

Status of Child Welfare Demonstrations

The availability of new waiver authority, for as many as eight States in FY 1998 and 10 more each successive FY through FY 2002, was formally announced in February through the issuance of an Information Memorandum (IM). Child Welfare Demonstrations allow States to test new approaches to the delivery of child welfare services through the waiver of certain provisions of title IV-E or IV-B, the sections of the Social Security Act concerned with foster care, adoption, Independent Living, Family Preservation and Support and other aspects of child welfare... In addition to the IM, Assistant Secretary Olivia Golden wrote to each of the forty States and the District and Puerto Rico that do not already have an approved Demonstration project, encouraging them to consider this option.

More than 20 States responded to the Assistant Secretary's letter, and as of May 5, proposals have been received from 17 States. The proposals include: projects that would test new or better methods of delivering services, such as concurrent planning in adoption and family-centered care; projects designed to test alternative uses of federal funds, to provide substance abuse treatment, for example, or to subsidize guardianship placements; and projects aimed at testing alternative approaches to administration, such as direct funding of Indian Tribes, or other flexible uses of title IV-E funds.

Conference calls have been held with each interested State as they developed their proposals, to answer their questions about evaluation and cost neutrality, and to clarify the types of projects which the Department would especially like to approve. More technical assistance will be available as needed as the process unfolds.

Over the next several weeks the proposals will be reviewed and summarized, and summaries will be published in the *Federal Register* for comment. States will receive an Issue Paper outlining the Department's questions and concerns, if any, and on the basis of the Issue Paper and the State's response negotiations will be conducted to reach agreement on projects which will provide new knowledge on which to base practice and policy. Results are not expected to come swiftly. These projects require considerable planning and effort before they can be implemented, and each project must be evaluated, a process which can take three to six years before reliable information will be available.

The Department is committed to supporting States in these efforts, and to publicizing findings and lessons as they develop, for the benefit of all the States and the child welfare field, in addition to the benefit that State legislatures and the Congress may find in the conclusions which may be drawn from these projects.

ACF

Administration for Children and Families

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families

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2. Issuance Date: 2-13-98

3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau

4. Key Word: Child Welfare Demonstration Projects

TO: State and Tribal Social Services Directors
State Child Welfare Administrators
State Adoption and Foster Care Coordinators

SUBJECT: Child Welfare Demonstration Projects

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES: Title IV-B of the Social Security Act
Title IV-E of the Social Security Act
Section 1130 of the Social Security Act, as amended by Public Law 105-89

PURPOSE: The purposes of this information memorandum are to announce that the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) is seeking State proposals on child welfare demonstration projects and to inform interested parties of (1) the procedures the Department expects States to employ in involving the public in the development of proposed demonstration projects under Section 1130; (2) the procedures the Department will follow in receiving demonstration proposals; and (3) the principles and procedures the Department will follow in exercising its discretion to grant waivers for demonstration projects under the authority in Section 1130 (a) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by Public Law 105-89.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: See the ACF Website at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/demonstrations> or contact Michael W. Ambrose, Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, HHS at (202) 205-8618.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 1130 of the Act, the Department of Health and Human Services is given authority to approve up to ten States for Child Welfare Demonstrations in each of the five fiscal years 1998-2002. (The Department has already approved two demonstrations in FY 1998, leaving a maximum of eight more demonstrations to be approved in that fiscal year.) These demonstration projects involve the waiver of certain

New, creative efforts are needed to stimulate meaningful changes in the delivery of child welfare services and promote more effective methods of service delivery for children and families. Throughout the country, local and State child welfare agency administrators are developing innovative responses to these circumstances. Knowledgeable child welfare professionals are developing new solutions to these challenges even when faced with insufficient resources. In order to meet the existing service needs of families with diminishing resources, more flexibility is needed in devising service programs.

In addition, a wide range of efforts is underway to foster more effective working relationships among Federal, State and local governments which will strengthen Federal-State partnerships in developing a responsive child welfare service delivery system. This new partnership is an integral part of several programs administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). For example, the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program (formerly the Family Preservation and Support Services program, Subpart 2 of title IV-B of the Social Security Act) provides funds to assist States in assessing the needs of children and families, re-examining State systems for meeting such needs, developing plans for the implementation of time-limited family reunification services, family preservation and support services, and support for adoption and systems change.

