

Adoption Assistance

Background Notes

In order to achieve permanency for children, in 1980 the federal government created a program through Public Law 96-272 to remove financial barriers to adoption. This program had the goal of ensuring that the families who adopt waiting children have the necessary services and financial resources to meet their children's ongoing needs. Adoption Assistance does this through providing a financial subsidy and medical coverage for children until they turn 18. The adoption assistance subsidy is based on the child's need and not dependent on the family's financial status. Once determined the amount of financial assistance generally remains the same barring legislative changes to the program. The subsidies, and their amounts, are decided on a case-by-case basis and the needs of the child.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Review a completed application for adoption assistance from a file selected by your supervisor. Read the child summary to see if the summary matches the request for assistance in regard to the child's needs.
- Observe a worker completing an adoption assistance application with a current foster family. Discuss with the worker any difficulties in the negotiation process.

Discoveries:

- What forms are needed for an adoption assistance application to be complete?*
- Who is responsible for completing the appropriate forms?*
- What parameters did you learn about in your reading and observations?*
- What techniques did you learn in negotiating an amount?*

