

Questions From the Chicago Fostering Connections Success Roundtable

September 1, 2009:

Asked of HHS:

1. When will the new “pre-print” (the document states can use as a guide to file their state plan) be issued? (This document will require state to provide new information now required by the Fostering Connections Act.)
2. How does or will HHS track compliance with the new provisions of the law such as the health planning requirements and the additional case planning requirements for youth leaving care?
3. Will there be final or additional guidance on the kinship/guardianship provisions of the law?
4. Will it be possible for states to cover children and families currently in state run-kinship/guardianship programs in the new Title IV-E kinship/guardianship option if a state takes that option?
5. Could there be greater information and guidance on how to use the new expanded Title IV-E training for private agencies and other expanded areas of coverage (such as court personal, court appointed special advocates and other new categories)?
6. Can you explain how private agencies and the states might work together to pool funds to draw down Title IV-E training funds? Can funds be donated or other tools be used to leverage Title IV-E workforce training dollars?
7. Will there be guidance issued to encourage collaboration with the schools?
8. Can guidance be offered not just by HHS but by the U.S. Department of Education?
9. Will there be an effort by HHS to provide or coordinate training with the courts so that they are aware and involved in the implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success Act provisions?
10. When will guidance, proposed regulations and other instruction be provided on those provisions of the Act that deal with extending care to age 21?
11. How will feedback and comments be solicited on these provisions?

12. With any outreach and coordination by HHS, will there be an effort to reach out and involve the private sector (i.e. non-profit and private agencies both those involved in child welfare but also those outside child welfare such as local United Ways and other community-based charities and providers)?
13. With states required to re-invest any savings from the expanded coverage of special needs adoptions, how will the state maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements be tracked by HHS?
14. Will there be a formal or informal process by HHS to gather feedback, input or opinions on the implementation, guidance and regulations issued on parts or all of the Fostering Connections to Success Act?