



**Rachel Fore**

Consultant, NTCWCIA



**NATIONAL TRIBAL**  
**CHILD WELFARE CENTER**  
FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT



**Melissa McGee**

Service Integration Manager, NTCWCIA

## Part 1 :

# Unlocking Opportunities Under Title IV-E: The Foundations -

Basics, Requirements, and Resources for Understanding Title IV-E Funding

**March 25, 2026**



**NATIONAL TRIBAL**   
**CHILD WELFARE CENTER**  
**FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT**

Presenter

**Rachel Fore**

*Consultant, NTCWCIA*



**NATIONAL TRIBAL**   
**CHILD WELFARE CENTER**  
FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT



# Title IV-E Basics



# Title IV-E Basics

Title IV-E requires that children be in the care and custody of an approved child welfare agency, placed with a licensed provider, judicial findings are made, case plans/review are conducted, financial eligibility is met, and that States/Tribes operate under a federally approved plan with fiscal and reporting oversight.

# What is Title IV-E?

Authorized by the  
Social Security Act  
as Part of the  
Code of Federal  
Regulations

Awarded by  
Formula as an  
Open-Ended  
Entitlement

Must have an  
Approved Title  
IV-E Plan to  
Operate

Funding to Provide  
Safe and Stable  
Out-of-Home Care  
for Children until  
Permanency  
Reached

# Title IV-E

## Allowable Expenses



Daily Care and Supervision of Eligible Children



Administrative Costs



Training of Staff and Foster Care Providers



Recruitment of Foster Parents



Creation and Maintenance of Data Collection Systems

# Administrative Costs

## 50% Reimbursement Rate

- Determination/Redetermination of eligibility
- Fair Hearing/appeals
- Administrative costs
- Referral to services
- Preparation for and participation in judicial determinations
- Placement of the child

- Development of the Case Plan
- Case reviews
- Case management and supervision
- Recruitment and licensing of foster homes and institutions
- Rate setting
- Proportionate share of related agency overhead
- Costs related to data collection and reporting

# Training Costs – 50% or 75% Reimbursement Rate



## Training Personnel

Staff employed or preparing for employment



## Short-Term Training

For foster/adoptive parents and childcare institutions  
(including travel)

# Title IV-E Approved Training Topics

- Eligibility determinations and re-determinations
- Fair hearings and appeals
- Rate setting
- Referral to services
- Preparation for and participation in judicial determinations
- Placement of the child
- Development of the case plan
- Case reviews
- Case management/ supervision
- Recruitment/licensing of foster homes and institutions
- Social work practice, such as family centered practice and social work methods including interviewing and assessment
- Cultural competency related to children and families
- Title IV-E policies and procedures
- Child abuse/neglect issues
- Permanency planning including using kinship care as a resource for children involved with the child welfare system
- General substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues related to children and families in the child welfare system
- Effects of separation, grief and loss, child development, and visitation

# IV-E Eligibility Rate:

# of children IV-E Eligible  
Total # of children in care

*\*\*Must be able to track this!*

*\*\*There will be 4 separate Eligibility rates = foster care, adoption, guardianship, and candidacy*

# IV-E Eligibility Rate:

$$\frac{\text{\# of children IV-E Eligible}}{\text{Total \# of children in care}}$$

100 kids in custody with 65 IV-E Eligible = 65/100  
= 65% Eligibility Rate

# IV-E Simple Calculation Example:

**allowable/allocable costs x eligibility rate x reimbursement rate = reimbursement**

$$\$100,000 \times .60 \times .50 = \$30,000$$

\$100,000 = allowable/allocable costs  
.60 = 60% eligibility rate (this will vary quarterly)  
.50 = 50% reimbursement rate



# IV-E Simple Calculation Example:

**allowable/allocable costs x  
eligibility rate x reimbursement  
rate = reimbursement**

$$\$100,000 \times .70 \times .50 = \$35,000$$

\$100,000 = allowable/allocable costs  
.70 = 70% eligibility rate (this will vary quarterly)  
.50 = 50% reimbursement rate



