



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

October 24, 2019

Dannette R. Smith
CEO
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026

Dear CEO Smith:

Thank you for submitting Nebraska's Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) Final Report for fiscal years (FYs) 2015-2019, the CFSP for FYs 2020-2024, and the CFS-101s to address the following programs:

- Title IV-B, subpart 1 (Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services) of the Social Security Act (the Act);
- Title IV-B, subpart 2 (Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program and Monthly Caseworker Visit Grant) of the Act;
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grant;
- Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee Program); and
- Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program.

These programs provide important funding to help child welfare agencies enact the state's vision of safety, permanency, and well-being for children, youth and their families. The CFSP planning process facilitates development, continued assessment, and implementation of a comprehensive continuum of services for children and families. It provides an opportunity to integrate more fully each state's strategic planning around the use of federal funds with its work relating to the primary prevention of maltreatment, the Child and Family Services Reviews Program Improvement Plan and continuous program improvement activities.

Approval

The Children's Bureau (CB) has reviewed your CFSP Final Report for FYs 2015- 2019 (including the annual report on the use of CAPTA funds) and the CFSP for FYs 2020- 2024 and finds them to be in compliance with applicable federal statutory and regulatory requirements. Therefore, we approve FY 2020 funding under the title IV-B, subpart 1; title IV-B, subpart 2; CAPTA; Chafee and ETV programs. For the Chafee program, your state has elected to serve eligible youth up to age 23.

A counter-signed copy of the CFS-101 forms is enclosed for your records. The Children's Bureau may ask for a revised CFS-101, Part I, should the final allotment for any of the approved programs be more than that requested in the Annual Budget Request.

The Administration for Children and Families' Office of Grants Management (OGM) will issue a grant notification award letter with pertinent grant information. Please note that OGM requires grantees to submit additional financial reports, using the form SF-425, at the close of the expenditure period according to the terms and conditions of the award.

CAPTA Program Improvement Plan Approval

The Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-424) amended section 106(b)(2)(B)(vii) of CAPTA to require an assurance related to legal immunity for good faith reports of child abuse and neglect, to include professionals who are called upon to consult in a child abuse case, or provide a medical diagnosis. The state was unable to submit the required assurance and developed a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address the specific steps the state will take to come into compliance with the provision by no later than June 30, 2020. The CB has reviewed the CAPTA PIP and has approved it. Please note that a failure to come into compliance by June 30, 2020 will result in our withholding approval of the FY 2021 CAPTA State Grant funding until such time as the State comes into compliance.

Training Plan

The Training Plan for title IV-B and IV-E programs is also approved. Approval of the Training Plan does not release the state from ensuring that training costs included in the Training Plan and charged to title IV-E of the Act comply with the requirements at 45 CFR 1356.60(b) and (c) and 45 CFR 235.63 through 235.66(a), including properly allocating costs to all benefiting programs in accordance with the state's approved cost allocation plan.

Additional Information Required

Pursuant to Section 424(f) of the Act, states are required to collect and report on caseworker visits with children in foster care. The FY 2019 caseworker visit data must be submitted to the Regional Office by December 16, 2019. States that wish to use a sampling methodology to obtain the required data must obtain prior approval from the Regional Office.

The CB looks forward to working with you and your staff. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deborah Smith, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager in Region 7, at (816) 426-2262 or by e-mail at deborah.smith@acf.hhs.gov. You also may contact Debi Hatfield, Child and Family Program Specialist, at (816) 426-2232 or by e-mail at debi.hatfield@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Milner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "M".

Jerry Milner
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

Enclosure(s)

cc: Gail Collins, Director; CB, Division of Program Implementation; Washington, DC
Kendall Darling, Acting Child Welfare Regional Program Manager; CB, Region 7; Kansas City, MO
Debi Hatfield, Child and Family Program Specialist; CB, Region 7; Kansas City, MO
Steven Greene II, Deputy Director, Division of Children, and Family Services; NE DHHS; Lincoln, NE