Another ACF program, reauthorized as part of the ASFA, provides funds for State courts to assess their role in responding to the needs of children and families and develop improvement plans based on these self-assessments. The Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) provides funds, at the rate of 50 percent Federal share, for the operation of State child welfare information systems which will help States link child welfare program data and operations with other programs, especially TANF and child abuse and neglect programs.

The Adoption 2002 Initiative, a related Department effort, is a result of the President's Executive Memorandum on Adoption, which has now been reinforced by several provisions of ASFA. The initiative promotes efforts to increase the number of children who are adopted and permanently placed each year; to move children more rapidly from foster care to permanent homes; and to increase awareness of the tens of thousands of children waiting for families. This initiative will move children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes and at least double, by the year 2002, the number of children who are adopted or permanently placed each year.

Additionally, the Interethnic Adoption provisions of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 maintain a prohibition against delaying or denying the placement of a child for adoption or foster care on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

Further, the newly amended demonstration effort affirms a number of key principles embodied in ASFA, which must be considered by the States in implementing the demonstration effort. These principles are:

- ❑ The safety of children is the paramount concern that must guide all child welfare services.
- ❑ Foster care is a temporary setting and not a place for children to grow up.
- ❑ Permanency planning efforts for children should begin as soon as a child enters foster care and should be expedited by the provision of services to families.
- ❑ The child welfare system must focus on results and accountability.
- ❑ Innovative approaches are needed to achieve the goals of safety, permanency and well-being.

The final principle recognizes that more solutions are needed to achieve safety, permanency and well-being for children. By expanding the authority for the child welfare demonstrations, Public Law 105-89 provides a mechanism to allow States greater program flexibility to develop innovative strategies to achieve positive results for children and families.

Objectives

In implementing these Demonstrations, the Administration for Children and Families encourages States to propose specific program changes to test programmatic hypotheses for achieving service delivery or program goals for the benefit of children and families, and not simply to propose a mechanism to use federal funds differently. In developing demonstration projects States should consider that the Department affirms the following general objectives:

- ◆ Development of family focused, strengths-based, community-based service delivery networks that enhance the child-rearing abilities of families, to enable them to remain safely together in their homes whenever possible, or to move children quickly to permanency when that is not possible;
- ◆ Better results for children and families related to the specific changes a State is testing, such as better assuring the safety and protection of children, enhancing and enriching child development, providing permanency for children, strengthening family functioning and averting family crises, providing early intervention to avoid out-of-home placement, reducing the time that children are

Preferences

The Department will give preference to proposals that would test policy alternatives that are unique; that differ in their approach to serving families and children; that differ in significant ways from other proposals; and that are submitted by States that have not previously been approved for a Child Welfare Demonstration project. The Department will give first consideration to proposals that reflect the priorities outlined in Appendix I, and will make every effort to approve proposals reflecting these priorities. The Department will reserve approval authority for eight Demonstrations that address priority issues. These eight approvals are out of the possible eighteen available in FY 1998 and FY 1999 for such proposals.

Section 1130(a)(3), as amended, provides that certain types of proposals must be considered. They are proposals for:

- a project designed to identify and address barriers that result in delays to adoptive placement for children in foster care;
- a project designed to identify and address parental substance abuse problems that endanger children and result in the placement of children in foster care, including the placement of children with their parents in residential treatment facilities (including residential treatment facilities for post-partum depression) that are specifically designed to serve parents and children together in order to promote family reunification and can ensure the health and safety of children in such placements; and
- a project designed to address kinship care.

The Department will consider any such proposal, in accordance with all the requirements of the law and the priorities outlined in this Information Memorandum. In addition, the Department will consider proposals that involve coordinated Demonstrations involving title XIX (Medicaid) waivers. Associated title XIX waiver requests must be included in the proposal for waivers of titles IV-B or IV-E. ACYF will forward any such proposals to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) for concurrent consideration, and ACYF will involve HCFA as appropriate throughout the review process. However, cost neutrality must be measured for titles IV-B and E separately from the cost neutrality calculations for any other waiver.

