1356.21 Foster care maintenance payments program implementation requirements.

1356.22 Implementation requirements for children voluntarily placed in foster care.

1356.30 Safety requirements for foster care and adoptive home providers.

1356.40 Adoption assistance program: Administrative requirements to implement section 473 of the Act.

1356.41 Nonrecurring expenses of adoption.

1356.50 Withholding of funds for non-compliance with the approved title IV-E plan.

1356.60 Fiscal requirements (title IV-E).

1356.65–1356.66 [Reserved]

1356.67 Procedures for the transfer of placement and care responsibility of a child from a State to a Tribal title IV-E agency or an Indian Tribe with a title IV-E agreement.

1356.68 Tribal title IV-E agency requirements for in-kind administrative and training contributions from third-party sources.

1356.69–1356.70 [Reserved]

1356.71 Federal review of the eligibility of children in foster care and the eligibility of foster care providers in title IV-E programs.

1356.80 Scope of the National Youth in Transition Database.

1356.81 Reporting population.

1356.82 Data collection requirements.

1356.83 Reporting requirements and data elements.

1356.84 Sampling.

1356.85 Compliance.

1356.86 Penalties for noncompliance.

APPENDIX A TO PART 1356—NYTD DATA ELEMENTS

APPENDIX B TO PART 1356—NYTD YOUTH OUTCOME SURVEY

APPENDIX C TO PART 1356—CALCULATING SAMPLE SIZE FOR NYTD FOLLOW-UP POPULATIONS

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. 670 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 1302.

§ 1356.10 Scope.

This part applies to title IV-E agency programs for foster care maintenance payments, adoption assistance payments, related foster care and adoption administrative and training expenditures, and the independent living services program under title IV-E of the Act.

[77 FR 946, Jan. 6, 2012]

§ 1356.20 Title IV-E plan document and submission requirements.

(a) To be in compliance with the title IV-E plan requirements and to be eligible to receive Federal financial participation (FFP) in the costs of foster care maintenance payments and adoption assistance under this part, a title IV-E agency must have a plan approved by the Secretary that meets the requirements of this part, part 1355, section 471(a) of the Act and for Tribal title IV-E agencies, section 479B(c) of the

Act. The title IV–E plan must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office, ACYF, in a form determined by the title IV–E agency.

(b) Failure by a title IV–E agency to comply with the requirements and standards for the data reporting system for foster care and adoption (§1355.40 of this chapter) shall be considered a substantial failure by the title IV–E agency in complying with the plan.

(c) The following procedures for approval of plans and amendments apply to the title IV–E program:

(1) *Plan.* The plan consists of written documents furnished by the title IV–E agency to cover its program under part E of title IV. After approval of the original plan by the Commissioner, ACYF, all relevant changes, required by new statutes, rules, regulations, interpretations, and court decisions, are required to be submitted currently so that ACYF may determine whether the plan continues to meet Federal requirements and policies.

(2) *Submittal.* Plans and revisions of the plans are submitted first to the State governor or his/her designee, or the Tribal leader or his/her designee for review and then to the regional office, ACYF. Title IV–E agencies are encouraged to obtain consultation of the regional staff when a plan is in process of preparation or revision.

(3) *Review.* Staff in the regional offices are responsible for review of plans and amendments. They also initiate discussion with the title IV–E agency on clarification of significant aspects of the plan which come to their attention in the course of this review. Plan material on which the regional staff has questions concerning the application of Federal policy is referred with recommendations as required to the central office for technical assistance. Comments and suggestions, including those of consultants in specified areas, may be prepared by the central office for use by the regional staff in negotiations with the title IV–E agency.

(4) *Action.* ACYF has the authority to approve plans and amendments thereto which provide for the administration of foster care maintenance payments and adoption assistance programs under section 471 of the Act. The Commis-

sioner, ACYF, retains the authority to determine that proposed plan material is not approvable, or that a previously approved plan no longer meets the requirements for approval. The Regional Office, ACYF, formally notifies the title IV–E agency of the actions taken on plans or revisions.

(5) *Basis for approval.* Determinations as to whether plans (including plan amendments and administrative practice under the plans) originally meet or continue to meet, the requirements for approval are based on relevant Federal statutes and regulations.

