

Is Arizona self-funding training activities that are eligible for federal funding?



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Drawing upon the expertise of faculty from across ASU's research enterprise, we work to increase resilience among families and to build safer and more vibrant communities for young people.

Faculty researchers and students support, sustain, and improve community-based public services to children and families.

our vision

We believe society can collectively overcome challenges and make a difference by ensuring the health and well-being of its children.

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PROBLEM FOCUS & TARGET POPULATION



Federal Title IV-E regulations allow states to significantly reduce the cost of training:

- public child welfare workers,
- child caregivers, and
- other constituents (target population).

Few states have fully realized this potential due to a lack of awareness, lack of dedicated staffing, and lack of information on successful Title IV-E partnership models.

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TITLE IV-E AT-A-GLANCE



Title IV-E is a federal funding mechanism tied to the Social Security Act which began in 1980. It is intended to support children from economically poor families who are under the care and custody of the public child welfare system.

NOTE: not all children in the system are considered "economically poor". Each state's eligibility income standard is different according to the AFDC standards from 1996.

In order for states to access Title IV-E, services must be fully funded at the state level and the states may "bill" the federal government quarterly for eligible activities performed. The federal portion is a percentage of total costs which is returned to the state public child welfare agency only after the successful completion of services.

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TITLE IV-E AT-A-GLANCE



What costs do the feds participate in?

1. Costs associated with the room and boarding of dependent children who are considered "economically poor".
2. Costs associated with the administration of the foster care program (case management, child placement, licensing, etc.)
3. Training of agency staff, foster-adoptive-guardianship parents, courts and other who are serving Title IV-E eligible children.

This presentation is concerned with this last area = training

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20+ TRAINING TOPICS CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE



Social work practice	Permanency planning	Independent living
Relational competence & communication skills	Risk & protective factors	Impact of child abuse and neglect on a child
Evidence-based techniques for case planning	Facilitating attachment & promoting stable relationships	Child social/emotional development and well-being
Cultural competence (incl. sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression)	Resilience; strategies for minimizing traumatic experiences of placement for children	General mental health, domestic violence, substance abuse,
Use of screening & assessment tools to develop a case plan	Activities designed to preserve, strengthen & reunify the family	Effects of separation, grief & loss, and family visitation

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COMMON TITLE IV-E PARTNERSHIP MODELS



Extending training to (and through) community partners supports the purpose of the 2008 Fostering Connections Act:

- "to promote a system of care approach where all participants are trained to 1) perform effectively, while 2) understanding the role and limitation placed on their system partners", and
- the premise that "child welfare will not recognize optimum success without the support of well-trained partners".

Common inter-agency Title IV-E Training agreements between public child welfare agencies:

- **Universities** for the education of future social workers who commit to working for the agency,
- **Educational institutions** who perform training services on behalf of the public child welfare agency, and
- **Courts** who administer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs

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ARIZONA'S PARTNERSHIP MODEL



Arizona State University (ASU) and the Department of Child Safety (DCS) have established a multi-year Title IV-E agreement which fully captures both child welfare and university training activities which are eligible for federal funding participation through 2021.

- To date, this agreement has resulted in a decrease in state and university costs associated with these activities ranging from 26% to 42%.
- It has increased Arizona's federal Title IV-E claim by over \$1.5 million in the last year and a half (on eligible activities that were previously not reportable).

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ARIZONA'S PARTNERSHIP MODEL



As partners, ASU and DCS, are interested in extending this partnership model as broadly as possible within the federal guidelines.

- Expanded training audiences (2008 Fostering Connections Act)
- Expanded training topics (Section 474(a)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act)
- Coming Soon: Family First Prevention Services Act (HR 5456 June 13, 2016)

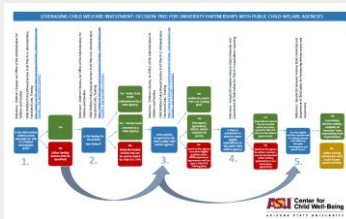
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ASSESSING TITLE IV-E ELIGIBILITY



Decision Tree for University Partnerships with Public Child Welfare (the Arizona experience through 2016)



5 Steps to extend Title IV-E participation through partnership.

Results to date:
\$1.5 million in ASU expenditures* included in AZ federal claim.

* above and beyond the BSW/MSW IV-E Stipend program

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EXPANDING THE MODEL



What led us to a statewide training scan?

