

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE
STANDARDS FOR ADOPTION SERVICES

7.14 FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Council on Accreditation Standards

The Council on Accreditation Standards S14 (Adoption Services) and S14.7 (Services for Adoptive Applicants and Adoptive Parents) link to and support Standard 7.14 *Financial Supports for Adoptive Families*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-44-02 (Purpose of State Adoption Subsidy Program); 5101:2-44-03 (Public Children Services Agency Administration of State Adoption Subsidy Program); 5101:2-44-04 (Application for State Adoption Subsidy); 5101:2-44-05 (Eligibility of Child for the State Adoption Subsidy Program); 5101:2-44-051 (ADC-Related Medicaid Eligibility for Special Needs Children who are Receiving a State Adoption Subsidy); 5101:2-44-052 (ADC-Related Medicaid Eligibility for State Adoption Subsidy Recipient Moving to or from Ohio); 5101:2-44-06 (Eligibility of Adoptive Parent for the State Adoption Subsidy Program); 5101:2-44-07 (Decision Regarding Application for State Adoption Subsidy); 5101:2-44-071 (Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy); 5101:2-44-08 (Redetermination of a State Adoption Subsidy); 5101:2-47-28 (Adoption Assistance Eligibility Procedure: Application Process for Adoption Assistance); 5101:2-47-29 (Adoption Assistance Program Eligibility: Eligibility Requirements); 5101:2-47-30 (Adoption Assistance Program Eligibility: Special Needs); 5101:2-47-33 (Adoption Assistance Program Eligibility: Age Requirement); 5101:2-47-34 (Adoption Assistance Program Eligibility: Determination of Continuing Eligibility Requirements); 5101:2-47-35 (Adoption Assistance Eligibility Procedure: Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Post-Finalization Application); 5101:2-47-36 (Adoption Assistance Payment Eligibility: Adoption Assistance Agreement and Duration: Provision for Financial Support and Services); 5101:2-47-38 (Adoption Assistance Payment Eligibility: Modification/Amendment of Adoption Assistance Agreement); 5101:2-47-42 (Adoption Assistance Payment Rate: Determination of the Payment Amount); 5101:2-47-43 (Adoption Assistance Payment Rate: Payment Rate for Adoption Assistance) and 5101:2-47-44 (Adoption Assistance: Reimbursement of Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses for a Child with Special Needs) address Standard 7.14 *Financial Supports for Adoptive Families*.

I. Philosophy

Financial supports should not supplant parental financial responsibility and entitlement for caring for the adopted child, but should assist the family in providing for the special needs of the child. The financial supports provided by CFSA's should include, but not be limited to, federal and state adoption assistance programs.

II. Outcome

A child's placement with an approved family is not delayed or prevented due to financial considerations. Financial supports are available for families adopting children with special needs.

III. Evaluation

FACIS events, CPOE and the Federal Health and Human Services outcomes may be considered when evaluating this standard. In addition, the CFSA may consider the following:

- documentation that all adoptive families were made aware of available adoption subsidies;

- documentation that all adoptive families received a list of community resources and services that could assist them;
- documentation that financial adoption supports are made available and reviewed annually.

IV. Standards for Implementation

A. Provision of Financial Supports

- a. The CFSA should inform all adoptive families as to a child's eligibility for subsidy and the availability of adoption subsidies, adoption assistance, and post-adoption subsidies.
- b. For children in the permanent custody of the CFSA, the adoptive family, in cooperation with
- c. the CFSA, should examine current special needs of the child and the financial supports needed prior to placement of the child in the home. This assessment of the child's special needs should be reviewed and modified if necessary, prior to finalization.
- d. For children not in the permanent custody of the CFSA, the county of residence's CFSA, with the adoptive family, should examine the current special needs of the child and financial supports needed.
- e. CFSA should distribute a list of community resources and services that could meet the needs of the child to the adoptive family, which could be accessed by the family in the future as needed.
- f. For children who are not currently demonstrating special needs, but are at-risk of developing particular special needs, the CFSA may elect to provide program eligibility for future financial assistance. This eligibility should be reviewed by the CFSA and family on an annual basis to assess the current need of the child.
- g. If a child has identified special needs and the family elects to not apply for federal and state adoption subsidies, the CFSA should document the refusal for financial supports.
- h. Financial adoption supports should be made available and reviewed annually until such time the child is no longer in need of the provided service(s), or up until the time the child reaches 18 years or 21 years as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, Chapters 5153.01 and 5153.02.
- i. CFSA should develop an agency adoption subsidy policy regarding required documentation when adoptive families request elevated adoption subsidies greater than the federal portion of the subsidies.

V. Financial Implications

Costs associated with Standard 7.14, *Financial Supports for Adoptive Families*, including providing and monitoring an individualized adoption subsidy program for each family, are estimated as follows:

- a. cost of subsidies is borne in general, by state and federal governments;
- b. costs associated with Adoption Services are included in Standards 7.1, *Combined Certification and Approval for Foster Care and Adoptive Families* through 7.13, *Adoptive Parent Training*.