Adoption Assistance

Note Taking Guide

At the end of this training, you will be able to:
1. Explain how adoption assistance supports permanency
2. Describe the adoption subsidy programs
3. Describe subsidy negotiation strategies
4. Describe the impact of diversity on subsidy negotiation

Introduction and WIIFM

- Families will likely find discussion of financial needs uncomfortable but will share because it means they can be a child’s forever family.
- Adoption subsidies have helped to alleviate financial obstacles and barriers in considering adoption (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2011).
- Adoption assistance negotiation is required by rule 5101:2-4-05. Applying this definition to adoption subsidy negotiation, agencies should have a discussion with the family about their financial barriers to adopt, and then work together towards a mutually acceptable subsidy amount that will meet the child’s needs.

Values and Beliefs of Adoption Subsidy

- The potential benefits of subsidy include: Leads to permanency, enhances the child’s well-being, saves agency and state money.
- Negotiating a 0.00 subsidy is needed at times and is referred to as Deferred Adoption Assistance.
- There is a mandate to distribute the subsidy information with all family inquiries which can be met in the distribution of JFS 01985.
Adoption Subsidy Programs

- The five Adoption Subsidy Programs are: Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy, Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses Subsidy, Adoption Assistance Connections to 21(AAC), Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy.

- Other laws that affect adoption subsidy include the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance Program, The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, and Non-discrimination laws.
Steps in Subsidy Negotiations

- Steps in the negotiation process
  - Exploration
  - Information Exchange
  - Clarification
  - Closing and Commitment

Role of the Assessor in Negotiations

- Assessors should be familiar with ODJFS rules and ORC and OAC codes regarding subsidy and adoption.
- Assessors working in a PCSA will need to document any discussions of subsidy that occur with a family within the SACWIS system.
- Assessors can support a family in the negotiation process by providing information and tools such as a financial planning guide.
Summary and Action Planning

- What are three “take-aways” from this training that you can share with your supervisor?

1. 

2. 

3. 

Resources

**Ohio Child Welfare Training Program**
Training handouts and supplemental resources
http://www.ocwtp.net/Trainee%20Resources.htm#A

**SACWIS Knowledge Base**
Resources and training materials on utilizing SACWIS
http://jfskb.com/sacwis/

**Adoption Assistance Information and Forms**
For copies of the forms, go to ODJFS Forms Central (https://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/inter.asp) and search for form by name or number.

**General Information**
JFS 01985  Adoption Subsidies Guide
JFS 01975  Ohio Adoption Guide, A Handbook for Prospective Adoptive Families

**Adoption Assistance (IV-E)**
JFS 01451  Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Application
JFS 01453  Adoption Assistance Agreement
JFS 01454  Approval and Agreement for Title IV-E Retroactive Adoption Assistance Payments

**Non-recurring Adoption Expenses**
JFS 01421  Application for Reimbursement of Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses
Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy
JFS 01050  Application for Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy
JFS 01051  Application for Additional Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy Funding for Extraordinary Circumstances
JFS 01052  Credentials for Providers of PASSS Funded Therapeutic Services and Memorandum of Understanding
JFS 01652  Credential of Professional Providers of PASSS Funded Therapeutic Services and Memorandum of Understanding

State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy - SAMS
JFS 01613  Application for State Adoption Subsidy
JFS 01614  Redetermination or Amendment of a State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy
JFS 01615  Approval for State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy

Adoption Assistance Connections to Age Twenty-One (AAC)
JFS 00147 AAC application
JFS 00148 AAC to 21 Agreement

Adoption Subsidy Web Links

Chapter 5101:2-49 contains Title IV-E rules, Chapter 5101:2-44 contains State Adoption Maintenance subsidy and Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy rules


ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings – jfs.ohio.gov/ols/bsi/index.stm

ODJFS State Hearings and Appeals – http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/HearingsAppeals/
Copies of State Hearings and Administrative Appeals

Information for associates of each state’s subsidy program

Articles and information about child welfare issues including adoption subsidies

Tax Guide for Foster and Adoptive Parents -  https://nfpaonline.org/taxinfo
Developed by the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA)