

TRAINING OF RELATIVE CAREGIVERS AND THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

- 9.1 What training improvements does the act make for relative caregivers and those working with children and families in the child welfare system?**
- 9.2 When will relative guardians be eligible to be trained with federal assistance along with foster parents and adoptive parents?**
- 9.3 When will staff of private child welfare agencies and the courts who are serving children, attorneys, and others representing children be eligible to be trained with federal assistance?**
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- 9.5 Will training for these additional groups be reimbursed at the same 75 percent federal match rate as is currently the case for other Title IV-E training?**

- 9.1 What training improvements does the act make for relative caregivers and those working with children and families in the child welfare system?**

The act expands the universe of those working with children who are at risk of foster care, in care or placed with kin or adoptive families who may be eligible for training under Title IV-E. Currently, only public agency staff, as well as current and prospective foster and adoptive parents are eligible. The act broadens this group to include current and prospective relative guardians and agencies that are not public agencies but are state-licensed or state-approved private child welfare agencies providing services to the child. It also extends Title IV-E training to judges and other members of the staff of abuse and neglect courts, agency attorneys, attorneys representing children or parents, guardians ad litem, and other court appointed special advocates representing children in proceedings of such courts. The act phases in federal reimbursement for training of these private agency staff, judges, attorneys and court personnel, and current and prospective relative guardians beginning at 55 percent in FY2009 and increasing each year by 5 percentage points until reaching 75 percent in FY2013. Training for public agency staff, as well as current and prospective foster and adoptive parents will continue to be reimbursed at 75 percent. (§474(a)(3)(B); P.L. 110-351 §203)

9.2 When will relative guardians be eligible to be trained with federal assistance along with foster parents and adoptive parents?

Current and prospective relative guardians will be able to be trained with Title IV-E training funds beginning in FY2009 (October 1, 2008). The first year, such training will be reimbursed at 55 percent and will increase five percentage points each year until reaching 75 percent in FY2013. (P.L. 110-351 §203(b))

9.3 When will staff of private child welfare agencies and the courts who are serving children, attorneys, and others representing children be eligible to be trained with federal assistance?

These agency and court staff and attorneys and others representing children will be able to be trained with Title IV-E training funds beginning in FY2009 (October 1, 2008). The first year such training will be reimbursed at 55 percent and will increase five percentage points each year until reaching 75 percent in FY2013. (P.L. 110-351 §203(b))

9.4 Who can now be trained using Title IV-E funds who were not previously eligible for training with such funds?

Staff of state-licensed or approved private agencies providing services to children, judges and other members of the staff of abuse and neglect courts, agency attorneys, attorneys representing children or parents, guardians ad litem, and other court appointed special advocates representing children in proceedings of such courts can now be trained under the new act. Relative guardians also can now be trained with Title IV-E funds. Prior to the new act, only foster and adoptive parents and public child welfare agency staff could be trained with these funds. (§474(a)(3)(B); P.L. 110-351 §203(a))

9.5 Will training for these additional groups be reimbursed at the same 75 percent federal match rate as is currently the case for other Title IV-E training?

Training for these additional groups will be reimbursed at the 75 percent federal match rate in FY2013 (October 1, 2012). Such training, however, can be reimbursed at a 55 percent federal match rate beginning in FY2009 (October 1, 2008), and then increases five percentage points a year until FY2013. As in pre-existing law, however, the federal match rate for Title IV-E training must be prorated by the percentage of foster care youth that are Title IV-E eligible. (P.L. 110-351 §203(b))

