

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, § 475A, as added and amended Pub. L. 113-183, title I, §§ 112(b)(1), 113(d), Sept. 29, 2014, 128 Stat. 1926, 1929; Pub. L. 115-123, div. E, title VII, § 50742, Feb. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 257.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-123 added subsec. (c).

2014—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 113-183, § 113(d), added subsec. (b).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-123 effective Oct. 1, 2019, with State option to delay effective date for not more than 2 years and subject to State waiver provisions, see section 50746 of Pub. L. 115-123, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 113(d) of Pub. L. 113-183 effective on the date that is 1 year after Sept. 29, 2014, with delay permitted if State legislation is required, see section 113(f) of Pub. L. 113-183, set out as a note under section 675 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the date that is 1 year after Sept. 29, 2014, with delay permitted if State legislation is required, see section 112(c) of Pub. L. 113-183, set out as an Effective Date of 2014 Amendment note under section 622 of this title.

§ 676. Administration

(a) Technical assistance to States

The Secretary may provide technical assistance to the States to assist them to develop the programs authorized under this part and shall periodically (1) evaluate the programs authorized under this part and part B of this subchapter and (2) collect and publish data pertaining to the incidence and characteristics of foster care and adoptions in this country.

(b) Data collection and evaluation

Each State shall submit statistical reports as the Secretary may require with respect to children for whom payments are made under this part containing information with respect to such children including legal status, demographic characteristics, location, and length of any stay in foster care.

(c) Technical assistance and implementation services for tribal programs

(1) Authority

The Secretary shall provide technical assistance and implementation services that are dedicated to improving services and permanency outcomes for Indian children and their families through the provision of assistance described in paragraph (2).

(2) Assistance provided

(A) In general

The technical assistance and implementation services shall be to—

- (i) provide information, advice, educational materials, and technical assistance to Indian tribes and tribal organiza-

tions with respect to the types of services, administrative functions, data collection, program management, and reporting that are required under State plans under part B and this part;

(ii) assist and provide technical assistance to—

(I) Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia seeking to operate a program under part B or under this part through direct application to the Secretary under section 679c of this title; and

(II) Indian tribes, tribal organizations, tribal consortia, and States seeking to develop cooperative agreements to provide for payments under this part or satisfy the requirements of section 622(b)(9), 671(a)(32), or 677(b)(3)(G) of this title; and

(iii) subject to subparagraph (B), make one-time grants, to tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal consortia that are seeking to develop, and intend, not later than 24 months after receiving such a grant to submit to the Secretary a plan under section 671 of this title to implement a program under this part as authorized by section 679c of this title, that shall—

(I) not exceed \$300,000; and

(II) be used for the cost of developing a plan under section 671 of this title to carry out a program under section 679c of this title, including costs related to development of necessary data collection systems, a cost allocation plan, agency and tribal court procedures necessary to meet the case review system requirements under section 675(5) of this title, or any other costs attributable to meeting any other requirement necessary for approval of such a plan under this part.

(B) Grant condition

(i) In general

As a condition of being paid a grant under subparagraph (A)(iii), a tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium shall agree to repay the total amount of the grant awarded if the tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium fails to submit to the Secretary a plan under section 671 of this title to carry out a program under section 679c of this title by the end of the 24-month period described in that subparagraph.

(ii) Exception

The Secretary shall waive the requirement to repay a grant imposed by clause (i) if the Secretary determines that a tribe's, tribal organization's, or tribal consortium's failure to submit a plan within such period was the result of circumstances beyond the control of the tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium.

(C) Implementation authority

The Secretary may provide the technical assistance and implementation services described in subparagraph (A) either directly

or through a grant or contract with public or private organizations knowledgeable and experienced in the field of Indian tribal affairs and child welfare.

(3) Appropriation

There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this subsection.

(d) Technical assistance and best practices, clearinghouse, data collection, and evaluations relating to prevention services and programs

(1) Technical assistance and best practices

The Secretary shall provide to States and, as applicable, to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia, technical assistance regarding the provision of services and programs described in section 671(e)(1) of this title and shall disseminate best practices with respect to the provision of the services and programs, including how to plan and implement a well-designed and rigorous evaluation of a promising, supported, or well-supported practice.

(2) Clearinghouse of promising, supported, and well-supported practices

The Secretary shall, directly or through grants, contracts, or interagency agreements, evaluate research on the practices specified in clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively, of section 671(e)(4)(C) of this title, and programs that meet the requirements described in section 627(a)(1) of this title, including culturally specific, or location- or population-based adaptations of the practices, to identify and establish a public clearinghouse of the practices that satisfy each category described by such clauses. In addition, the clearinghouse shall include information on the specific outcomes associated with each practice, including whether the practice has been shown to prevent child abuse and neglect and reduce the likelihood of foster care placement by supporting birth families and kinship families and improving targeted supports for pregnant and parenting youth and their children.

