

2801 - ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT OVERVIEW

POLICY STATEMENT	<p>The Assistance to Children in Placement Chapter contains policy on Medicaid Classes of Assistance (COA) and procedures associated with children who are under the legal care and supervision of the state Child Welfare Agency and children that are eligible for Adoption Assistance.</p>
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS	<p>Funding for Georgia's Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Programs is available from federal and state sources including Title IV-E, Title IV-B, state funds, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Medicaid.</p> <p>All funding, reimbursability and Medicaid eligibility determinations for foster or adoption assistance children are the responsibility of Revenue Maximization Specialists (RMS) based on information provided by county Social Service Case Managers (SSCM) through SHINES data entry and submitted to Revenue Maximization staff. Coordination between Social Service Case Managers and RMS is critical to the funding determination and Medicaid coverage for children in placement.</p> <p>Children who are in an out-of-home placement may be eligible for Medicaid coverage under several Classes Of Assistance. These include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV-E Foster Care or IV-E Adoption Assistance • SSI • Child Welfare Foster Care <li style="padding-left: 40px;">or <li style="padding-left: 40px;">Right From the Start Medicaid (RSM) <li style="padding-left: 40px;">or <li style="padding-left: 40px;">State Adoption Assistance • Medically Needy • Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA). <p>Children who are Title IV-E or SSI eligible are automatically eligible for Medicaid. Therefore, eligibility for IV-E should always be considered first by the Revenue Maximization Specialist. If the child is not eligible for IV-E or SSI benefits, other classes of assistance should be considered in the order above.</p> <p>The state receives reimbursement for administrative costs based on the total number of children eligible for Title IV-E. In order for a state to receive federal reimbursement for the foster care maintenance costs of an individual child in care, the child must meet both eligibility and reimbursability criteria. Initial eligibility is determined once, while</p>

**BASIC
CONSIDERATIONS
(cont.)**

reimbursability may change on a monthly basis depending on the placement, the child's income and other factors. A child who is non-reimbursable is also ineligible for administrative costs.

The Social Services Case Manager is responsible for the following:

- Gathers and enters child and family data to the SHINES child welfare system and refers all children entering out-of-home care to Revenue Maximization for funding and Medicaid eligibility determinations regardless of length of stay;
- Reviews court orders for the required judicial determinations and provides copies of the initial order placing the child in foster care, the “*contrary to the welfare*” order, the “*reasonable efforts*” order, all custody extension orders, TPR orders, all permanency plan language orders, and any other documents of the court pertaining to the child to the Revenue Maximization RMS through SHINES External Documentation;
- Provides notification of placement and other eligibility factors to the RMS;
- Initiates action with the Social Security Administration for children receiving SSI;
- Provides requested information and documentation to the RMS for redeterminations.

The Revenue Maximization Specialist is responsible for the following:

- Determines initial eligibility Medicaid and reviews, corrects, verifies, documents and validates the SHINES derived funding determination;
- Notifies the SSCM of child and family data clarification required for the initial determination;
- Refers the absent parent(s) to the Division of Child Support Services when appropriate. Refer to [Section 2851](#), Child Support Referrals, for exception criteria;
- Completes six-month Medicaid redeterminations and IV-E funding reimbursability validation.

**BASIC
CONSIDERATIONS
(cont.)****Children in Joint
Custody with DJJ**

Situations will occur when DFCS and DJJ share custody of a child. In situations of joint custody, the agency responsible for the placement of the child is responsible for the initial IV-E determination and any subsequent reviews. The Revenue Maximization DJJ Unit has responsibility for children and youth in joint DJJ and DFCS custody where DJJ has placement responsibility.