

means subpart 2 of part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629 et seq., 670 et seq.) that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments specified in subsection (a) of this section, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such part solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet the additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 17, 2001]. For purposes of the preceding sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-89 effective Nov. 19, 1997, except as otherwise provided, with delay permitted if State legislation is required, see section 501 of Pub. L. 105-89, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subpart effective with respect to calendar quarters beginning on or after Oct. 1, 1993, see section 13711(c) of Pub. L. 103-66, set out as an Effective Date of 1993 Amendment note under section 622 of this title.

**§ 629a. Definitions**

**(a) In general**

As used in this subpart:

**(1) Family preservation services**

The term “family preservation services” means services for children and families designed to help families (including adoptive and extended families) at risk or in crisis, including—

(A) service programs designed to help children—

(i) where safe and appropriate, return to families from which they have been removed; or

(ii) be placed for adoption, with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be safe and appropriate for a child, in some other planned, permanent living arrangement;

(B) preplacement preventive services programs, such as intensive family preservation programs, designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely with their families;

(C) service programs designed to provide followup care to families to whom a child has been returned after a foster care placement;

(D) respite care of children to provide temporary relief for parents and other caregivers (including foster parents);

(E) services designed to improve parenting skills (by reinforcing parents’ confidence in their strengths, and helping them to identify where improvement is needed and to obtain assistance in improving those skills) with respect to matters such as child development, family budgeting, coping with stress, health, and nutrition; and

(F) infant safe haven programs to provide a way for a parent to safely relinquish a

newborn infant at a safe haven designated pursuant to a State law.

**(2) Family support services**

**(A) In general**

The term “family support services” means community-based services designed to carry out the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

**(B) Purposes described**

The purposes described in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) To promote the safety and well-being of children and families.

(ii) To increase the strength and stability of families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families).

(iii) To support and retain foster families so they can provide quality family-based settings for children in foster care.

(iv) To increase parents’ confidence and competence in their parenting abilities.

(v) To afford children a safe, stable, and supportive family environment.

(vi) To strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages.

(vii) To enhance child development, including through mentoring (as defined in section 629i(b)(2) of this title).

**(3) State agency**

The term “State agency” means the State agency responsible for administering the program under subpart 1.

**(4) State**

The term “State” includes an Indian tribe or tribal organization, in addition to the meaning given such term for purposes of subpart 1.

**(5) Indian tribe**

The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 628(c) of this title.

**(6) Tribal organization**

The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 628(c) of this title.

**(7) Family reunification services**

**(A) In general**

The term “family reunification services” means the services and activities described in subparagraph (B) that are provided to a child that is removed from the child’s home and placed in a foster family home or a child care institution or a child who has been returned home and to the parents or primary caregiver of such a child, in order to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately within a timely fashion and to ensure the strength and stability of the reunification. In the case of a child who has been returned home, the services and activities shall only be provided during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child returns home.

**(B) Services and activities described**

The services and activities described in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) Individual, group, and family counseling.

- (ii) Inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services.
- (iii) Mental health services.
- (iv) Assistance to address domestic violence.
- (v) Services designed to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries.
- (vi) Peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers.
- (vii) Services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings.
- (viii) Transportation to or from any of the services and activities described in this subparagraph.

**(8) Adoption promotion and support services**

The term “adoption promotion and support services” means services and activities designed to encourage more adoptions out of the foster care system, when adoptions promote the best interests of children, including such activities as pre- and post-adoptive services and activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

**(9) Non-Federal funds**

The term “non-Federal funds” means State funds, or at the option of a State, State and local funds.