(3) Data collection and evaluations

The Secretary, directly or through grants, contracts, or interagency agreements, may collect data and conduct evaluations with respect to the provision of services and programs described in section 671(e)(1) of this title for purposes of assessing the extent to which the provision of the services and programs—

- (A) reduces the likelihood of foster care placement;
- (B) increases use of kinship care arrangements; or
- (C) improves child well-being.

(4) Reports to Congress

(A) In general

The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House

of Representatives periodic reports based on the provision of services and programs described in section 671(e)(1) of this title and the activities carried out under this subsection.

(B) Public availability

The Secretary shall make the reports to Congress submitted under this paragraph publicly available.

(5) Appropriation

Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this subsection.

(e) Evaluation of State procedures and protocols to prevent inappropriate diagnoses of mental illness or other conditions

The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the procedures and protocols established by States in accordance with the requirements of section 622(b)(15)(A)(vii) of this title. The evaluation shall analyze the extent to which States comply with and enforce the procedures and protocols and the effectiveness of various State procedures and protocols and shall identify best practices. Not later than January 1, 2020, the Secretary shall submit a report on the results of the evaluation to Congress.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §476, as added Pub. L. 96-272, title I, §101(a)(1), June 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 511; amended Pub. L. 110-351, title III, §302, Oct. 7, 2008, 122 Stat. 3972; Pub. L. 115-123, div. E, title VII, §§50711(d), 50743(b), Feb. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 242, 260.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

- 2018—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-123, § 50711(d), added subsec. (d).
- Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 115-123, § 50743(b), added subsec. (e).
- 2008—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 110-351 added subsec. (c).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 50711(d) of Pub. L. 115-123 effective Feb. 9, 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.

Amendment by section 50743(b) of Pub. L. 115-123 effective as if enacted on Jan. 1, 2018, subject to transition rule and State waiver provisions, see section 50746 of Pub. L. 115-123, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-351 effective Oct. 7, 2008, and applicable to payments under this part and part B of this subchapter for quarters beginning on or after such date, with delay permitted if State legislation is required to meet additional requirements, see section 601 of Pub. L. 110-351, set out as a note under section 671 of this title.

§ 677. John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

(a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide States with flexible funding that will enable programs to be designed and conducted—

(1) to support all youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood through transitional services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma and post-secondary education, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training and opportunities to practice daily living skills (such as financial literacy training and driving instruction), substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention);

(2) to help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older achieve meaningful, permanent connections with a caring adult;

(3) to help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities, positive youth development, and experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience;

(4) to provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certification under subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) to provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained such age, in accordance with such subsection) to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood;

(5) to make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary training and education, to youths who have aged out of foster care;

(6) to provide the services referred to in this subsection to children who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption; and

(7) to ensure children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age have regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally-appropriate activities as defined in section 675(11) of this title.

(b) Applications

(1) In general

A State may apply for funds from its allotment under subsection (c) for a period of five consecutive fiscal years by submitting to the Secretary, in writing, a plan that meets the requirements of paragraph (2) and the certifications required by paragraph (3) with respect to the plan.

(2) State plan

A plan meets the requirements of this paragraph if the plan specifies which State agency

or agencies will administer, supervise, or oversee the programs carried out under the plan, and describes how the State intends to do the following:

(A) Design and deliver programs to achieve the purposes of this section.

(B) Ensure that all political subdivisions in the State are served by the program, though not necessarily in a uniform manner.

(C) Ensure that the programs serve children of various ages and at various stages of achieving independence.

(D) Involve the public and private sectors in helping youth in foster care achieve independence.

(E) Use objective criteria for determining eligibility for benefits and services under the programs, and for ensuring fair and equitable treatment of benefit recipients.

(F) Cooperate in national evaluations of the effects of the programs in achieving the purposes of this section.

(3) Certifications

The certifications required by this paragraph with respect to a plan are the following:

(A)(i) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age.

(ii) If the State has elected under section 675(8)(B) of this title to extend eligibility for foster care to all children who have not attained 21 years of age, or if the Secretary determines that the State agency responsible for administering the State plans under this part and part B uses State funds or any other funds not provided under this part to provide services and assistance for youths who have aged out of foster care that are comparable to the services and assistance the youths would receive if the State had made such an election, the certification required under clause (i) may provide that the State will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 23 years of age.

(B) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) for a fiscal year will be expended for room or board for youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a State with a certification under subparagraph (A)(i) to provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained such age, in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii)).

(C) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that none of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment under subsection (c) will be expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age.

(D) A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State will use training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and