(6) *Prompt approval of plans.* The determination as to whether a plan submitted for approval conforms to the requirements for approval under the Act and regulations issued pursuant thereto shall be made promptly and not later than the 45th day following the date on which the plan submittal is received in the regional office, unless the Regional Office, ACYF, has secured from the title IV–E agency a written agreement to extend that period.

(7) *Prompt approval of plan amendments.* Any amendment of an approved plan may, at the option of the title IV–E agency, be considered as a submission of a new plan. If the title IV–E agency requests that such amendment be so considered, the determination as to its conformity with the requirements for approval shall be made promptly and not later than the 45th day following the date on which such a request is received in the regional office with respect to an amendment that has been received in such office, unless the Regional Office, ACYF, has secured from the title IV–E agency a written agreement to extend that period. In absence of request by a title IV–E agency that an amendment of an approved plan shall be considered as a submission of a new plan, the procedures under §201.6(a) and (b) shall be applicable.

(8) *Effective date.* The effective date of a new plan may not be earlier than the first day of the calendar quarter in which an approvable plan is submitted, and with respect to expenditures for assistance under such plan, may not be earlier than the first day on which the plan is in operation on a statewide basis or, in the case of a Tribal title

IV-E agency, in operation in the Tribal title IV-E agency's entire service area. The same applies with respect to plan amendments.

(d) Once the title IV-E plan has been submitted and approved, it shall remain in effect until amendments are required. An amendment is required if there is any significant and relevant change in the information or assurances in the plan, or the organization, policies or operations described in the plan.

[77 FR 946, Jan. 6, 2012]

§ 1356.21 Foster care maintenance payments program implementation requirements.

(a) *Statutory and regulatory requirements of the Federal foster care program.* To implement the foster care maintenance payments program provisions of the title IV-E plan and to be eligible to receive Federal financial participation (FFP) for foster care maintenance payments under this part, a title IV-E agency must meet the requirements of this section, 45 CFR 1356.22, 45 CFR 1356.30, and sections 472, 475(1), 475(4), 475(5), 475(6), and for a Tribal title IV-E agency section 479(B)(c)(1)(C)(ii)(II) of the Act.

(b) *Reasonable efforts.* The title IV-E agency must make reasonable efforts to maintain the family unit and prevent the unnecessary removal of a child from his/her home, as long as the child's safety is assured; to effect the safe reunification of the child and family (if temporary out-of-home placement is necessary to ensure the immediate safety of the child); and to make and finalize alternate permanency plans in a timely manner when reunification is not appropriate or possible. In order to satisfy the "reasonable efforts" requirements of section 471(a)(15) (as implemented through section 472(a)(2) of the Act), the title IV-E agency must meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section. In determining reasonable efforts to be made with respect to a child and in making such reasonable efforts, the child's health and safety must be the paramount concern.

(1) *Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from the home.* (i) When a child is removed

from his/her home, the judicial determination as to whether reasonable efforts were made, or were not required to prevent the removal, in accordance with paragraph (b)(3) of this section, must be made no later than 60 days from the date the child is removed from the home pursuant to paragraph (k)(1)(ii) of this section.

(ii) If the determination concerning reasonable efforts to prevent the removal is not made as specified in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section, the child is not eligible under the title IV-E foster care maintenance payments program for the duration of that stay in foster care.

(2) *Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan.* (i) The title IV-E agency must obtain a judicial determination that it has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan that is in effect (whether the plan is reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, placement with a fit and willing relative, or placement in another planned permanent living arrangement) within twelve months of the date the child is considered to have entered foster care in accordance with the definition at § 1355.20 of this part, and at least once every twelve months thereafter while the child is in foster care.

(ii) If such a judicial determination regarding reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan is not made in accordance with the schedule prescribed in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section, the child becomes ineligible under title IV-E at the end of the month in which the judicial determination was required to have been made, and remains ineligible until such a determination is made.

(3) *Circumstances in which reasonable efforts are not required to prevent a child's removal from home or to reunify the child and family.* Reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from home or to reunify the child and family are not required if the title IV-E agency obtains a judicial determination that such efforts are not required because:

(i) A court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances (as defined in State, or for a Tribal title IV-E agency, Tribal law,