# IV-E Simple Calculation Example:

**allowable/allocable costs x eligibility rate x reimbursement rate = reimbursement**

$$\$100,000 \times .75 \times .75 = \$56,250$$

\$100,000 = allowable/allocable costs

.75 = 75% eligibility rate (this will vary quarterly)

.75 = 75% training reimbursement rate

\*\*Not all training is reimbursable at 75%



# Foster Care Match Example:

Example based on a 12-year-old child in out-of-home care:

Monthly Rate = \$906

12 months payments = \$10,872

FMAP Rate = 83%

Annual Federal Reimbursement =  
\$9,023.76

**Annual Match Required (17%) =  
\$1,848.24**

\*\*figures are reimbursed quarterly but showing example for a year to understand budgeting purposes.



# Foster Care Match Example:

Example based on a 12-year-old child  
in out-of-home care:

Monthly Rate = \$906

12 months payments = \$10,872

FMAP Rate = 83%

Annual Federal Reimbursement =  
\$9,023.76

**Annual Match Required (17%) = \$1,848.24**  
**50 kids in custody = \$92,412 ANNUAL  
MATCH required**

\*\*figures are reimbursed quarterly but showing  
example for a year to understand budgeting purposes

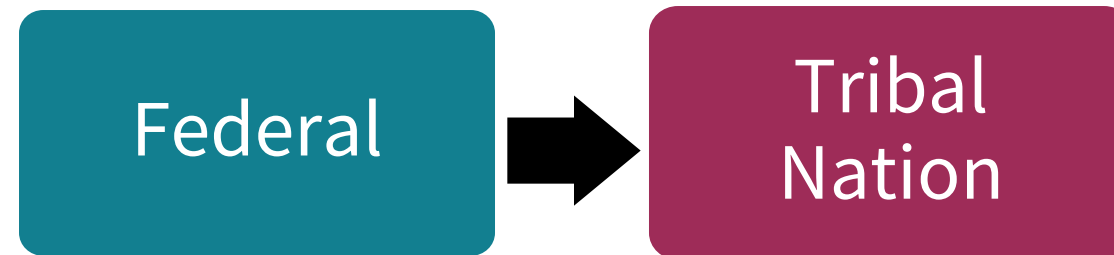


# Pass-Through vs. Direct Title IV-E

**PASS-THRU**



**DIRECT**



Feature	Direct Title IV-E	Pass-Thru Title IV-E
<b>Who the Tribe works with</b>	Contracts directly with the <b>federal government</b> (Children’s Bureau, ACF)	Contracts with the <b>State Title IV-E agency</b> , which then passes funds through
<b>Funding Flow</b>	Federal → Tribe	Federal → State → Tribe
<b>Control &amp; Authority</b>	Tribe has <b>complete responsibility</b> over program design, claiming, and compliance as stated in their Federally approved Direct Title IV-E Plan.	The <b>State</b> has a <b>Direct Title IV-E approved plan with negotiated Tribal-State agreements</b> that ensure that Tribal programs will meet all federal IV-E requirements (could be a combination of State/Tribal policies) (Minimal federal standard must be met)
<b>Accountability</b>	Tribe is <b>directly accountable and responsible</b> to comply with federal rules, audits, and reporting	State is <b>accountable and responsible</b> to federal rules; Tribe responsible to the Tribal/State negotiated agreement
<b>Administrative Burden</b>	<b>Higher</b> – requires strong systems (fiscal reporting, cost allocation, data tracking, permanency outcomes, etc.)	<b>Lower to Mid</b> – Varies by jurisdiction. State usually handles federal reporting and compliance; Tribe submits info to State based upon negotiated terms
<b>Capacity/ Infrastructure Needed</b>	Requires significant staffing, infrastructure, and legal/financial expertise	Easier entry point; can build experience and capacity through pass-thru funding before moving to direct
<b>Sovereignty/Autonomy</b>	<b>High</b> – Contracts directly with the <b>federal government</b> (Children’s Bureau, ACF)	<b>Potentially Lower</b> – Based upon their negotiated Tribal/State agreements
<b>Best for...</b>	Tribes with <b>established administrative capacity</b> who want direct federal partnership	Tribes that want <b>experience with IV-E</b> but aren’t ready for full administrative demands

