

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
2002 Annual Conference

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 01

RESOLUTION TITLE: EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

WHEREAS; The responsibility of developing, coordinating, and delivering a program that challenges, informs, and stimulates the participants requires creativity, dedication, time, effort, and commitment; and

WHEREAS; Jim Fredyma, Program Chairperson, and the entire Program Committee have performed in an outstanding manner in preparing the program for the 55th Annual Conference of the National Association of State Human Services Finance Officers, so as to meet or exceed the expectations for that committee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS expresses its sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Jim Fredyma and to each member of the Program Committee, for their effort in preparing an outstanding program for the 2002 HSFO 55th Annual Conference.

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
2002 Annual Conference

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 02

RESOLUTION TITLE: EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO THE ARRANGEMENTS
COMMITTEE

WHEREAS; The responsibility for making arrangements for the 55th Annual Conference of the National Association of State Human Services Finance Officers requires dedication and cooperation; and

WHEREAS; The logistical task of preparation requires significant time and effort; and

WHEREAS; Rhonda Berberet and Nancy Haber, Arrangements Co-Chairpersons, and the entire Arrangements Committee have performed in an outstanding manner in hosting the 2002 Human Services Finance Officers Annual Conference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS expresses its sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Rhonda Berberet, Nancy Haber, and to each member of the Arrangements Committee, for their hard work, hospitality, and accomplishments in hosting the 2002 HSFO 55th Annual Conference.

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
2002 Annual Conference

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 03

RESOLUTION TITLE: FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR CHILDREN PLACED WITH PRIVATE GUARDIANS

WHEREAS; Both the Administration for Families and Children (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and States have long recognized the value of permanent placements of children with persons other than their natural parents such as those relatives, kin, former foster parents, and other appropriate caring adults to achieve permanency for state wards, and,

WHEREAS; Both ACF/DHHS and States have clearly recognized the savings demonstrated in Subsidized Guardianship waivers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges CONGRESS to amend Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to allow federal reimbursement to the States for payments to private Guardians for children who would have been eligible under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act while in foster care placement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES to support such a change in legislation and not propagate any rules until such a change is made.

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
2002 Annual Conference

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 04

RESOLUTION TITLE: FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR TRAINING UNDER TITLE IV-E OF
THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

WHEREAS; Both the Administration for Families and Children (ACF) of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the States have long recognized the value of quality training for providers and administrative staff under Title IV-E, and

WHEREAS; Federal Regulations at 45 CFR 1356.60 revised January 25, 2000, reflect an enhanced Federal Reimbursement rate of 75 percent for training of State and Local staff administering the Title IV-E State Plan; and

WHEREAS; The January 25, 2000 regulations dramatically change the administrative burden of States to focus on program results while still retaining significant State accountability; and

WHEREAS; Many States in the interest of cost effectiveness and limited ability to add permanent staff have increasingly utilized private agency staff to meet their administrative requirements under the Title IV-E State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges DHHS to take the necessary steps to amend regulations at 45 CFR 1356.60(b)(1)(e) to include 75 Federal Financial Participation for training of private agency staff under contract to a State or local agency engaged in allowable administrative activities under Title IV-E State Plan.

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
2002 Annual Conference

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 05

RESOLUTION TITLE: POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT ACYF-CB-PA-01-02, CLARIFYING GUIDANCE REGARDING CANDIDATES FOR FOSTER CARE

WHEREAS; The U. S. Department of Health and human Services (DHHS) released policy announcement ACYF-CB-PA-01-02 on July 3, 2001, which limited Federal Financial participation (FFP) for State and local administrative costs to children placed in only licensed foster care settings; and

WHEREAS; ACYF-CB-PA-01-09 moved the implementation date of the aforementioned policy announcement to October 1, 2002: and

WHEREAS; This policy announcement will cause significant loss of Federal revenue to many states who use a range of both licensed and unlicensed placement settings in their foster care programs; and

WHEREAS; Child Welfare regulations published January 25, 2000, propose giving States wide latitude in the operation of their Foster Care programs in order to improve long-term outcomes for children; and

WHEREAS; States must incur administrative expense for any and all Title IV-E eligible child no matter what their placement status ; and

WHEREAS; There is ongoing debate and disagreement between the States and the Administration for Families and Children of DHHS on interpretation of requirements pertaining to Title IV-E Foster Care program candidates; and

WHEREAS; The funding change proposed in ACYF-CB-PA-01-02 constitutes an unfunded mandate for all States participating in the Title IV-E Foster Care program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges DHHS to rescind both ACYF-CB-PA-01-02 and ACYF-CB-PA-01-02, along with any corresponding Children's Bureau policy manual sections immediately;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES to enter into negotiations with States to effect meaningful regulatory or legislative clarity on this issue before any other policy is issued.