**(b) Other terms**

For other definitions of other terms used in this subpart, see section 675 of this title.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §431, as added Pub. L. 103-66, title XIII, §13711(a)(2), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 650; amended Pub. L. 105-89, title III, §305(b)(2), (c)(2), (d)(1), Nov. 19, 1997, 111 Stat. 2131, 2132; Pub. L. 106-169, title IV, §401(e), Dec. 14, 1999, 113 Stat. 1858; Pub. L. 107-133, title I, §102, Jan. 17, 2002, 115 Stat. 2415; Pub. L. 109-288, §11(c), Sept. 28, 2006, 120 Stat. 1255; Pub. L. 112-34, title I, §102(c), (d), Sept. 30, 2011, 125 Stat. 371, 372; Pub. L. 115-123, div. E, title VII, §§50721(a), 50751(a), Feb. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 245, 262; Pub. L. 118-258, title I, §§106(a), (b), 107(a)(3)(B), 110(a), 111(a), 113(b), Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2951, 2955, 2959, 2961, 2967.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

*Pub. L. 118-258, title I, §§106(a), (b), 107(a)(3)(B), 110(a), 111(a), 113(b), 117, 138 Stat. 2951, 2955, 2959, 2961, 2967, 2969, made numerous amendments to this section, effective Oct. 1, 2025, and applicable to payments under this part for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, with delay permitted if either State legislation or tribal action is required to meet additional requirements. After such effective date, text of this section will read as follows:*

**(a) In general**

*As used in this subpart:*

**(1) Family preservation services**

*The term “family preservation services” means services for children, youth, and families designed to help families (including kinship and adoptive families) at risk or in crisis, including—*

- (A) service programs designed to help children—*

- (i) where safe and appropriate, return to families from which they have been removed; or*

- (ii) be placed for adoption, with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be safe and appropriate for a child, in some other planned, permanent living arrangement;*

- (B) preplacement preventive services programs, such as intensive family preservation programs, designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely with their families;*

- (C) service programs designed to provide followup care to families to whom a child has been returned after a foster care placement;*

- (D) respite care of children to provide temporary relief for parents, kinship caregivers, and foster parents;*

- (E) services designed to improve parenting skills (by reinforcing parents’ confidence in their strengths, and helping them to identify where improvement is needed and to obtain assistance in improving those skills) with respect to matters such as child development, family budgeting, coping with stress, health, and nutrition;*

- (F) infant safe haven programs to provide a way for a parent to safely relinquish a newborn infant at a safe haven designated pursuant to a State law;*

- (G)(i) peer-to-peer mentoring and support programs with demonstrated experience fostering constructive relationships between children and families and mentors with relevant lived experience or interactions with the child welfare system; and*

- (ii) for purposes of this subpart, an expenditure for a service described in clause (i) may be treated as an expenditure for any 1 or more of family support services, family preservation services, family reunification services, or adoption promotion and support services, as long as the expenditure is related to serving the children and families in the specified category and consistent with the overall purpose of the category; and*

- (H)(i) services providing nonrecurring short term benefits (including supports related to housing instability, utilities, transportation, and food assistance, among other basic needs) that address immediate needs related to a specific crisis, situation, or event affecting the ability of a child to remain in a home established for the child that is not intended to meet an ongoing need; and*

- (ii) for purposes of this subpart, an expenditure for a service described in clause (i) may be treated as an expenditure for any 1 or more of family support services, family preservation services, family reunification services, or adoption promotion and support services as long as the expenditure is related to serving the children and families in the specified category and consistent with the overall purpose of the category.*

**(2) Family support services**

**(A) In general**

*The term “family support services” means community-based services, including services*

provided by family resource centers, designed to carry out the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

(B) Purposes described

The purposes described in this subparagraph are the following:

- (i) To promote the safety and well-being of children, youth, and families.
- (ii) To increase the strength and stability of families (including adoptive, foster, and kinship families).
- (iii) To support and retain foster families so they can provide quality family-based settings for children in foster care.
- (iv) To increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities.
- (v) To afford children a safe, stable, and supportive family environment.
- (vi) To strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages.
- (vii) To enhance child development, including through mentoring.

(3) State agency

The term "State agency" means the State agency responsible for administering the program under subpart 1.

(4) State

The term "State" includes an Indian tribe or tribal organization, in addition to the meaning given such term for purposes of subpart 1.

(5) Indian tribe

The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 628(d) of this title.

