Questions & Answers

8.2B.9 TITLE IV-E, Adoption Assistance Program, Eligibility, Redeterminations

1. Question: What are the requirements for redeterminations of title IV-E adoption assistance eligibility?

Answer: The title IV-E adoption assistance program does not require redeterminations of a child's eligibility. Although the title XIX Medicaid program and the program that, in part, may qualify a child initially for adoption assistance, such as Supplemental Security Income, require redeterminations, they are unnecessary for the purpose of maintaining a child's eligibility for title IV-E adoption assistance. Once a child has been determined eligible and is receiving adoption assistance, a title IV-E agency may terminate the assistance only under the circumstances specified at section 473(a)(4) of the Social Security Act.

- Source/Date: ACYF-CB-PA-01-01 (1/23/01)
- Legal and Related References: Social Security Act section 473

2. Question: Does title IV-E require the agency to perform annual renewals or continued eligibility determinations for adoption assistance?

Answer: No. Title IV-E does not require the title IV-E agency to perform annual renewals, recertifications or eligibility re-determinations for title IV-E adoption assistance. Parents who receive adoption assistance payments, however, have a responsibility to keep the agency informed of circumstances that would make them ineligible for title IV-E adoption assistance payments, or eligible for assistance payments in a different amount. See Section 473(a)(4) (B) of the Social Security Act. Once a child is determined eligible to receive title IV-E adoption assistance, he or she remains eligible until: (1) the age of 18 or such higher age up to age 21 as the title IV-E agency may elect under section 475(8)(B)(iii) (if the child meets applicable employment/education conditions), or age 21 (if the agency determines that the child has a mental or physical disability that warrants the continuation of assistance (2) the agency determines that the parent is no longer legally responsible for the support of the child under 18, or; (3) the agency determines the child is no longer receiving any support from the parents.

- Source/Date: ACYF-CB-PIQ-98-02 (9/03/98); 2/14/18; (03/03/2020)
- Legal and Related References: Social Security Act section 473(a)(4)(A), 475(8)(B) (iii), and 479B