



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Office of Children, Youth, and Families**

**Specialized Settings Webinars**

**Questions and Answers**

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## Eligible Population

Q: Can “expecting” youth include a same-sex partner?

A: Yes. This decision embraces the inclusion of the youth’s identified family members and definition of family. It is important to remember the legalities for establishing non-custodial parental involvement, custody, and paternity.

Q: Are only adjudicated dependent youth eligible?

A: The eligibility requirements for Title IV-E Foster Care placement maintenance have not changed. Placement decisions should be driven on the needs of the child/youth and not the funding source. If youth placed in a specialized setting are not eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement, they will receive the same programming and supports as Title IV-E eligible youth since that is now the approved program for the facility.

Q: Does Title IV-E reimbursement change on 10/1/20 with current kids in placement and how will this affect the Title IV-E administration rates?

A: Children and youth who are in congregate care placement prior to the Commonwealth’s opt-into the Title IV-E Prevention Program are grandfathered into the current Title IV-E reimbursement structure for eligible youth in congregate care settings that meet the federal definition of foster care. Title IV-E reimbursement for new placements in congregate care settings after the Commonwealth opts-in to the Title IV-E Prevention Program will be limited to 14 days of funding, assuming the youth is Title IV-E eligible. There are exceptions to the funding limitation for eligible youth placed in a specialized setting designated for their specific need. Pennsylvania currently is planning to opt-in to the Title IV-E Prevention Program on 10/1/20.

Q: Can both CYS and JPO children be served in the same facility?

A: Yes, they can. As a reminder, dependent youth cannot be placed in secured facilities as they are for delinquent-only youth.

Q: How will a child for whom the CCYA and JPO share case responsibility be viewed?

A: The specialized settings standards apply to all youth in a certified specialized setting program, regardless if they are Title IV-E eligible. As a reminder, this is the facility’s program and all youth placed in the specialized setting should be receiving the programming.

## Family First Prevention Services Pennsylvania Timeline

Q: When will Pennsylvania's Five-Year Prevention Plan be completed/approved?

A: Pennsylvania plans to submit the Title IV-E Prevention Plan in July 2020.

Q: When will Title IV-E prevention funds be available?

A: Currently, Pennsylvania is planning to opt-in to the Title IV-E Prevention Program on 10/1/20.

## Staff Ratio Clarifications

Q: Do staff have to be in the facility or on grounds? Can one staff take six residents off-ground?

A: The expectation is that two staff members must always be scheduled and on duty for every six children. We understand that one staff member may be called away so the ratio on site could be 1:6. The need for two staff is because emergency circumstances arise and one staff may be pulled away and another staff is needed to supervise the youth in the facility.

Q: Do the staff just have to be scheduled or do they both need to be on-site. If the second person scheduled calls off sick, would you need to call someone else in to meet the required staffing ratio?

A: The requirement is for there to be two staff present at the facility all times children/youth are present. If one staff calls off sick, the facility would need to call-in a replacement staff to meet the required staffing level.

Q: Is the ratio 2:6 and 2:12 (versus 1:6 and 1:12) if there must be at least two people at the facility at all times?

A: The expectation is that two staff members must always be scheduled and on duty for every six children. We understand that one staff member may be called away so the ratio on site could be 1:6. The need for two staff is because emergency circumstances arise and one staff may be pulled away and another staff is needed to supervise the youth in the facility.

## Supervised Independent Living (SIL)

Q: Is a scattered site SIL considered to be an unlicensed-supervised independent living setting (U-SILP)?

A: Under Title 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3680, SIL scattered facilities are allowable. The U-SILP are unlicensed settings like dorms or a previous resource family (who are not currently certified as a foster family) or a friend.

Q: Is a U-SILP able to support any/all youth including the populations addressed in the bulletin (pregnant, expecting and parenting youth or the prevention and/or treatment of sex trafficking), or is U-SILP expected only to work with youth transitioning to adulthood? Why is U-SILP not eligible for certification?

A: The certification is tied to a licensed facility (Title 55 Pa. Code Chapters 3800 or 3680). The U-SILP doesn't have a license so there is no certification available. Youth in the U-SILP are still eligible to receive these services. As a reminder, youth should be placed in the least restrictive option available regardless of their eligibility category.