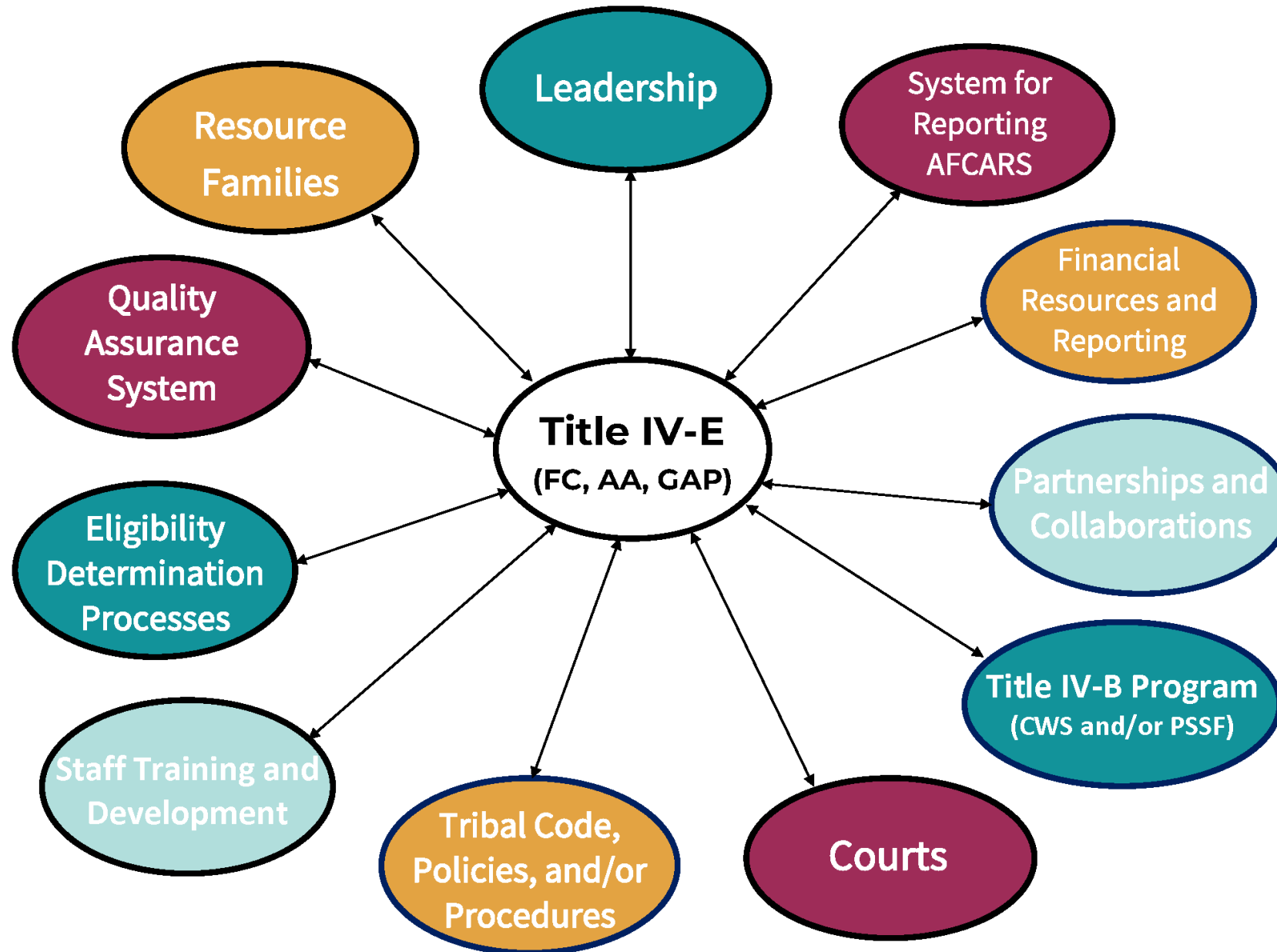


**NATIONAL TRIBAL**   
**CHILD WELFARE CENTER**  
**FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT**



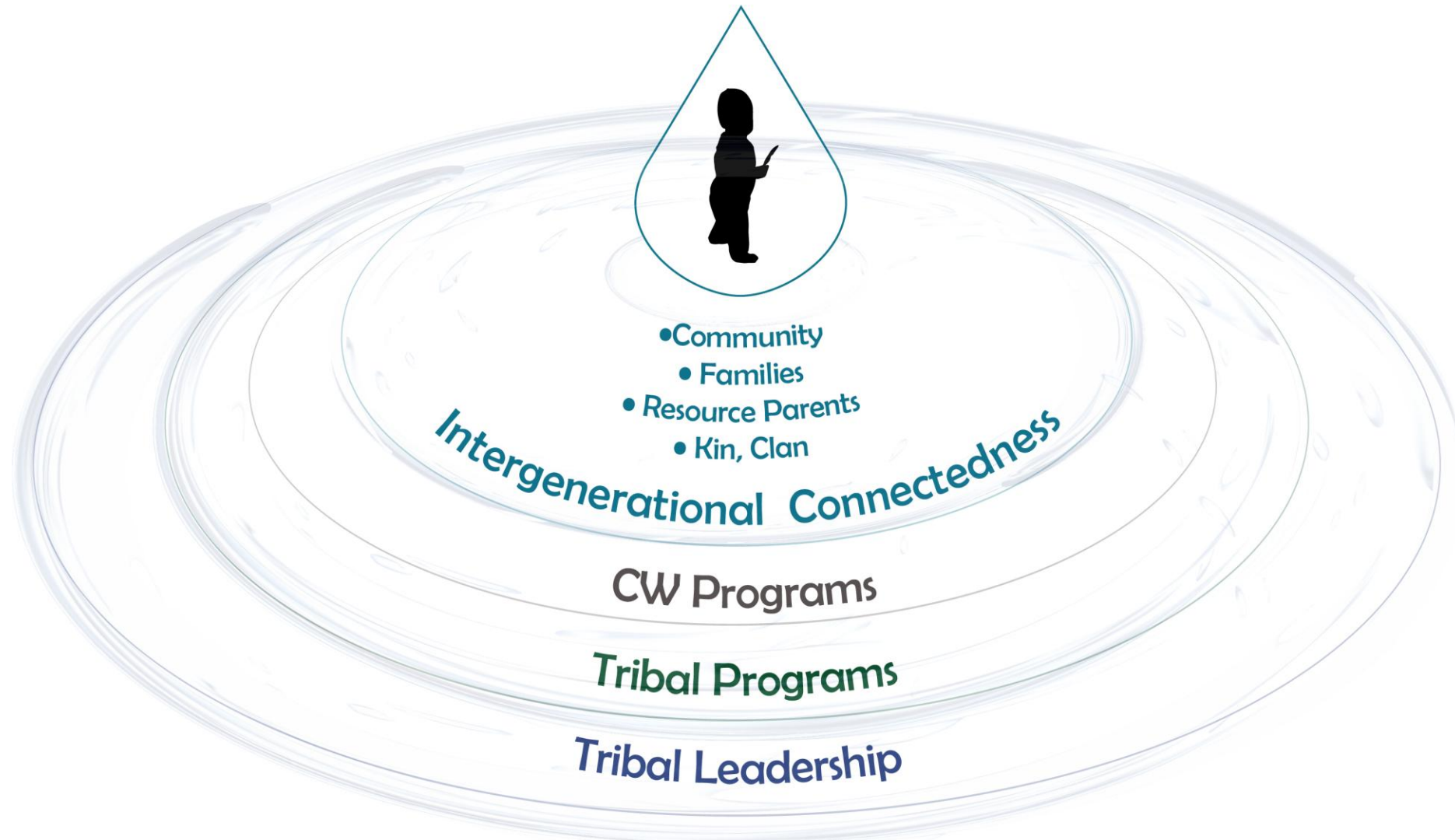
# Title IV-E Requirements

# Title IV-E Infrastructure Considerations



# Title IV-E as Part of Community

*Designing Title IV-E to Meet the Needs of Your Tribal Nation*