Provisions Not Subject to Waiver

Section 1130 (b)(1) excludes certain provisions of titles IV-E and IV-B from waiver. They are:

submit a new proposal; amendments to existing Demonstrations will be considered only to the extent they are consistent with the Terms and Conditions for the approved project(s).

Duration

Section 1130 (d), as amended, of the Act limits the duration of the demonstration to not more than five years unless in the judgment of the Secretary, the demonstration project should be allowed to continue. The Department will consider demonstrations with a duration of less than five years and will work with States to:

- ♦ Approve waivers of sufficient duration to give new approaches a fair test. The duration of waiver approval should be commensurate with the magnitude and complexity of the project. For example, a large-scale statewide program may require the full five years. Smaller projects, for example a one-to-several county demonstration effort, may demonstrate their effectiveness and utility in a shorter period of time.
- ♦ Provide reasonable time for the preparation of meaningful analyses and the preparation of evaluation reports for the demonstration project; and
- ♦ Determine a reasonable start date for the project recognizing that new approaches often involve considerable start-up time.

Proposal Submission and Review Procedures

For proposals submitted in 1998, a two-step procedure is provided, to speed the review process and focus the Department's technical assistance efforts. The steps, described below, involve a Letter of Intent to be submitted by a State, followed at a later date by a full proposal. The Department will begin working with a State to respond to specific questions upon receipt of a Letter of Intent.

Acceptance of Proposals

Proposals for a Child Welfare Demonstration project will be accepted at any time from the States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Proposals will be easier to review and will require less time for negotiation and approval, to the extent that they 1) present well-developed goals, outcomes and strategies, 2) identify the steps taken to assure county, local or judicial cooperation as required by the project, and 3) both present a sound evaluation plan and allow for a reliable method of measuring cost neutrality. Proposals should be addressed to the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and

- ♦ a checklist of the elements required in a proposal.

Upon receipt of a Letter of Intent from a State, ACYF staff will contact the appropriate State official to offer a conference call in which both Central Office and Regional Office staff of ACYF will participate. If the State accepts the offer, the State can use the opportunity to describe further the nature and scope of the demonstration it is considering, and its approach to evaluation, and to raise specific questions. Without making commitments at that point, ACYF staff (and HCFA staff, if the proposal involves title XIX) will endeavor to answer questions concerning evaluation, cost neutrality, and the provisions of this Information Memorandum. ACYF staff will also refer interested States to published materials or other States which may be helpful to them. These pre-submission contacts are regarded as technical assistance to a State, in an effort to help a State achieve its own purposes consistent with the priorities identified in this Information Memorandum, and to anticipate and try to avoid or solve potential problems. Such contacts are not waiver negotiating sessions, and neither any State nor ACYF would be bound by any positions taken or tentative agreements reached in such a session.

Technical assistance will also be available later to States that do not write Letters of Intent within 30 days and that do not submit proposals within 75 days. **Pre-approval consultation** with a State (at any time before a proposal is submitted or while a proposal is under consideration) can include answering specific questions regarding cost neutrality and cost allocation issues, working with a State to consider the scope of its project and options for evaluation, and referring a State to other sources of assistance for the formulation of evaluation plans. Federal staff will not participate in determining the basic nature of a State's demonstration project but will provide assistance related to preparing a proposal, to the extent that resources allow.

After approval of a Child Welfare Demonstration, federally-provided technical assistance will remain available through the Regional Offices and the Central Office of ACYF and, to a limited extent, through federally-funded technical assistance providers. A major priority for federally-funded technical assistance will be to support the evaluations of approved Demonstration projects.

Review of Proposals

The Department intends to review proposals as promptly as possible after receipt. Proposals will be reviewed by Federal officials, who will also consider comments received from outside experts (if any) and from the general public. Regional Office staff will be asked to contribute to the review of proposals submitted by States in their respective Regions. The review process and all discussions and other activities leading up to a

public comments that States are required to solicit and consider and that they are to report on in their proposals, as described under State Notice Procedures, below. When a summary of a State's Child Welfare Demonstration proposal is published in the Federal Register, the Department will publish the name address and telephone number of the official designated by each State for the purpose and direct interested parties to contact the State directly to receive a full copy of the State's proposal. The announcement in the Federal Register will inform interested parties that they may respond directly to the Children's Bureau and encourage them to send a copy of their comment(s) to the State.

