

TITLE IV-B REAUTHORIZATION: WHAT DO ATTORNEYS NEED TO KNOW?

T4B-WDANTK-2504

On January 4, 2025, reauthorization of Title IV-B of the Social Security Act became law. This comprehensive bill supports a myriad of child welfare programs and improvements. At right are several selected provisions most applicable to child welfare attorneys and other court stakeholders.

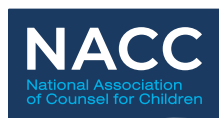
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New IV-B Provision

Nearly 33% increase in funding for Court Improvement Programs (CIP), allocated to states by formula.

State agencies must inform children, parents and guardians about available independent legal representation.

Authorizes CIP to conduct assessments and implement improvements around (1) disaster preparedness and (2) virtual hearings.

Family preservation services can include "nonrecurring short term benefits (including supports related to housing instability, utilities, transportation, and food assistance, among other basic needs) that address immediate needs..."

State agencies must have policies and training in place to prevent family separation based on poverty

New requirement that states make their Title IV-B Plans publicly available.

Youth, families, and community stakeholders must be consulted in the development of the IV-B plan.

Requirements to improve the implementation of ICWA and to provide technical assistance to improve practice.

IV-B services can be provided to youth up to age 26

Advocacy Action for Attorneys

Propose a project or new focus area for your CIP, including, but not limited to, providing high-quality legal representation.

Collaborate on implementing this requirement, using forms in this packet as a template.

Collaborate on these assessments. Ensure lived experience experts are invited to contribute to the development and implementation process.

Advocate that the state IV-B plan include these examples of concrete resources. Incorporate these supports into your reasonable efforts advocacy.

Collaborate on the development of these materials. Advocate to expand access to the training beyond agency staff. Ask to review these policies and training materials; incorporate them into your advocacy.

Advocate to amend state definitions of neglect.

Review your jurisdiction's IV-B plan to know what services are available for your clients.

Make a formal request to provide input on the state's IV-B plan; offer to help convene stakeholders to review and develop the plan.

Review implementation practices of ICWA in your state. Ask that the child welfare agency request TA if needed.

Provide input on the state's IV-B plan and ask that programs targeted at older youth be provided.

If there is a IV-B program that would benefit your older youth client, ask that the agency provide (or the court order) that service to your young adult client.