



# Collaborating to Access Federal Reimbursement for Training

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Andrea Hightower, MS-FHD, ASU Center for Child Well-Being  
Patience Pearson, MSW, Arizona Department of Child Safety

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**Who Are We?**



**Andrea Hightower, MS-FHD**  
Project Coordinator, Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement  
ASU, Center for Child Well-Being

**Patience Pearson, MSW**  
Child Safety Specialist  
Arizona Department of Child Safety

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**Who Are You?**



1. Name
2. Organization (if applicable)
3. Interest in today's topic

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# Can we spend less state funding on training through collaboration?

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Since 2012, DCS and ASU have worked collaboratively to assess and make recommendations on how to expand the training performed under the 2008 Fostering Connections Act and to promote cross-system collaboration among state agencies and providers of child welfare training.




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## Topics eligible for Title IV-E Reimbursement

Do you provide training in these topics to:	Your own Human Services Staff	System Partners/other Human Services Staff	Alternate child caregiver (kinship, foster, adoptive, guardian)
Activities designed to preserve, strengthen & reunify the family	?	?	?
Risk and Protective Factors & prevention; effective strategies for prevention	?	?	?
Facilitating attachment & Promoting stable relationships	?	?	?
Resilience; strategies for minimizing traumatic experiences of placement for children	?	?	?
Relational Competence & Communication Skills for working with children & families	?	?	?

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**Topics eligible for Title IV-E Reimbursement**

Do you provide training in these topics to:	Your own Human Services Staff	System Partners/other Human Services Staff	Alternate child caregiver (kinship, foster, adoptive, guardian)
Independent Living and issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living	?	?	?
Impact of child abuse and neglect issues, such as the impact on a child	?	?	?
Child social/emotional development & well-being; principles of child growth and social, emotional, physical & intellectual development	?	?	?
General mental health, domestic violence & substance abuse related to children and families	?	?	?
Effects of separation, grief and loss & family visitation	?	?	?

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**Topics eligible for Title IV-E Reimbursement**

Do you provide training in these topics to:	Your own Human Services Staff	System Partners/other Human Services Staff	Alternate child caregiver (kinship, foster, adoptive, guardian)
Social Work Practice (e.g. family centered practice & SW methods)	?	?	?
Permanency Planning including using kinship care as a resource for children	?	?	?
Evidence-based techniques for case planning & supporting agency culture to sustain evidence-based practices	?	?	?
Cultural Competence: how to assess and serve the needs of children without bias and ensure their safety, (incl. how to parent youth struggling w/ sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression)	?	?	?
Use of screening & assessment tools for the development of a case plan	?	?	?

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## What are the origins of Title IV-E?

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A federal funding mechanism tied to the Social Security Act 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.

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# What costs do the feds participate in?



Room and boarding of dependent children who are considered "economically poor"

Administration of the foster care program (case management, child placement, licensing, etc.)

Training of agency staff, foster-adoptive-guardianship parents, courts and others who are serving Title IV-E eligible children

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## Federal Title IV-E regulations allow states to:

Significantly reduce the costs of training:

- Their own public child welfare workers;
- The **staff of agencies providing services to children** under the care and custody of the public child welfare system; ("state-licensed or approved child welfare agencies") and
- Alternative caregivers of children (kinship, foster, adoptive, guardian).

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## Passage of the Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008:

Expanded eligible training audiences to include:

- The staff of abuse & neglect courts;
- Attorneys representing the public child welfare system, the children in court proceedings, and/or parents in court proceedings; and
- Court-appointed special advocates representing children.

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Is there a Federal definition of a state-licensed or approved child welfare agency?

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The title IV-E agency (public child welfare) has the discretion to determine what kinds of agencies are child welfare agencies and the criteria for licensing or approving such agencies for the purposes of this provision.

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Under the provisions of the 2008 Fostering Connections Act, the Department identifies organizations and agencies as “approved agencies for the purpose of title IV-E training” and contracts with them to provide title IV-E reimbursement for short-term training.