All decisions about approval of a Child Welfare Demonstration proposal and all Department commitments with respect to times for responding to Demonstration proposals will be delayed until both the State and the Federal aspects of the public comment process are completed.

Decisions

ACYF will only recommend to the Secretary approval of proposals that meet the requirements of the statute. The Terms and Conditions for a proposed Child Welfare Demonstration will not be recommended for approval without the concurrence of the State that submitted the proposal and the Federal Office of Management and Budget. In addition, ACYF (and HCFA, if a parallel title XIX waiver is being considered) will assure that other HHS components, as appropriate, and any other relevant Federal agencies have reviewed the Terms and Conditions. States will be informed of the Secretary's decisions as they are reached.

If the Department determines it is necessary, an agreement might be negotiated between a State and the Department to implement the Demonstration project at some date in the future. For example, if some action of the State legislature is required as an integral element of a Demonstration, it might be possible to approve the project conditioned upon the action of the legislature.

State Notice Procedures

The Department recognizes that individuals and groups who may be affected by a Demonstration project have a legitimate interest in learning about proposed projects and having input into the decision-making process prior to the time a proposal is approved by the Department. The Department requires that States provide notification to the public that a Child Welfare Demonstration project is being proposed, and opportunity for comment.

A process that facilitates public involvement and input promotes sound decision-making. There are many ways that States can

The State should maintain a record of all comments received through this process.

States must advise the public that comments regarding the proposed Child Welfare Demonstration project can be made directly to ACYF. Written comments can be submitted to Michael W. Ambrose, Children's Bureau, ACYF, P. O. Box 1182, Washington, D.C. 20013.

States that materially revise their proposals after they are first submitted to the Department may be required to solicit public comment on any modification of consequence on which the public otherwise had no opportunity, as described in this section, to comment.

As noted above, all decisions about approval of a Child Welfare Demonstration proposal will be delayed until both the State-level and the Federal-level aspects of the public comment process are completed.

Evaluation

Section 1130 (f) requires that each State authorized to conduct a demonstration project must obtain an evaluation by an independent contractor to assess the effectiveness of the project. The evaluation plan, at a minimum, must provide for:

- (1) a comparison of outcomes for children and families, and groups of children and families, under the project and such outcomes under an existing State plan or plans, for purposes of assessing the effectiveness of the project in achieving program goals; and
- (2) a comparison of methods of service delivery under the project and such methods under a State plan or plans, with respect to efficiency, economy and any other appropriate measures of program management; and
- (3) a comparison of the fiscal consequences of the project for the State and local jurisdictions, families, other agencies, and the Federal government, and an assessment of the cost effectiveness of the project.

Section 1130 (e)(1) requires the proposal to describe both the children and families who would be served by the waiver demonstration project and the services that would be provided. The Department is committed to testing a range of program strategies. The Department strongly encourages that the proposal provide for random assignment of children and families to groups served under the project and control groups. Experience has shown that the random assignment approach easily addresses both evaluation and cost neutrality issues and is the most appropriate

Cost Neutrality

Section 1130 (g) requires that the Demonstration project be cost neutral, that is, the total amount of Federal funds used to support the Demonstration, over the approved project period, will not exceed the amount of Federal funds that would have been expended by the State under the State plans approved under Parts B and E of title IV of the Act if the Demonstration project were not conducted. The Department will determine at the beginning of each Demonstration that the project can be reasonably expected to be cost neutral over its projected duration. The Department will work with a State to devise a method for calculating cost neutrality in advance of approval, so that the project will be cost neutral as the Demonstration progresses, and the State will not be at risk of accumulating any debt under the Demonstration. The Department will continue to examine quarterly claims and otherwise monitor Demonstration projects to track interim results and spending and to assure Federal cost neutrality as the Demonstration project progresses.