(6) Tribal organization

The term "tribal organization" has the meaning given the term in section 628(d) of this title.

(7) Family reunification services

(A) In general

The term "family reunification services" means the services and activities described in subparagraph (B) that are provided to a child that is removed from the child's home and placed with kinship caregivers or in a foster family home or a child care institution or a child who has been returned home and to the parents or primary caregiver of such a child, in order to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately within a timely fashion and to ensure the strength and stability of the reunification. In the case of a child who has been returned home, the services and activities shall only be provided during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child returns home.

(B) Services and activities described

The services and activities described in this subparagraph are the following:

- (i) Individual, group, and family counseling.
- (ii) Inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services.
- (iii) Mental health services.
- (iv) Assistance to address domestic violence.
- (v) Services designed to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries.

(vi) Peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers.

(vii) Services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings.

(viii) Transportation to or from any of the services and activities described in this subparagraph.

(8) Adoption promotion and support services

The term "adoption promotion and support services" means services and activities designed to encourage more adoptions out of the foster care system, when adoptions promote the best interests of children, including such activities as pre- and post-adoptive services and activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

(9) Non-Federal funds

The term "non-Federal funds" means State funds, or at the option of a State, State and local funds.

(10) Family resource center

(A) In general

The term "family resource center" means a community or school-based hub of support services for families that—

- (i) utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered;
- (ii) reflects, and is responsive to, community needs and interests;
- (iii) provides support at no or low cost for participants; and
- (iv) builds communities of peer support for families, including kinship families, to develop social connections that reduce isolation and stress.

(B) Special rule

For purposes of this subpart, an expenditure for a service provided by a family resource center may be treated as an expenditure for any 1 or more of family support services, family preservation services, family reunification services, or adoption promotion and support services as long as the expenditure is related to serving the children and families in the specified category and consistent with the overall purpose of the category.

(11) Youth

The term "youth" means an individual who has not attained 26 years of age.

(12) Mentoring

The term "mentoring" means a structured, managed program in which children are appropriately matched with screened and trained adult volunteers for one on-one relationships, involving meetings and activities on a regular basis, intended to meet, in part, the child's need for involvement with a caring and supportive adult who provides a positive role model.

(b) Other terms

For other definitions of other terms used in this subpart, see section 675 of this title.

(c) Use of technology

(1) Use of portal

The services referred to in subsection (a) may include the means of access to and use of an elec-

*tronic or digital portal to facilitate the provision of community support to care for and meet specific needs of families and children.*

(2) *Limitation*

*Such a portal shall not retain or share personally identifiable information about a beneficiary without consent or for any purpose other than referral.*

*See 2025 Amendment notes below.*

**Editorial Notes**

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 431 of act Aug. 14, 1935, was classified to section 631 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-485.

**AMENDMENTS**

2025—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 118-258, § 110(a)(1)(A), substituted “children, youth,” for “children” and “kinship and adoptive” for “adoptive and extended” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 118-258, § 110(a)(1)(B), substituted “parents, kinship caregivers, and foster parents” for “parents and other caregivers (including foster parents)”.

Subsec. (a)(1)(G). Pub. L. 118-258, § 110(a)(1)(C)–(E), added subpar. (G).

Subsec. (a)(1)(H). Pub. L. 118-258, § 111(a), added subpar. (H).

Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 118-258, § 106(b)(1), inserted “, including services provided by family resource centers,” before “designed”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B)(i). Pub. L. 118-258, § 110(a)(2)(A), substituted “children, youth,” for “children”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 118-258, § 110(a)(2)(B), substituted “kinship” for “extended”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B)(vii). Pub. L. 118-258, § 113(b)(1), struck out “(as defined in section 629i(b)(2) of this title)” after “through mentoring”.

Subsec. (a)(5), (6). Pub. L. 118-258, § 107(a)(3)(B), substituted “628(d) of this title” for “628(c) of this title”.

Subsec. (a)(7)(A). Pub. L. 118-258, § 110(a)(3), inserted “with kinship caregivers or” before “in a foster family home”.

