

Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS)

Implementing New Federal Title IV-E Language: Definition of Imminent Risk of Removal

Definition: A Title IV-E foster care candidate is a child who is at imminent risk of removal from the home and reasonable efforts are made to prevent the removal from the home or to pursue the removal from the home.

Criteria for Title IV-E Foster Care Candidacy Eligibility Determinations:

The county social services agency must have documentation of the specific reasons why a child is at imminent risk of removal and the specific action(s) the agency took to prevent the removal of the child or to pursue the removal of the child from the home.

- Generally, if a determination of imminent risk of removal has been made the county is providing services to the child.
- County must document the agency's reasonable efforts to prevent the need for removal from the home and/or the agency's reasonable efforts to remove the child from the home. Documentation can be the eligibility documentation form, case plan or evidence of court proceedings.
- Eligibility determinations must be individualized on a case-by-case basis. No group of children can be automatically included or excluded as Title IV-E foster care candidates.
- Eligibility re-determinations are required every six months.

Title IV-E Foster Care Candidates for LCTS

The list of children who are determined to be Title IV-E foster care candidates will be compiled by county social service agencies and shared with the LCTS participating agencies. Counties may compile the list based on recommendations from LCTS participants and/or recommendations from county social workers. This remains a local decision. Releases of information continue to be required when sharing private information between the county, school, public health and correction agencies.

LCTS participants are required to complete the DHS LCTS-3333 – *LCTS Title IV-E Foster Care Candidacy Determination Form* and release of information.

The Title IV-E foster care candidacy program is not a substitute for the child protection reporting system. Mandated reporters must make reports of child abuse and/or neglect to county child protection or law enforcement. If the LCTS participant believes a child is at imminent risk of removal from the home due to abuse and/or neglect, the participant shall make a mandated report to county child protection or law enforcement.