The Department expects that some States for some projects will project costs and savings over the full term of the project. Many possible Demonstrations could require "up-front" investments in order to achieve out-year savings. The Department will devise a cost neutrality formula, for quarterly (typically) payments to the States, that will calculate an amount the State would otherwise have received for that period for the children in the Demonstration, in the absence of a demonstration. The Department expects to participate only to a very limited extent in the financing of any project that requires significant "up-front" expenditures in excess of that amount in order to produce a return on the investment in the later stages of the Demonstration. The Department will impose a cap on the payment of costs for "up-front" expenditures, of a maximum of roughly five percent above the amount derived by the cost neutrality formula for a particular quarter or cumulatively from the beginning of the project. Payment to a State above the amount determined to be cost neutral for the quarter will be limited to the early quarters of the project. The determination that a project is cost neutral in concept will be made before a Demonstration project begins.

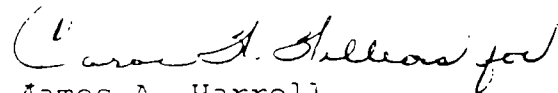
As noted above, the Terms and Conditions will prescribe a formula by which the State will be able to calculate and claim the amount of IV-E and IV-B funds to which it would otherwise have been entitled, in the absence of a Demonstration. Typically, the project evaluation will also provide data necessary for the calculation of cost neutrality, another reason for the emphasis on a reliable method of evaluation and the Department's strong preference for a random assignment methodology.

- e) A discussion of the benefits that are expected from the project as compared to the continuation of current service delivery activities, including a statement of the State's vision or overall purpose for the demonstration; a statement explaining how the State expects service provision will be improved for children and families or any anticipated changes in the service delivery mechanism(s); and a statement explaining what goals/purposes/aims/outcomes the State expects to realize at the end of the Demonstration effort and how service provision will have changed for children and families.
- f) An estimate of the costs or savings of the project, along with a description of the basis for projecting that the project would be cost neutral overall.
- g) A statement of program requirements for which waivers will be needed to permit the proposed project to be conducted, and a specific proposal of the provision(s) of subpart B or E of title IV for which the State proposes a waiver.
- h) A description of the proposed evaluation design.
- i) A description of any similar project already underway in the State that is supported by State or foundation funds and/or a statement of the State's ability successfully to implement the demonstration project.
- j) A description of any court order in effect anywhere in the State by which a court has determined that the State's child welfare program failed to comply either 1) with State child welfare laws or 2) with title IV-B, title IV-E or the Constitution, along with an analysis of whether the proposed demonstration project would have any effect on any such court order, and if so, how.
- k) An assurance that the State provides health insurance coverage for all special needs children for whom the State has entered into an adoption assistance agreement.
- l) A specific proposal, if any is needed, to waive provisions of title XIX (Medicaid) in order to support or enhance the efforts of the title IV-B or IV-E demonstration. (In any event, cost neutrality must be maintained for title IV-B and E funds separately from any other Federal funds.)

Either at the time the proposal is submitted, or at least by the time the State responds to the Issue Paper for its proposal, the State must supply a copy of letters of agreement between the State and any county, municipality, foundation, private agency or any other governmental organization that is to be a participant in the Child Welfare Demonstration project.

Legal Effect

This Information Memorandum, like the notice employing similar language that was originally published in the Federal Register of June 15, 1995, is intended to inform the public and the States regarding procedures the Department ordinarily will follow in exercising the Secretary's discretionary authority with respect to State Demonstration proposals under section 1130. This Information Memorandum does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by any person or entity, against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, the States, or any other person.



James A. Harrell
Deputy Commissioner
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Appendix I	Demonstration Topics of Interest to the Department
Appendix II	Names and Addresses of ACF Regional Administrators
Appendix III	Summaries of the First 10 Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Projects Approved by the Department

substance abusing parents and their children, testing the use of title IV-E funds for substance abuse treatment, or for the support of children living with their parents in treatment, as a means of reducing the need for or duration of foster care. States may wish to consider joint State-Tribal Demos, as well.

- ◆ Performance-based financing. States may want to test approaches to the management and delivery of child welfare services that involve devising acceptable outcome measures and using title IV-E funds to create incentives for workers or sub-State jurisdictions or to share costs with jurisdictions in novel ways in order to produce better or more timely results for children and families. (The final design of any such projects might best be scheduled for completion after the Department submits its Report to Congress on a performance-based incentive funding system for titles IV-B and IV-E, in 1998, and any such projects might also be designed to allow them to adapt to other recommendations that may be made to Congress regarding outcome measures or incentives.)
- ◆ Service improvements for children in the custody of Tribes. In concert with one or more Tribes, a State might propose to provide title IV-E funding directly to one or more Tribes for foster care and/or adoption and Independent Living, to test whether tribally-administered title IV-E projects would produce better results for children and families, enable Tribes to manage social services programs better, and reduce State costs of administration. States may wish to propose a broader project, involving the use of both State-administered and Tribally-administered funds, to test new approaches to coordination of child welfare services for Native American families and children on and off Reservations.