Subsec. (a)(10). Pub. L. 118-258, § 106(b)(2), added par. (10).

Subsec. (a)(11). Pub. L. 118-258, § 110(a)(4), added par. (11).

Subsec. (a)(12). Pub. L. 118-258, § 113(b)(2), added par. (12).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 118-258, § 106(a), added subsec. (c). 2018—Subsec. (a)(2)(B)(iii) to (vii). Pub. L. 115-123, § 50751(a), added cl. (iii) and redesignated former cls. (iii) to (vi) as (iv) to (vii), respectively.

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 115-123, § 50721(a)(1), substituted “Family” for “Time-limited family” in heading.

Subsec. (a)(7)(A). Pub. L. 115-123, § 50721(a)(2), struck out “time-limited” before “family reunification”, inserted “or a child who has been returned home” after “child care institution”, and substituted “and to ensure the strength and stability of the reunification. In the case of a child who has been returned home, the services and activities shall only be provided during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child returns home” for “, but only during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child, pursuant to section 675(5)(F) of this title, is considered to have entered foster care”.

2011—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 112-34, § 102(c)(1), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The term ‘family support services’ means community-based services to promote the safety and well-being of children and families designed to increase the strength and stability of families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families), to increase parents’ confidence and competence in their parenting abilities, to

afford children a safe, stable, and supportive family environment, to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages, and otherwise to enhance child development.”

Subsec. (a)(5), (6). Pub. L. 112-34, § 102(d), added pars. (5) and (6) and struck out former pars. (5) and (6) which read as follows:

“(5) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘tribal organization’ means the recognized governing body of any Indian tribe.

“(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ means any Indian tribe (as defined in section 682(i)(5) of this title, as in effect before August 22, 1996) and any Alaska Native organization (as defined in section 682(i)(7)(A) of this title, as so in effect).”

Subsec. (a)(7)(B)(vi) to (viii). Pub. L. 112-34, § 102(c)(2), added cls. (vi) and (vii) and redesignated former cl. (vi) as (viii).

2006—Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 109-288 substituted “1996” for “1986”.

2002—Subsec. (a)(1)(F). Pub. L. 107-133, § 102(a), added subpar. (F).

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 107-133, § 102(b), inserted “to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages,” after “environment.”.

1999—Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 106-169 inserted “, as in effect before August 22, 1986” after “682(i)(5) of this title” and “, as so in effect” after “682(i)(7)(A) of this title”.

1997—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 105-89, § 305(c)(2)(A)(i), inserted “safe and” before “appropriate” in cls. (i) and (ii).

Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 105-89, § 305(c)(2)(A)(ii), inserted “safely” after “remain”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 105-89, § 305(c)(2)(B), inserted “safety and” before “well-being of children” and substituted “safe, stable, and supportive family” for “stable and supportive family”.

Subsec. (a)(7), (8). Pub. L. 105-89, § 305(b)(2), added pars. (7) and (8).

Subsec. (a)(9). Pub. L. 105-89, § 305(d)(1), added par. (9).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2025 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 118-258 effective Oct. 1, 2025, and applicable to payments under this part for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, with delay permitted if either State legislation or tribal action is required to meet additional requirements, see section 117 of Pub. L. 118-258, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by section 50721(a) of Pub. L. 115-123 effective Oct. 1, 2018, subject to transition rules for required State legislation or tribal action, see section 50734 of Pub. L. 115-123, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2011 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-34 effective Oct. 1, 2011, and applicable to payments under this part and part E of this subchapter for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, without regard to whether implementing regulations have been promulgated, and with delay permitted if State legislation is required to meet additional requirements, see section 107 of Pub. L. 112-34, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-288 effective Oct. 1, 2006, and applicable to payments under this part and part E of this subchapter for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, without regard to whether implementing regulations have been promulgated, and with delay permitted if State legislation is required to meet additional requirements, see section 12(a), (b) of Pub. L. 109-288, set out as a note under section 621 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-133 effective Jan. 17, 2002, with delay permitted if State legislation is required, see section 301 of Pub. L. 107-133, set out as a note under section 629 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-169 effective as if included in the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-193, see section 401(q) of Pub. L. 106-169, set out as a note under section 602 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 305(b)(2), (c)(2) of Pub. L. 105-89 effective Nov. 19, 1997, except as otherwise provided, with delay permitted if State legislation is required, see section 501 of Pub. L. 105-89, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

