



Administrative Policies and Procedures: 16.50

Subject:	Concurrent Eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Title IV-E Foster Care Payments
Authority:	Administration for Children, Youth and Families Policy Announcement 83-02
Standards:	DCS - 2-500, DCS - 2-501, DCS - 2-503

Policy Statement:

In cases where a foster child is concurrently eligible for both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and a Title IV-E foster care payment, the Department of Children's Services will consider the benefits and differences between SSI and Title IV-E foster care and choose the benefit that will best meet the child's immediate and future needs and is in the best interest of the foster child.

Purpose:

This policy is designed to provide Child Welfare Benefits Counselors (CWBC) with guidelines to help them assess a child's current situation and future needs and aid them in selecting the method of funding which will provide the maximum revenue to help meet a child's financial needs while they are in state custody.

A. Selection of SSI or Title IV-E Foster Care

Child Welfare Benefits Counselors (CWBC) will:

1. Consider the following factors when determining whether to request the SSI benefits or choose Title IV-E foster care benefits for a foster child who is concurrently eligible for both SSI and Title IV-E foster care benefits:
 - a) A program that will best meet the child's immediate and future needs;
 - b) Age of the child;
 - c) Length of time the foster child will remain in an out of home placement;
 - d) Extent of the child's disability and the likelihood of receiving SSI again when the child is released from custody; and
 - e) Cost of the monthly room and board payment versus the amount of the monthly SSI payment.
2. Consult with the child's Family Service Worker (FSW), as needed, concerning possible changes and other extenuating circumstances that may effect the selection of SSI or Title IV-E foster care benefits.
3. Assess the child's circumstances for any reported changes to determine if the current benefit continues to best meet the child's immediate and future needs.

<p>B. Request SSI</p>	<p>1. SSI benefits may best meet the needs of a child who is concurrently eligible for a Title IV-E foster care payment if the foster child meets <u>one</u> of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Is within six (6) months of his/her 18th birthday; orb) Is within six (6) months of his/her 17th birthday and has been targeted for transition to adult services under the Division of Mental Retardation Services; orc) Has been placed on a trial home visit and is expected to be released from custody at the end of the trial home visit; ord) Monthly room and board payment is less than \$1000;e) Documented medical impairment is marginal and only expected to last 12 to 18 months; orf) Is placed in one of the following programs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Level 3 program;◆ Level 4 program; or◆ Level 4 special needs program. <p>2. The CWBC will request the SSI payment for the foster child and designate the child's TFACTS IV-E status as eligible, non-reimbursable if it is in the child's best interest to request the SSI payment for a foster child who is concurrently eligible for Title IV-E foster care.</p>
<p>C. Select Title IV-E Foster Care</p>	<p>1. Title IV-E foster care benefits may best meet the needs of a child who is concurrently eligible for both Title IV-E foster care and SSI if the foster child meets the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Age 18 or younger;b) Not on a trial home visit and is not expected to be released from custody within 90 days;c) Monthly room and board payment is at least \$1000 because of the severity of the child's disability;d) Is placed in one of the following foster care placements or programs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ A therapeutic or medically fragile foster care placement and contract foster care;◆ Emergency Shelter;◆ Primary Treatment Centers;◆ Level 1 independent living program;◆ Level 2 residential programs;◆ Level 2 special needs program;◆ Level 2 continuum;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Level 2 special population; ◆ Level 3 continuum; or ◆ Level 3 continuum special needs program; or <p>e) Is between the ages of 18-20 and within six (6) months of completing their high school education and or an approved secondary educational program prior to youth's 20th birthday. Within 6 months of the youth's 18th birthday, DCS staff will assist the child in making application for SSI benefits in order to prepare for transition to adulthood.</p> <p>2. The CWBC will select Title IV-E foster care benefits and designate the foster child's TFACTS IV-E status as eligible and reimbursable if it is in the child's best interest to claim Title IV-E foster care benefits for a foster child who is concurrently eligible for SSI.</p>
<p>D. Notify SSA</p>	<p>1. The CWBC will inform the DCS Fiscal Unit and the child's case manager when it is in the child's best interest to claim Title IV-E foster care benefits for a foster child who is concurrently eligible for SSI.</p> <p>2. The DCS Fiscal Unit will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Inform the Social Security Administration (SSA) when Title IV-E foster care payments are being claimed for a foster child who is concurrently eligible for SSI so that the SSA can adjust the child's SSI payment to reflect IV-E maintenance funds being received on the child's behalf. b) Request the SSA place the foster child's SSI case in SSI suspense status if the IV-E maintenance funds will make the child financially ineligible for SSI benefits. c) Ensure that TFACTS reflects the changes in funding source.

<p>Forms:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Collateral documents:</p>	<p>None</p>