

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

OPEGA Report No.
SF-OIGAA-05

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(207)287-1901.

November
2005

Review of Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Compliance Efforts — *Maine DHHS Made Progress, Additional Efforts Warranted*



What was the purpose of OPEGA's review?

This follow-up review sought to determine whether Maine DHHS had taken effective corrective actions in response to the April 2005 audit report from the Federal Office of the Inspector General (OIG). OPEGA performed this review at the direction of the Government Oversight Committee (GOC).

What did OPEGA conclude?

OPEGA found that computer controls have been improved through system enhancements to automate Title IV-E eligibility determinations. In addition, DHHS has taken further actions to reduce the risk of noncompliance, including:

- increasing training of staff who determine Title IV-E eligibility;
- initiating a quality assurance process for Title IV-E eligibility determinations; and
- implementing a checklist to guide eligibility determinations.

OPEGA noted that these actions have been effective and should be continued. OPEGA also identified additional actions that should be taken to further improve compliance with Title IV-E regulations.

What management actions has OPEGA recommended?

OPEGA suggested improvements and agreed with DHHS upon the following corrective actions:

1. Implement a formal training guide for the staff who determine Title IV-E eligibility.
2. Strengthen the quality assurance process for Title IV-E eligibility determinations.
3. Increase the documentation retention period for Title IV-E eligibility case files.
4. Assign the role of compliance officer within DHHS's Office of Child & Family Services.

Additionally, DHHS had already begun to:

1. Design and implement a new procedure to improve responses to audit findings.

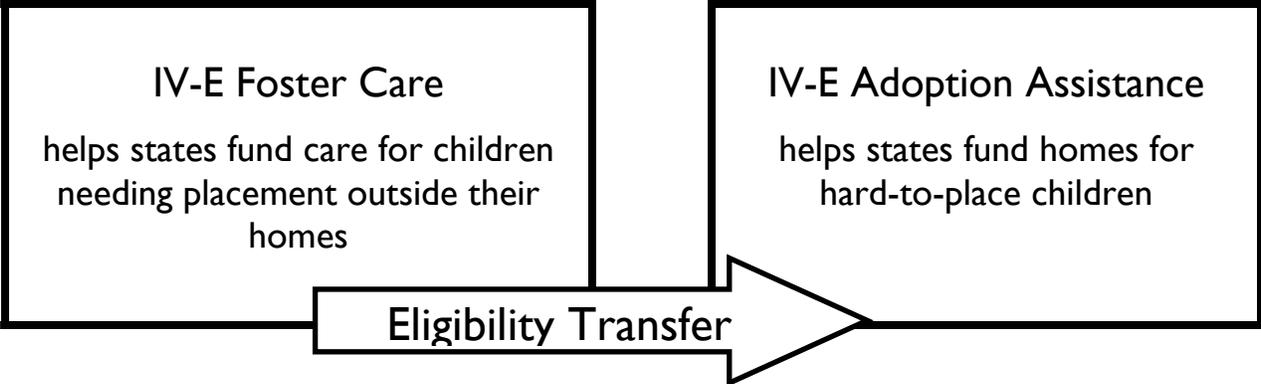
When was this review conducted?

OPEGA performed fieldwork related to this review during September and October of 2005.

Title IV-E Background

What is Federal Title IV-E Adoption Assistance?

There are 2 Related Federal Title IV-E Programs



Who is responsible for Title IV-E in Maine?

DHHS Organization Chart Relating to Title IV-E

