

## **DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS**

### **Administration for Children and Families (ACF)**

The Administration for Children and Families, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

### **Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)**

Federal reporting system that collects case level information on all children in out-of-home care for whom County and State child welfare agencies have responsibility for placement, care, or supervision and on children who are adopted under the auspices of the State's public child welfare agency.

### **Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)**

Federal legislation enacted in 1997 that emphasizes safety, permanence and well-being outcomes for children and families, and which established the procedure for the Title IV-E Review and the Child and Family Services Review.

### **Adoption Search Program**

A program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to help persons who have been adopted or whose birth parents have terminated their parental rights in Wisconsin to obtain information about themselves and their birth relatives.

### **Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)**

A federal review process that enables the Children's Bureau to accomplish the following: (1) ensure conformity with Federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is actually happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and (3) assist States to enhance their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes. Ultimately, the goal of the review is to help States improve child welfare services and achieve the safety, permanence, and well-being outcomes for families and children who receive services.

### **Child Protective Services (CPS)**

Specialized casework services to neglected, abused, or exploited children and their families. The focus of the services is the rehabilitation of the home through addressing the situations giving rise to abuse and neglect.

### **Children's Bureau (CB)**

One of six bureaus within the federal Administration for Children and Families that works with State and local agencies to develop programs that focus on preventing the abuse and neglect of children in troubled families, protecting children from abuse and neglect, and finding permanent placements for those who cannot safely return to their homes.

**Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP)**

A federal grant awarded to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Director of State Courts Office to improve the handling of children in need of protection or services and termination of parental rights cases in the court system.

**Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP)**

The statewide computer system used by circuit courts for case management purposes.

**Coordinated Service Team (CST)**

A group appointed by the agency primarily responsible for providing services to the child and the child's family to assess the child and family, define the services and any treatment to be provided, develop and implement the case plan, and evaluate the child's and his or her family's progress toward achieving established measurable and behavioral goals and objectives.

**Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

On July 1, 2008, the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) became the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the new Department of Children and Families (DCF) was created. DCF is the Wisconsin executive agency responsible for child welfare, child support, child care services and the W-2 program.

**Director of State Courts Office (DSCO)**

The administrative office of the Wisconsin Supreme Court responsible for the operational management of the state court system.

**Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**

Federal legislation enacted in 2018 that seeks to enable states to use federal funds available under Title IV-B (child welfare) and Title IV-E (see below) of the Social Security Act (see below) to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements through the provision of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, in-home parent skill-based programs, and kinship navigator services. The Family First Prevention Services Act also seeks to curtail the use of congregate or group care for children and instead places a new emphasis on family foster homes through the creation of certification and placement approval processes for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (see below).

**Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)**

Federal law establishing standards for the removal of an Indian child from his or her parent or Indian custodian, and placement of Indian child in foster or adoptive homes. P.L. 95-608.

**Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)**

A statutory law (s. 48.988, Stats.) and legal contract among all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to ensure that jurisdictional, administrative, and human rights obligations of all the parties involved in the interstate placement are protected. The ICPC establishes uniform legal and administrative procedures governing

the interstate placement of children. For youth in the juvenile justice system, there is a separate compact entitled the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (s. 938.991, Stats.).

**National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)**

A voluntary national data collection and analysis system created in response to the requirements of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93-247).

**Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA)**

One of the permanency goals available for children/juveniles placed in out-of-home care when there is a compelling reason why one of the other permanency goals is not in best interests of the child/juvenile. It includes sustaining care and long-term foster care, but excludes independent living.

**Out-of-Home Care**

Generic term for relative care, foster care, treatment foster care, group care and residential care for children.

**Program Improvement Plan (PIP)**

The document that outlines Wisconsin’s strategy, negotiated with ACF, for improving statewide child welfare practice and outcomes found to be in substantial non-conformity during the Child and Family Services Review.

**Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)**

Term given to a type of certification of certain non-foster home placements, including residential care centers for children and youth, group homes, or shelter care facilities, as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. This certification was created as a part of the Family First Prevention Services Act (see above). Placement of a child or juvenile in a QRTP facility triggers an assessment and recommendation regarding placement and judicial findings and approval in order for Title IV-E reimbursement (see below), as well as additional information and analysis in permanency planning and hearings or reviews.

**Social Security Act (SSA)**

A federal law to provide for the general welfare by establishing a system of old-age benefits, and by enabling the several States to make more adequate provision for aged persons, blind persons, dependent and crippled children, maternal and child welfare, public health, and the administration of their unemployment compensation laws. The Act includes Title IV-A (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), Title IV-B (child welfare), Title IV-D (child support), and Title IV-E (see below).

**Title IV-E**

Title IV-E is a subpart of Title IV of the federal Social Security Act. This program provides federal reimbursement to states for the costs of children and juveniles placed in out-of-home care under a court order or voluntary placement agreement. Title IV-E benefits are an individual entitlement for qualified children and juveniles who have been removed from their homes.

**Title IV-E Review**

A Federal review process focusing on whether a child meets the statutory eligibility requirements for foster care maintenance payments and whether State and County agencies are in compliance with program requirements under Title IV-E.

**Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA)**

2009 Wisconsin Act 94 codified the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into Wisconsin state statutes, primarily Chapters 48 and 938. In an effort to provide greater clarification and compliance with ICWA, WICWA includes additional procedures and definitions.

**Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (WiSACWIS or eWiSACWIS)**

A comprehensive automated case management system that supports caseworkers' out-of-home care and adoption assistance case management practice.