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February, 1998

Summary of IV-E Waiver Demonstrations

To date, 10 States have received approval for demonstration projects intended to test new approaches to the delivery of child welfare services in order to improve outcomes for children. The demonstration projects involve waivers of title IV-E of the Social Security Act and related regulations. At a minimum, all the demonstrations are expected to be cost-neutral and most expect to reduce title IV-E costs. Collectively, the demonstration projects are aimed at reducing the number of children in foster care, the length of time in foster care, the use of more restrictive and costly placement settings, re-allegations of abuse and neglect, and re-entry to foster care. Some States have proposed discrete interventions focused on a specific child welfare population, while others are experimenting with system-wide reform.

An overview of each State's demonstration is provided in the attached exhibit. Among the common themes across demonstrations are the following:

- **Assisted Guardianship/Kinship Permanence:** Five States (California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, and North Carolina) have proposed programs that are intended to provide relatives and foster parents, who are providing care for children in the custody of the child welfare agency, with the opportunity to become the child's legal guardian. This option would be offered to relatives and foster parents who have been providing a stable home for at least one year (six months in North Carolina and two years in Illinois) for a child for whom adoption or reunification is not an option. While children of all ages will be eligible for this program in Illinois, Maryland, and North Carolina, Delaware and California are focusing on older children (12 and over in Delaware, and 13 and over in California). All States propose a monthly payment that is less than or equal to the current foster care payment. States expect additional savings to accrue from reduction in case management and court costs.
- **Systems Reform/Managed Care:** Five States (Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Oregon) are providing counties with the opportunity to more flexibly use IV-E funds to enhance the array of services available to prevent foster care, facilitate reunification and otherwise ensure safe, permanent outcomes for children. Counties will be able to use IV-E funds for an array of services, but their total IV-E allotment will be fixed by agreement with the State, or will be determined by the experience of comparison counties. Some counties may enter into managed care contracts with private agencies.
- **Intensive Service Options:** Four States have proposed demonstrations that increase the nature and extent of available services in an effort to reduce foster care placements and achieve permanence and safety for a particular segment of the child welfare population. These include:

outcome evaluation designs. Delaware's evaluation of their substance abuse services is based on assigning substance abuse treatment workers to only one of two CPS units in each county. Families in the units without substance abuse workers will serve as the control group. California will use a random assignment model for their intensive preventive service demonstration. Indiana has proposed to select a maximum of 4,000 children to receive demonstration services and then retrospectively select a matched comparison group.

At this time the degree of details about the evaluation plans vary. States that have recently been awarded waivers have not hired their evaluators. More detailed comparisons of evaluation plans will be prepared when the evaluation plans are submitted.

DELAWARE

State Information	Intervention	Major Goals	Outcome Evaluation Design
<u>Approval Date:</u> 6/17/96 <u>Project Length:</u> 3 years <u>Implementation Start Date:</u> 7/1/96 <u>Contact:</u> Candace Charkow Treatment Program Manager Division of Family Services (302) 633-2601 <u>Evaluator:</u> Dorothy Lockwood Consultant	<u>Services to Substance-Abusing Caretakers</u> Provide substance abuse counselors to work with CPS staff and identified families to link to treatment and other services. <u>Assisted Guardianship</u> Obtain legal guardianship for children in stable foster care placements for whom adoption and reunification are not possible. Subsidy payment will not exceed current foster care payment.	• Prevent foster care • Reduce number of days in foster care • Move children more quickly from foster care to permanency • Provide an additional permanency option for children • Reduce agency involvement (and costs)	Random assignment of cases to units with substance abuse counselors (treatment) and without (control). Track costs and outcomes of cases with guardianship -- anticipate 20 cases per year.

