



Timeline of Major Child Welfare Legislation

- 1935** - Enactment of the Social Security Act includes limited funds for child welfare services under Title V.
- 1958** - Amendments to Title V require states to match federal child welfare funds if they choose to draw down funding.
- 1961** - Title IV-A, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) entitlement, is amended to allow use of funds for foster care expenses if the child comes from an AFDC eligible family and a court determines it is in the child's best interest to be removed. State participation in the Title IV-A AFDC foster care program is made mandatory in 1969.
- 1967** - Child welfare funding under Title V becomes Title IV-B, Child Welfare Services.
- 1974** - Child Abuse and Treatment Act is enacted. It is the only federal legislation exclusively dedicated to the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
- 1978** - Indian Child Welfare Act is adopted, establishing requirements for child welfare agencies when serving Native children and families.
- 1980** - Enactment of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Amendments of 1980 establishes a new Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance entitlement program.
- 1981** - Congress ultimately rejects Senate legislation to create a child welfare block grant that eliminates the Title IV-E entitlement.
- 1985** - Title IV-E is amended to include a new Independent Living program to assist youth that age-out of the foster care system.
- 1993** - Title IV-B is amended to create a new Family Preservation and Family Support program.
- 1994** - Legislation is enacted that directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human

- Services (HHS) to create a new review of state child welfare systems. This directive ultimately creates the Child and Family Service Reviews. The legislation also authorizes child welfare waiver demonstrations.
- 1994** - Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA) is enacted to prevent discrimination in the services under Title V.
 - 1935** - Enactment of the Social Security Act includes limited funds for child welfare placement of children based on race, color, or national origin and to facilitate the identification and recruitment of foster and adoptive parents.
 - 1995** - Congress ultimately rejects House-approved legislation to eliminate the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance entitlements and combine over 20 children's programs into a capped child welfare block grant.
 - 1996** - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant is created, thus eliminating AFDC as an individual entitlement. While TANF replaces AFDC, the law requires states to continue to base Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance eligibility on AFDC standards in place on July 16, 1996.
 - 1996** - MEPA is amended by the Interethnic Adoption Provisions to delete language specifically permitting the consideration of race in placement decisions.
 - 1997** - Adoption and Safe Families Act is enacted. It creates timelines for moving children to permanency, provides adoption bonuses for states, and continues the child welfare waiver demonstrations. The law also renames the Family Preservation and Family Support program to Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) and expands the use of funds to two additional categories of service: time-limited reunification services and adoption promotion and support services.
 - 1999** - The Independent Living program is expanded and renamed in honor of Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI).
 - 2001** - Promoting Safe and Stable Families is reauthorized. The law also amends the John H. Chafee Independent Living program to provide funding for education and training vouchers for foster youth and create new funding for mentoring of children of incarcerated parents.
 - 2003** - The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issues a ruling in *Rosales v. Thompson*, 321 F.3d 835 (9th Cir. 2003) that would make many more children eligible for Title IV-E federal foster care assistance. The court rules that HHS has misinterpreted Title IV-E of the Social Security Act in denying federal foster care benefits to certain children who have been maltreated and placed with relatives outside their homes.
 - 2005** - Congress passes and the President signs the Deficit Reduction Act, which overturns the *Rosales* ruling. The same legislation creates two additional \$10 million funds for court improvement efforts.

- 2008** – Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act is enacted. It amends parts B and E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children and youths in foster care, especially in health care and education, provide for tribal foster care, improves incentives for adoption, and enhances training access for the child welfare workforce.
- 2010** – Affordable Care Act is enacted. This legislation extends Medicaid coverage to all youths who exit out of care as young adults up to age 26. In addition the prohibition of the pre-existing conditions exclusion, and expansions of Medicaid and the Child Health Insurance Program will benefit many families including those at risk for involvement in the system. This legislation also included federal support for home visiting programs which is a proven effective child abuse prevention strategy.
- 2010** – The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is reauthorized. Programmatic updates include provisions to improve data collection; improve systems training for supporting individuals who identify, prevent, and respond to reports of child maltreatment; and strengthen coordination among service providers working to address challenges associated with maltreatment. Funding authorization is maintained at \$120 million for discretionary grants and basic state grants and \$80 million for community-based prevention grants.
- 2011** – The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act is passed to reauthorize IV-B of the Social Security Act. Programmatic updates address health and development provisions of the state plan, caseworker visits, the Court Improvement Program, and data standardization among others. Some education and older youth provisions of IV-E are also updated, in addition to the reinstatement of waiver authority for HHS approved demonstration projects to flexibly use IV-E funds.