1. Can we utilize the partnership in place between ASU and DCS to assess Title IV-E eligibility on a broader scale?
2. Does it support each party's interests?
 - ✓ ASU = academic area of interest
 - ✓ ASU = may inform Center for Child Well-Being's focus on training & community engagement
 - ✓ DCS = may inform opportunities to expand training for staff & foster parents
 - ✓ DCS = may fulfill CFSR & Title IV-B Training Plan strategies

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INCREASED BENEFITS



Assessing the broader human service community for existing Title IV-E activities and offering a model of University Partnership may:

1. Decrease state spending by increasing federal participation in the training of staff, stakeholders & the family unit
2. Allow for greater collaboration across human service systems in terms of common training topics
3. Potentially generate a brand new funding stream (through FFP) that could be accessed by the broader training community to develop new and improved training for human service agencies

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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



Purpose:

1. To catalog the wide variety of existing training topics occurring across systems
2. To inform future training opportunities for staff, system partners, and/or the family unit (birth, kinship, foster & adoptive)
3. To identify and formally recognize training that may qualify for federal funding pursuant to Section 474(3)(A) of the Social Security Act and 45 CFR 1356.60

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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



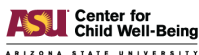
Research Premise

Arizona is self-funding training of staff, stakeholders, and the family unit (birth/adoptive/foster/kin) that would be eligible for Federal Title IV-E funding if:

1. There was a way to identify such training
2. It was recognized by the Department of Child Safety (pursuant to Title IV-E allowances)

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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



Survey Design & Methodology

Online anonymous survey format

- Average length of time for survey completion = 20 minutes
- 45 questions - mostly multiple choice
- 1 question requesting respondents to list 3 of their partner organizations (convenience sample)

485 Total Target Respondents (survey invite sent via organizational email)
= 117 unduplicated agency respondents or 24% response rate

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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



Survey Responses

What is the primary focus or line of business for your organization?



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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



Survey Responses

Who are the recipients of your organizations products/services?

*duplicated counts / organization may be represented in more than one category

- 69 organizations serve caregivers of children who are in out-of-home care (legal dependents of the public child welfare system)
- 82 organizations serve children who are in out-of-home care (legal dependents of the public child welfare system)
- 88 organizations serve children and families at risk of involvement (or who are already involved) w/ the public child welfare system

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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



Survey Responses

What types of organizations responded?

- 66% Not for profit/Non-profit organizations
- 21% For-profit organizations
- 9% Public/Government agencies
- 4% other (mostly sole proprietorships and or LLC)

What size of organizations responded?

- 32% with 1-49 total employees
- 41% with 50-199 total employees
- 18% with 200-599 total employees
- 9% with more than 600 total employees

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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



Survey Responses

100% of survey respondents report conducting training eligible for Title IV-E participation

59% of these agencies report no current contractual relationship with the public child welfare agency (Department of Child Safety)

78 agencies have requested follow-up from ASU regarding their interest in learning more about partnership opportunities as well as funding mechanisms for training

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STATEWIDE TRAINING SCAN



Survey Responses

ASU considers the survey as a first step and way to "open the door" to conversations related to both partnership as well as maximization of Title IV-E funding.

1. ASU will meet with DCS to inform them of initial survey results and form a collaborative plan to explore the feasibility of extending Title IV-E partnership to new agencies
2. ASU will conduct more in-depth follow-up with the 78 agencies who indicated they want more information in order to further educate the human service community regarding Title IV-E partnership possibilities

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ADVANCING CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING



Strategic Partnerships for Child Welfare Training: (The numbers)

- 1 Multi-year agreement with Department of Child Safety (DCS) that acts as the mechanism to report Title IV-E expenditures for inclusion in federal claims through 2021
- 5 Quarterly reports of ASU Title IV-E eligible expenditures included in AZ's federal claims (representing over \$1.5 million increase in training activities)
- 4 Presentations at national and local conferences / AZ named as host state for the 2017 National Title IV-E Roundtable conference.
- 78 Arizona organizations interested in exploring feasibility of Title IV-E partnership as a result of a statewide scan of human service provider training
- 3 Tools & Reference Materials specific to University Title IV-E Partnerships:
 - Title IV-E Decision Tree for University & Child Welfare Administrators
 - Hightower, A. (2015). *Leveraging federal funding to support foster parent training: A resource for public child welfare and university administrators.*
 - 20 minute companion video presentation: <https://vimeo.com/162422588>

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