INDIANA

State Information	Intervention	Major Goals	Outcome Evaluation Design
<u>Approval Date:</u> 7/18/97 <u>Project Length:</u> 5 years <u>Implementation Start Date:</u> 1/1/98-6/30/98 <u>Contact:</u> Jim Hmurovich Director Division of Family and Children IN Family and Social Services Administration (317) 232-4705 <u>Evaluator:</u> To be procured	<u>Intensive Home- and Community-Based Services</u> Increase capacity for in-home services and community foster family homes as alternative to group and institutional care, especially out-of-State care. Demonstration will be operational in all 92 counties within 18 months	• Improve child and family well-being • Reduce placement in out-of-State facilities • Improve youth and caretaker satisfaction • Promote permanence	4,000 children at any given time will receive services under the demonstration. Estimated stay in project = 20 months/per child. Retrospectively a matched sample of children receiving traditional IV-E placements/ services will be selected and compared to the experimental group.

MICHIGAN

State Information	Intervention	Major Goals	Outcome Evaluation Design
<u>Approval Date:</u> 12/19/97 <u>Project Length:</u> 5 years <u>Implementation Start Date:</u> 10/1/98 <u>Contact:</u> Barbara A. MacKenzie Child and Family Services Administration Family Independence Agency (517) 373-9339 <u>Evaluator:</u> To be procured	<u>Managed Care Component</u> Up to six counties will establish capitated payment programs to provide wrap-around services for high-risk children in foster care or at imminent risk of placement. <u>Community Services for Delinquent Youth</u> Children aged 10 or older in contact with the juvenile justice system who are adjudicated, or at risk of being adjudicated delinquent will be provided a range of preventive and reunification services.	• Increase availability and flexibility of services • Reduce foster care placement • Reduce time in foster care • Expedite permanency • Improve child safety and well-being • Reduce recidivism rates for delinquency • Improve public safety • Reduce residential placement • Shift from out-of-home placement to in-home and community prevention services	In at least two of the counties, children will be randomly assigned to treatment and control groups. Selection of a set of counties comparable to pilot county(s) in terms of child poverty, public assistance and abuse/neglect rates

NORTH CAROLINA

State Information	Intervention	Major Goals	Outcome Evaluation Design
<u>Approval Date:</u> 11/14/96 <u>Project Length:</u> 5 years <u>Implementation Start Date:</u> 7/1/97 <u>Contact:</u> David Atkinson Program Coordinator DHHS/Division of Social Services (919) 733-5125 <u>Evaluator:</u> Lynn Usher Principal Investigator UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work	<u>Systems Reform</u> Counties will have flexibility to develop programs that will reduce foster care placements and length of stay in care. Counties will not receive any new or additional money, but will have the flexibility offered under the waiver for IV-E funding. <u>Assisted Guardianship</u> Obtain legal guardianship and provide subsidy payments for relatives and other care givers approved by the juvenile court, and who have provided a stable placement for the child for at least six months. Assisted guardianship will be an option for children whom adoption and reunification are not possible.	• Reduce rate of initial entry into foster care system • Reduce length of stay in foster care • Reduce rate of re-entry into foster care system	19 counties will participate in demonstration project; an additional group of 19 counties with similar characteristics has been selected to form the comparison group.

OREGON

State Information	Intervention	Major Goals	Outcome Evaluation Design
<u>Approval Date:</u> 10/31/96 <u>Project Length:</u> 5 years <u>Implementation Start Date:</u> 7/1/97 <u>Contact:</u> Cheri Emahiser IV-E Waiver Interim Project Manager State Office for Services to Children and Families (503) 945-6681 <u>Evaluator:</u> Richard Hunter Graduate School of Social Work Portland State University	<u>Systems Reform/Managed Care</u> To provide a flexible service system to prevent family breakup specifically tailored for particular children and their families. Counties will have flexibility to develop programs and services that will reduce foster care placements and length of stay in care.	• Improve outcomes for children and families and increase service efficiency by including the development of a family-focused, community based network for service delivery which concentrates on the strengths and needs of the family. • Reduce length of stay in substitute care and prevent children's placement into care. • Reduce foster care costs by investing in services. • Maintain child safety and protection.	Multiple comparison groups of counties -- participating and not-participating -- in demonstration.