

Appendix 4: Title IV-E, Section 477 Certification

Certifications for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

As Chief Executive Officer/Tribal Leader of the State/Tribe of _____, I certify that the State/Tribe has in effect and is operating a Statewide or areawide program pursuant to section 477(b) or (j)(2) relating to Foster Care Independent Living and that the following provisions to effectively implement the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program are in place:

1. The State/Tribe will provide assistance and services to youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(A)];
2. Not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State/Tribe from its allotment for a fiscal year will be expended for room and board for youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(B)];
3. None of the amounts paid to the State/Tribe from its allotment will be expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(C)];
4. The State/Tribe will use training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance to provide training to help foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living, and will, to the extent possible, coordinate such training with the independent living program conducted for adolescents [Section 477(b)(3)(D)];
5. The State/Tribe will adequately prepare prospective foster parents with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of the child before a child, under the supervision of the State, is placed with prospective foster parents and that such preparation will be continued, as necessary, after the placement of the child. [Section 471(a), as amended];
6. The State/Tribe has consulted widely with public and private organizations in developing the plan and has given all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(E)];
7. The State/Tribe will make every effort to coordinate the State/Tribal programs receiving funds provided from an allotment made to the State/Tribe with other Federal, State and Tribal programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under part B of title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974); abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies [Section 477(b)(3)(F)];
8. Adolescents participating in the program under this section will participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and the adolescents will be required to accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program [Section 477(b)(3)(H)]; and

9. The State/Tribe has established and will enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse in the programs carried out under the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(I)].

STATE ONLY:

10. The State has consulted each Tribe in the State about the programs to be carried out under the plan; there have been efforts to coordinate the programs with such Tribes; and benefits and services under the programs will be made available to Indian youth in the State/Tribe on the same basis as to other youth in the State; and that the State negotiates in good faith with any Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium in the State that does not receive an allotment under 477(j)(4) for a fiscal year and that requests to develop an agreement with the State to administer, supervise, or oversee the programs to be carried out under the plan with respect to the Indian children who are eligible for such programs and who are under the authority of the tribe, organization, or consortium and to receive from the State an appropriated portion of the State allotment for the cost of such administration, supervision or oversight [Section 477(b)(3)(G)];

Signature of Chief Executive Officer or Tribal Leader

Date