

# Title IV-B – State Court Improvement Program (CIP)

CFDA: 93.586

**Administering Federal Agency:** U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families (ACF), Children's Bureau (CB)

**Description:** [Section 438 of the Social Security Act](#) authorizes CIP funding through three grants that the highest state court of each state may apply for:

- **Basic Grant.** The basic grant enables state courts to conduct assessments of the role, responsibilities and effectiveness of state courts in carrying out state laws guiding child welfare proceedings. It allows state courts to make improvements to provide for the safety, well-being, and permanence of children in foster care and engagement of families in child welfare cases. It also allows the courts to improve collaboration including in the implementation of Program Improvement Plans (PIPs) as a result of the Child and Family Services and title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews.
- **Data Grant.** The data grant supports data collection and analysis and promotes data sharing between state courts, child welfare agencies and tribes.
- **Training Grant.** The training grant is intended to increase child welfare expertise within the legal community and facilitate cross-training opportunities among agencies, tribes, courts and other key stakeholders.

The Children's Bureau continually updates its [What's New in Laws & Policies page](#) with information relevant to the IV-B programs.

**Find your state/local administrator:** The highest state court of appeal applies to the CB for these funds. Consider contacting the [Regional Liaison for the Capacity Building Center for the Courts](#) to find your CIP.

**Amount of available funding:** The [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#) signed into law December 27, 2020 reserved \$10 million from the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program for the Court Improvement Project, with \$500,000 reserved for Tribal court improvements. These funds can be used for technology investments, trainings to facilitate remote hearings, and other court programs to help families avoid delays in legal proceedings as a result of COVID-19.

**Matching Requirements:** A non-federal share is required for each CIP grant at the rate of 25 percent of the total budget. For example, a project totaling \$100,000 would require a state court contribution of \$25,000 to receive federal funds totaling \$75,000. There is no match requirement for the Tribal Court Improvement Program.

**Potential uses:** ICIP funds are expressly for courts to improve child welfare proceedings.

#### Other Helpful Information:

- CB has communicated through several [COVID-19-related letters](#) numerous flexibilities including for technology that can be found [here](#).
- See [NCSC Tiny Chat 4: Digital Divide](#) at 12:30.
- ACF COVID-19 Guidance is [here](#).
- An overview of CIP is at pages 26-30 of Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, [Child Welfare: Funding for Child and Family Services Authorized Under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act](#). CRS provided updated information in [this April 29, 2019 memorandum](#).
- ACF Program Flexibilities on IT and PPE to support State, Local and Tribal Human Services Workforce during COVID-19 Response document summarizes "virtual workforce" specific flexibilities for Title IV-B and Title IV-E [here](#).