# Considerations for Accessing Title IV-E Funds

---



Awareness & Understanding



Barriers



Needed Supports/Technical Assistance



Financial Considerations



Sovereignty & Control



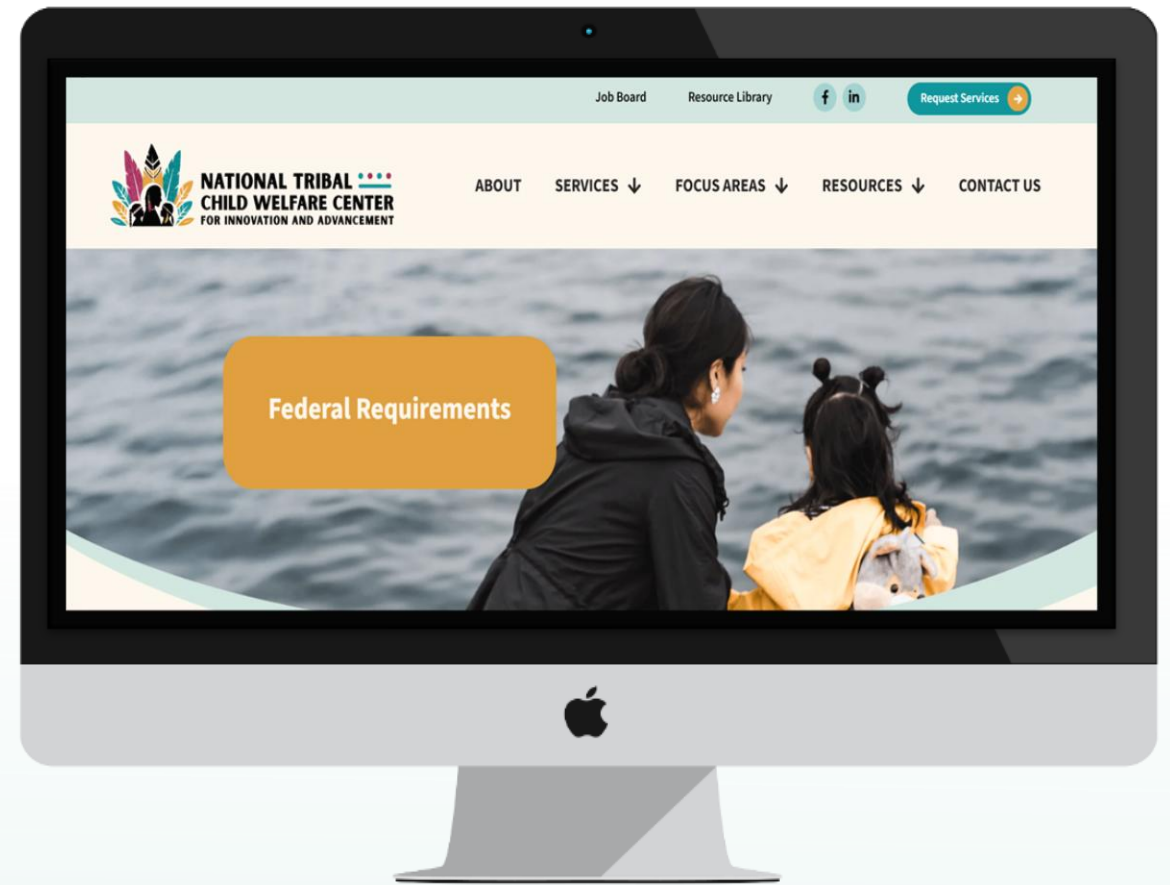
Administrative Burden



Capacity & Infrastructure



# Title IV-E Resources



# NTCWCI Resources

**An Introduction to Tribal Title IV-E**

0% COMPLETE

- Getting Started
- OVERVIEW OF TITLE IV-E
- What is Title IV-E?
- Pathways to Title IV-E Funding

## How to Use This E-Learning

This e-learning was developed to provide an overview of title IV-E for tribal child welfare programs to build knowledge and determine how this funding source fits into their program.

