

**Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Title IV-E Program Improvement Plan
February 2003**

Goal 1: All children who are found eligible for Title IV-E maintenance payments meet the financial and deprivation requirements that were in place for AFDC in Vermont on 7/16/96 (excluding waiver rules), except that the definition of unemployment in effect on 8/7/98 will be used.			
Activities	Person Responsible	Completion Date	Status/Update
1. As of 7/1/02, the central Child Benefits Unit (CBU) is determining initial IV-E eligibility determinations for new custody entrants.	Sara Boardman, Child Benefits Unit Supervisor	Done	
2. Beginning 2/18/03, the CBU will review initial and ongoing eligibility for all children due for IV-E annual reviews. This will include children currently coded as eligible and ineligible.	Sara Boardman/ Harry Adamek, Quality Assurance Specialist	2/18/04	
Goal 2: All children who enter out-of-home placement will enter subject to a child-specific contrary to the welfare finding by the family court.			
1. As of 1/21/03, new family court detention orders address the child-specific contrary to the welfare finding.	Lee Suskin, Court Administrator	Done	
2. SRS will monitor use of new court orders and work with the courts to resolve any implementation problems.	Harry Adamek, Quality Assurance Specialist	Ongoing	

Goal 3: All children will have timely permanency Reasonable Efforts findings.			
Activities	Person Responsible	Completion Date	Status/Update
1. The foster care payroll program will be amended to exclude IV-E payments for children whose permanency reasonable efforts finding are late.	Phil Zunder, Information Technology Director	4/1/03	
2. We will develop a tickler system to remind staff of upcoming deadlines for permanency reasonable efforts findings.	Phil Zunder, Information Technology Director	4/1/03	
3. We will design and implement a report to send to the court administrator, identifying lost revenues due to late permanency reasonable efforts finding, by court.	Cindy Walcott, Policy and Planning Chief/Phil Zunder, Information Technology Director	4/1/03	
Goal 4: Young adults formerly in custody after age 18 will receive IV-E payments only if they remain in secondary school with a plan for completion by age 19. Such payments will be subject to a written agreement between the state and the young adult. All payments will end at age 19.			
Activities	Person Responsible	Completion Date	Status/Update
1. Develop a template for an agreement between the state and young adults.	Harry Adamek, Quality Assurance Specialist	3/1/03	
2. Clarify documentation requirements in policy.	Cindy Walcott, Policy and Planning Chief	3/1/03	
3. Implement monitoring system to ensure compliance with requirements.	Harry Adamek, Quality Assurance Specialist	Ongoing	