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Current agreements are in place with:



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program through the Administrative Office of the Courts

BSW/MSW Stipend Educational Program through Arizona State University

Center for Child Well-Being through Arizona State University

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## California's broad definition

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### CA All County Letter (ACL) No. 09-80 12/28/2009

The California Department of Social Services has defined "state-licensed or state approved child welfare agencies" in this context to include **all entities and organizations**, including county welfare department **that engage in the development and/or implementation of the case plan** for current foster and adoptive children who receive Title IV-E assistance.

"Staff" of these agencies include **any individuals who are invited, contracted, or voluntarily participate** in support of the child and family so long as they are doing so at the behest of a state-licensed or state-approved child welfare agency.

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**CA recognized organizations & individuals:**

**Parent/Family Support Partner individuals or organizations**

Activities of engagement result in reduced resistance by the family/child and increased readiness to engage and make necessary changes as described in their case plan.

**Faith-based community organizations**

Provide culturally relevant sources of support, training, re-assessment and capacity building for the family -- providing ready access support at the local/community level.

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**CA recognized organizations & individuals:**

**Extended family members, caregivers & non-caregivers**

Maintain the continuity of care, connection, and support for children in care. As the child transitions to permanency, sustain and implement the case plan, and support and facilitate visitation.

**Tribal ICWA workers without a Title IV-E plan**

Provide essential service and supports for tribal children, youth, and families.

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**CA recognized organizations & individuals:**

**Licensed child care providers**

Support families in the implementation of the case plan and address protective issues.

**Providers of visitation services:**

Link providers who support visitation with case plan goals and objectives for children and families.

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**CA recognized organizations & individuals:**

**Providers of domestic violence and child abuse services**

Support team members in assessment, case planning, and implementation to address protective issues for children and families.

**Regional Center staff, Licensed medical staff, Providers of Mental Health services, Educational providers and advocates:**

Assess and assist in meeting the child or youth's developmental, medical, mental health, and educational needs in support of the case plan.

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**CA recognized organizations & individuals:**

**Licensed counselors:**

Support the child and family in resolving key issues and make necessary changes as described in their case plan.

**CalWORKSs Linkages staff:**

Support the family and team members in assessment, case planning, and implementation to address protective issues for children and families.

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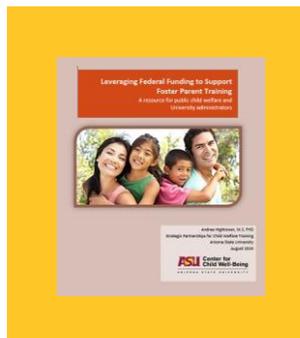
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**Leveraging Federal Funding to Support Foster Parent Training:**

A case study on how Title IV-E Training Partnership might look and what Federal Participation may result in the form of reimbursement.



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## Assessing Activities for Eligibility?

A Service of ASU's Center for Child Well-Being

We provide technical assistance in the assessment of training programs for Title IV-E eligibility, as well as education on opportunities to reduce state and local costs through Title IV-E partnership opportunities.

[child-wellbeing.asu.edu](http://child-wellbeing.asu.edu)



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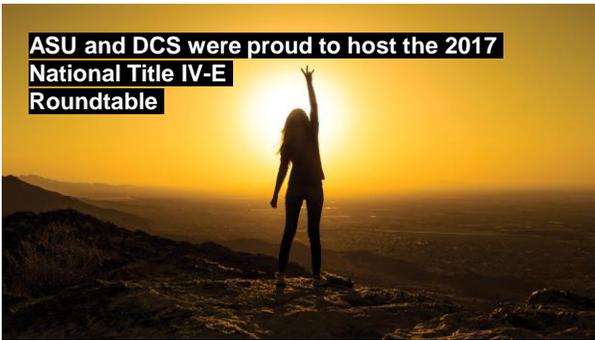
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ASU and DCS were proud to host the 2017 National Title IV-E Roundtable



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We look forward to continuing to advance collaboration and partnership in the years to come.

We welcome your thoughts, ideas, questions and insights.

[andrea.hightower@asu.edu](mailto:andrea.hightower@asu.edu)  
(602) 496-1489

**ASU** Center for Child Well-Being  
Arizona State University



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