Staff from all positions within a tribal child welfare program need to have a basic level of understanding of title IV-E in order to successfully implement and sustain funding. A comprehensive IV-E team includes:

- Child welfare staff and leadership
- Tribal court staff
- Financial staff
- Information technology and data staff

Capacity Building  
CENTER FOR TRIBES

## Pathways to Tribal Title IV-E

TRIBAL TITLE IV-E OPTIONS

Capacity Building  
CENTER FOR TRIBES

## Tribal Title IV-E Frequently Asked Questions

October 2020

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (the Act), a federal law, provides **partial reimbursement** to federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal consortia with approved Title IV-E plans. Title IV-E program funding is based on reimbursing a portion of the expenditures the Title IV-E agency incurs on behalf of eligible children. Title IV-E funding is not a block grant and there are no advanced funds.

Title IV-E is administered by the Children's Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

For an introduction to Title IV-E and the different pathways tribes can take to access funds, please see these additional resources from the Capacity Building Center for Tribes:

- [What is Title IV-E?](#)
- [Pathways to Tribal Title IV-E](#)
- [Title IV-E Guide for Tribal Governments and Leaders: Considerations and Lessons Learned](#)

Phone: 1-800-871-8701 | Email: [info@cbc4tribes.org](mailto:info@cbc4tribes.org) | Web: [tribalinformationexchange.org](http://tribalinformationexchange.org)

## Introduction to AFCARS for Tribal Child Welfare Programs

September 2024

**AFCARS is the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.**

Tribes that operate a direct title IV-E agency, or claim reimbursement for title IV-E-eligible foster care expenses from the federal government, are required to submit AFCARS data to the government twice per year.

Despite its name, AFCARS is not a data system. It is two data files that contain case-level data, much of which your program already may collect. Your case management system should be set up to take information from case files and move it to a report to submit to the government. If you receive IV-E reimbursement through your state as a pass-through, you are already reporting AFCARS data to the state regarding children who receive IV-E funding.

**AFCARS helps the government learn about child welfare nationwide.**

Children's Bureau uses AFCARS data to learn about the characteristics, needs, and outcomes of children and families who are involved in the foster care system in every state, territory, and tribal nation that receives title IV-E funding. AFCARS data helps the government understand trends and make informed decisions on funding, technical assistance provision, regulatory change, and other planning. For example, Children's Bureau uses AFCARS data to **report child welfare outcomes to Congress annually** and to conduct **other important research**.

Native children and families, although overrepresented in the child welfare system, historically have been underrepresented in AFCARS and other federal data. As more tribal nations begin to operate title IV-E agencies and report AFCARS data, policymakers and funders will understand more about tribal child welfare and how tribes are similar to or different from other jurisdictions.

Capacity Building | phone: 1-800-871-8702 | email: [info@cbc4tribes.org](mailto:info@cbc4tribes.org) | web: [tribalinformationexchange.org](http://tribalinformationexchange.org)



# Resources

An Introduction to Tribal Title IV-E (Capacity Building Center for Tribes) - [Title IV-E Learning Guide](#)

Title IV-E Guide for Tribal Governments and Leaders (Capacity Building Center for Tribes) - [Tribal Government and Leaders IV-E](#)

What is Title IV-E microlearning (Capacity Building Center for Tribes) - [Title IV-E Microlearning](#)

Title IV-E FAQ - [Title IV-E FAQ](#)

Pathways to Tribal Title IV-E - [Pathways to IV-E](#)

Tribal TA IV-E Resource (Children's Bureau) - [CB Technical Assistance \(Program Considerations\)](#)

FMAP Rates - [ASPE FMAP Tables](#)

Tribal Readiness Assessment Tool for Title IV-E - [\(ACYF-CB-IM-22-02\)](#)

[An Introduction to Tribal Title IV-E](#)



**NATIONAL TRIBAL**   
**CHILD WELFARE CENTER**  
**FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT**

Requesting  
Services from  
NTCWCIA



**NTCWCI.ORG**



[ntcwcia.org](https://ntcwcia.org)



[info@ntcwcia.org](mailto:info@ntcwcia.org)



1-855-780-4047

## Contact Us

### Connect with the Center

The National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement welcomes inquiries from Tribal child welfare programs, partners, and collaborators. Whether a program is ready to request technical assistance or simply wants to stay connected, the Center is here to help.

