

Title IV-E Recommendations Report Summary

Sivic Solutions Group, LLC (SSG) completed an assessment of the Title IV-E claims for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Their assessment aimed to provide recommendations to maximize the use of federal funds. The contract with SSG has been extended to the end of 2024 to provide subsequent assessments in other areas of HHS. The final report from the initial assessment is now complete and summarized below.

The report focused on four priority areas:

- 1 Family Centered Services contracts
- 2 Iowa Parent Partner Program
- 3 Home Visiting Programs (Healthy Families America, Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers)
- 4 Health and Human Services social work case management staff who utilize Motivational Interviewing

| Recommendation | Title IV-E Estimated Annual Increase |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Motivational Interviewing | \$626,638 |
| Solution Based Casework with Motivational Interviewing | \$1,525,271 |
| Kinship Navigator Program | \$1,650,000 |
| Iowa Parent Partner Program | \$100,000 |
| Healthy Families America | \$793,793 |
| Parent as Teachers | \$1,742,615 |
| HHS Social Work Case Managers | \$6,070,946 |

The recommendations provided by SSG will increase the Title IV-E amount claimed, effectively lowering the amount of annual state funds required per year. The report provided a figure of \$12,509,263 in Title IV-E annual claims.

The recommendations provided had significant overlap in each of the priority areas and can be summarized by the following categories with subsequent action steps.

Formalize Motivational Interviewing training, coaching, and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

Determine if HHS will claim for Motivational Interviewing provided by HHS Social Work Case Managers.

Consider adopting an approved Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program

Expand the Family First Candidacy definition to include children at risk of future placement into foster care who:

- Are identified as being at risk during in-home, reunification, trial home visit, post-adoption, or post-guardianship.
- Are provided services after a child welfare assessment and do not have an open case.
- Need home visiting services (e.g., Healthy Families America and/or Parents as Teachers).

Update State Title IV-E Prevention Plan to include:

- Motivational Interviewing and/or other approved Title IV-E Prevention Service
 - many of the provider staff have been trained in Motivational Interviewing and are utilizing the service during their interactions with families
 - All Family Preservation staff are required to receive Motivational Interviewing training.
- The selected Kinship Navigator model program
- Iowa Parent Partner Program
- Healthy Families America.
- Parents as Teachers.

Update Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan (PACAP)

To claim for child specific administrative costs associated with children who are Family First Candidates for Foster Care under the expanded definition and services.

Update contracts and practice standards

- To require adherence to the selected Kinship Navigator model
- Update FCS contracts and practice standards to clarify and require MI is provided in interactions with caregivers
- Collaborate with ECI Area Boards to implement contract updates, fidelity monitoring and CQI processes for Healthy Families America and Parents as Teachers.

Update business processes and CCWIS to include:

- Eligibility determinations
- Creation of prevention plans
- Documentation of MI services for children in the expanded definition of Family First Candidacy and their caregivers