

NEW YORK STATE
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 40 NORTH PEARL STREET, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243



ARTHUR Y. WEBB
 Acting Commissioner

[An Informational Letter informs local districts of potential developments in the Social Services field, or of actual or potential developments in collateral fields of interest.]

INFORMATIONAL LETTER

TRANSMITTAL NO.: 82 INF-27
 [Services]

TO: Commissioners

SUBJECT: Foster Care Goals Related to
 Foster Care and Adoption Assistance
 (Federal Title IV-E)

DATE: December 31, 1982

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioner
 Director of Services
 Director of Administration
 All Child Welfare Staff

To ensure all District
 may receive latest
 as handbook recently
 file to ensure
 areas work on target

CONTACT PERSON: All inquiries regarding this release should be directed to H. A. Harkess, Bureau of Policy Planning, Division of Services, 40 North Pearl Street, Room 11-A, Albany, New York 12243 or by phone toll free at 1-800-342-3715, Extension 4-9574.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this release is to inform local commissioners and staff of local social services districts of the establishment of foster care goals pursuant to the State's plan for foster care and adoption assistance under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

II. BACKGROUND

The Federal Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272) establishes Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Included among the qualifications for a State to receive Federal assistance under Title IV-E is a provision requiring the State to establish target goals regarding the maximum number of

FILING REFERENCES

Previous INFs/ADMs	Dept. Regs.	Social Services Law and Other Legal References	Bulletin/Chapter Reference	Miscellaneous References
		SSL 398-b "Section 471(a) (14) of the Social Security Act"		

children in foster care who will remain in such care for a period in excess of twenty-four months. This goal must be embodied in State law which must be effective no later than October 1, 1982. In addition, the State plan for Title IV-E must contain a description of the steps which will be taken by the State to achieve this goal. In order to comply with these requirements, New York State has enacted Chapter 385 of the Laws of 1982, effective October 1, 1982. Chapter 385 adds a new subdivision 7 to Section 398-b of the Social Services Law which reads as follows:

"There shall be specific goals in the state plan as required by the provisions of title IV-E of the federal social security act for the federal fiscal years commencing on or after October first, nineteen hundred eighty-three establishing the maximum number of children who, at any time during such year, will remain in foster care after having been in such care for a period in excess of twenty-four months. For the federal fiscal year which commences October first, nineteen hundred eighty-three the goal shall be fifty-nine percent of all children in foster care with respect to whom assistance under the state plan for foster care and adoption assistance is provided during such year."

This goal statement has been incorporated in the State's Title IV-E plan along with a statement identifying the activities which will be implemented in order to accomplish this goal for Federal Fiscal Year 1984 (October 1, 1983 to September 30, 1984).

III. PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

With the passage of Chapter 385, New York State not only complies with the Federal requirement but establishes as a matter of State policy its goal to contain extended foster care within prescribed levels. This goal reaffirms the existing intent of the State Child Welfare Reform Act of 1979.

As a means of accomplishing this State-wide foster care goal for Federal Fiscal Year 1984, the State Department of Social Services will undertake the following activities, in accord with the State's Title IV-E plan:

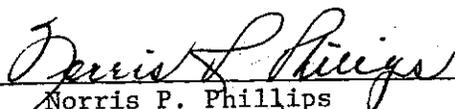
- (a) Maintain within the Child Care Review Service a monitoring system which includes the tracking of the numbers of children by length of stay in foster care;
- (b) Insure the continued expansion of preventive services, including the review and implementation of procedures for start-up minority provider projects and pilot preventive service projects in local probation offices;

- (c) Conduct periodic State-administered utilization reviews of local foster care caseloads;
- (d) Conduct periodic State-administered case reviews of local district compliance with statutory case management requirements relating to permanent placement for children in foster care;
- (e) Pending Federal funding approval, institute a ten-day basic child welfare training program for child welfare caseworkers, which will cover permanency planning, preventive services, adoption and legal issues.

While these activities will be implemented by the State Department of Social Services, local districts are being informed of these upcoming activities so that they may be aware of their purpose and so that they may be prepared to participate.

IV. RECOMMENDED ACTION

With the exception of the development of the ten-day basic child welfare training program, these activities relate to programs already in place or in the process of being implemented. Therefore, no major new activity by local districts will be needed to assist the State in meeting the stated goals.



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Division of Services

