

## Adoption Assistance

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### Note Taking Guide

**At the end of this training, you will be able to:**

1. Explain how adoption assistance supports permanency
2. Describe the adoption subsidy programs
3. Describe subsidy negotiation strategies
4. Describe the impact of diversity on subsidy negotiation

## Introduction and WIIFM

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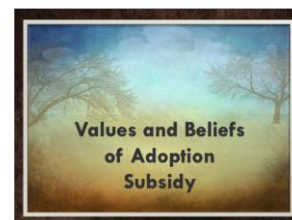
- Families will likely find discussion of financial needs uncomfortable, but will share because it means they can be a child's forever family.
- Adoption subsidies have helped to alleviate financial obstacles and barriers in considering adoption (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2011).
- Adoption assistance negotiation is required by rule 5101:2-4-05. Applying this definition to adoption subsidy negotiation, agencies should have a discussion with the family about their financial barriers to adopt, and then work together towards a mutually acceptable subsidy amount that will meet the child's needs.



## Values and Beliefs of Adoption Subsidy

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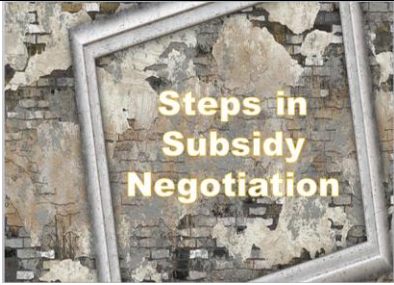
- The potential benefits of subsidy include: Leads to permanency, enhances the child's well-being, saves agency and state money.
- Negotiating a 0.00 subsidy is needed at times and is referred to as Deferred Adoption Assistance.
- There is a mandate to distribute the subsidy information with all family inquiries which can be met in the distribution of JFS 01985.





# Steps in Subsidy Negotiations

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- