INFORMATIONAL LETTER

TO: Commissioners of Social Services

SUBJECT: Permanent Extension of Title IV-E Voluntary Placement Provision

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Directors of Social Services
Children Services Staff
Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Title IV-E questions: Veronica Lynch, Bureau of Program Assistance, 1-800-342-3715, extension 4-9452; Systems questions: Gerald Seeley, Bureau of Services Information Systems, 1-800-342-3727.

Federal legislation (H.R. 3545) which was recently signed into law provides for a permanent extension of federal reimbursement (50%) for Title IV-E eligible children voluntarily placed into foster care for up to 180 days. In past years, Congress has extended funding for Title IV-E voluntary placements on either an annual or bi-annual basis.

FILING REFERENCES

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As stated in 84 ADM-4, if a judicial determination is made within the 180 days that continued placement is in the best interest of the child, Title IV-E reimbursement can be continued beyond the 180 days. If a judicial determination is not made within 180 days, the case is no longer eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement after the 180th day.

This permanent extension of Title IV-E funding for voluntary placements became effective October 1, 1987 and does not entail any foster care program changes for New York State. Instructions for voluntary placements as provided in 84 ADM-4 (pages 16-17) should be continued.

Joseph Semidei
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Family & Children Services