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 06

RESOLUTION TITLE: DE-LINKING TITLE IV-E ELIGIBILITY FROM AID TO FAMILIES WITH
DEPENDENT CHILDREN HISTORICAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

WHEREAS; Section 472(a) of the Social Security Act requires a child to meet the requirements of a State's Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) plan that was in effect on July 16, 1996, with no allowance for income standards to grow with inflation, resulting over time, in a decrease in the number of children qualifying for Title IV-E reimbursement; and

WHEREAS; Some factors applicable for AFDC are more relevant to employment programs for parents than defining needy children who enter foster care (e.g., deprivation based on unemployment requires a connection to labor force): and

WHEREAS; Some factors relevant to AFDC create significant inequity between States in making Title IV-E eligibility available to foster children (e.g., large variation in income standards under AFDC and variation among states pertaining to treatment of step-parents for deprivation and income inclusion; and

WHEREAS; No Federal expertise has been maintained in the AFDC program area to assist and support states in accurate determination of Title IV-E eligibility, yet states are being held to this standard; and

WHEREAS; Federal regulations (effective march 27, 2000) and Federal interpretation of those regulations mandated changes in implementation of long-standing AFDC criteria, resulting in fewer children being Title IV-E eligible (e.g., interpretation of removal from the home of specified relative making some children, who would have actually received AFDC if the program were still effect, not meeting those standards under Title IV-E now); and

WHEREAS; The link to AFDC makes the eligibility process very burdensome and, in many states, has required the creation of a parallel eligibility process for Title IV-E;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges DHHS to actively enter into public policy debate through whatever means available, to effect meaningful legislative and regulatory changes to eliminate the Title IV-E eligibility link to AFDC (State Title IV-A plan as in effect on July 16, 1996).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS proposes that any change to Title IV-E eligibility requirements preserve the basic Federal Title IV-E entitlement, promote administrative simplicity, and provide greater equity in the availability of Federal benefits for children entering foster care.

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 07

RESOLUTION TITLE: TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

WHEREAS; The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) established the temporary Assistance to needy families (TANF) program, which gave states a great deal of flexibility in the law and subsequent regulations; and

WHEREAS; States used this flexibility to transform welfare by putting people to work, and to provide low income families services leading to self sufficiency; and

WHEREAS; States are still changing to assist those who remain on cash assistance, especially those with barriers to self-sufficiency, and to sustain those who left welfare to work in a troubled economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICE FINANCE OFFICERS urges Congress and the Administration to enact state-friendly legislation to reauthorize welfare reform this year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges the legislation contain such flexibility issues for the states as a 30 hour work week to count in work participation rates, a flexible definition of child care, restore the Social Service Block grant to the agreed upon funding level and transfer authority, and end the cost shift to states that result when legal immigrants were denied benefits.

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 08

RESOLUTION TITLE: FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGES (FMAP)

WHEREAS; Most States have been and are currently facing serious declines in revenues; and

WHEREAS; Economic downturns place greater demand on state Human Service and Health Care Agencies; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Senate has recognized the need to provide states some financial relief for health related cost by passage of the Rockefeller-Collins-Nielson bill;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges CONGRESS and the ADMINISTRATION to support the increase in the FMAP rate consistent with Senate Bill .

HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS RESOLUTION
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2002 - 09

RESOLUTION TITLE: MAINTAINING THE DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE ALLOTMENT LEVEL FOR STATES

WHEREAS; Disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments are an important source allowing numerous hospitals to provide health care for indigent individuals; and

WHEREAS; Congress recognized that state allotments established in the Social Security Act (SSA) under the 1995 Balance Budget Act were overly restrictive; and

WHEREAS; Modifications to the SSA at section 1923(f)(4) provided a special procedure modifying the limits to DSH allotments to states; and

WHEREAS; Elimination of the SSA at section 1923(f)(4) special rule will cause a significant reduction to the amount of DSH adjustments states can make to hospitals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE OFFICERS urges CONGRESS and the ADMINISTRATION to extend the calculation provisions under section 1923(f)(4) of the Social Security Act in determining DSH allotments for the states.