Pub. L. 105-89, title III, §305(d)(2), Nov. 19, 1997, 111 Stat. 2132, provided that: "The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] takes effect as if included in the enactment of section 13711 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-33 [103-66]; 107 Stat. 649)."

**§ 629b. State plans****(a) Plan requirements**

A State plan meets the requirements of this subsection if the plan—

(1) provides that the State agency shall administer, or supervise the administration of, the State program under this subpart;

(2)(A)(i) sets forth the goals intended to be accomplished under the plan by the end of the 5th fiscal year in which the plan is in operation in the State, and (ii) is updated periodically to set forth the goals intended to be accomplished under the plan by the end of each 5th fiscal year thereafter;

(B) describes the methods to be used in measuring progress toward accomplishment of the goals;

(C) contains assurances that the State—

(i) after the end of each of the 1st 4 fiscal years covered by a set of goals, will perform an interim review of progress toward accomplishment of the goals, and on the basis of the interim review will revise the statement of goals in the plan, if necessary, to reflect changed circumstances; and

(ii) after the end of the last fiscal year covered by a set of goals, will perform a final review of progress toward accomplishment of the goals, and on the basis of the final review (I) will prepare, transmit to the Secretary, and make available to the public a final report on progress toward accomplishment of the goals, and (II) will develop (in consultation with the entities required to be consulted pursuant to subsection (b)) and add to the plan a statement of the goals intended to be accomplished by the end of the 5th succeeding fiscal year;

(3) provides for coordination, to the extent feasible and appropriate, of the provision of services under the plan and the provision of services or benefits under other Federal or federally assisted programs serving the same populations;

(4) contains assurances that not more than 10 percent of expenditures under the plan for

any fiscal year with respect to which the State is eligible for payment under section 629d of this title for the fiscal year shall be for administrative costs, and that the remaining expenditures shall be for programs of family preservation services, community-based family support services, family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services, with significant portions of such expenditures for each such program;

(5) contains assurances that the State will—

(A) annually prepare, furnish to the Secretary, and make available to the public a description (including separate descriptions with respect to family preservation services, community-based family support services, family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services) of—

(i) the service programs to be made available under the plan in the immediately succeeding fiscal year;

(ii) the populations which the programs will serve; and

(iii) the geographic areas in the State in which the services will be available; and

(B) perform the activities described in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of the 1st fiscal year under the plan, at the time the State submits its initial plan; and

(ii) in the case of each succeeding fiscal year, by the end of the 3rd quarter of the immediately preceding fiscal year;

(6) provides for such methods of administration as the Secretary finds to be necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the plan;

(7)(A) contains assurances that Federal funds provided to the State under this subpart will not be used to supplant Federal or non-Federal funds for existing services and activities which promote the purposes of this subpart; and

(B) provides that the State will furnish reports to the Secretary, at such times, in such format, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, that demonstrate the State's compliance with the prohibition contained in subparagraph (A);

(8)(A) provides that the State agency will furnish such reports, containing such information, and participate in such evaluations, as the Secretary may require; and

(B) provides that, not later than June 30 of each year, the State will submit to the Secretary—

(i) copies of form CFS-101 (including all parts and any successor forms) that report on planned child and family services expenditures by the agency for the immediately succeeding fiscal year; and

(ii) copies of form CFS-101 (including all parts and any successor forms) that provide, with respect to the programs authorized under this subpart and subpart 1 and, at State option, other programs included on such forms, for the most recent preceding fiscal year for which reporting of actual expenditures is complete—

(I) the numbers of families and of children served by the State agency;