

Title IV-E Waiver: Consequences of Budget Cuts to Child Welfare System

- Florida cannot take any further reductions in child welfare and still meet the Title IV-E Waiver terms and conditions related to maintenance of effort (MOE).
- The Waiver provides flexibility in funding so that funds can also be used for in-home, diversion services; keeping children out of foster care and the state's cost down.
- Major risk of failing to meet the MOE requirement is termination of the Waiver.
- If Florida fails to meet MOE the requirement, at a minimum, Florida would lose \$18 million from the feds, plus the guaranteed annual 3% increase of \$4.5 million. Thus the 4% reduction of \$15 million in general revenue could result in a minimum total loss of \$37.5 million.
- Since the base year, an additional \$24.4 million has been appropriated to the child welfare system, making this is the maximum reduction that could be taken without violating the MOE requirement. This is the amount that was cut during the 2008 Legislative Session so any additional reductions would violate the MOE requirement.
- Independent Living (IL) and Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) are not considered as "countable" towards a Title IV-E Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement.
- Florida is the only state that has been granted this Waiver and is seen as a model in the nation.

Child Protection Teams (CPT)

CPTs provide three services:

1. Forensic medical examination of children that have allegedly physically and sexually abused
2. Victim-friendly setting with trained forensic interviewers, to conduct interviews of alleged child victims
3. Many CPTs provide on-going sexual abuse counseling and treatment for victims of sexual abuse

In addition to supporting the child welfare system, the information from the medical examination and interview is used by law enforcement as part of their investigation of physical & sexual abuse and by the state attorneys in the prosecution of offenders.



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