### Request Technical Assistance

Eligible title IV-B Tribal child welfare programs interested in receiving technical assistance can submit a request using the form below. A member of the Center's team will respond within **two business days** to schedule an initial meeting and begin the partnership process.



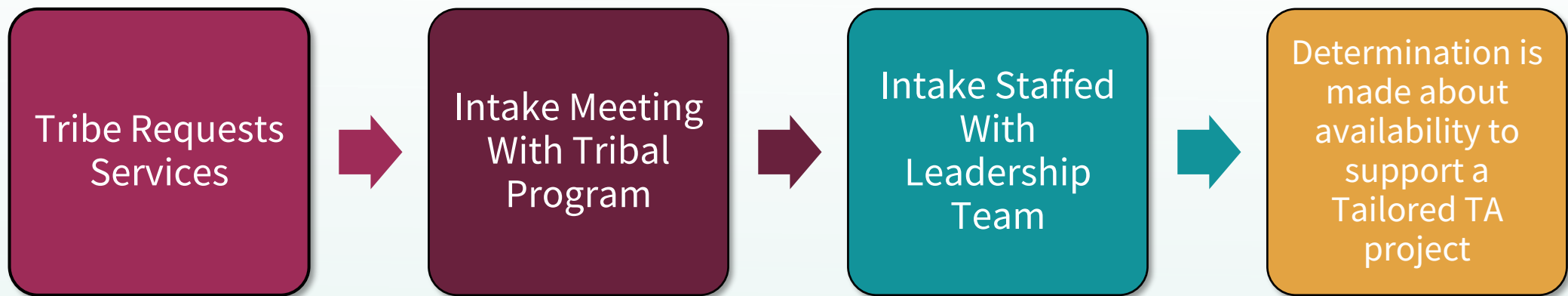
Contact Form





# From Intake to Service Delivery

- During the Intake Meeting, the TCW program and Center's Service Integration Manager discuss the TCW program's history, strengths, challenges, and the Tribe's interest in technical assistance.
- Resources and learning opportunities are suggested based on the Tribe's needs.
- The Intake Meeting is staffed with the Project Leadership Team; determinations are made about suggestions for services and if the TCW program will engage in a TA project.





# Eligibility for Services

Tribal Federal Funding Status

Non-IV-B

Schedule Intake  
Refer to Resources  
Send List of Materials and Online Accessible Information  
Provide information on how to become IV-B

IV-B/IV-E

Schedule Intake  
Refer to Resources  
Connection to Community of Practices  
Individualized Technical Assistance Project w/ the Tailored Team



**NATIONAL TRIBAL**   
**CHILD WELFARE CENTER**  
**FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT**

Questions?  
[melissa.mcgee@maine.edu](mailto:melissa.mcgee@maine.edu)



**NATIONAL TRIBAL**   
**CHILD WELFARE CENTER**  
FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT



1-855-780-4047



info@ntcwcia.org



ntcwcia.org

# We Value Your Feedback



Scan the QR code to complete our short survey.

<https://s.zoom.us/j/61111111111>

# Join Us for Our Next Session

## Part 2 – Unlocking Opportunities Under Title IV-E: The Pathways for Tribal Child Welfare Systems *Understanding the Pathways for Title IV-E Funding*

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 2 PM ET  
1 PM CT | 12 PM MT | 11 AM PT | 10 AM AKT



If you want to learn more about the variety of ways Tribes can access title IV-E funds, this webinar will help clarify the multiple options.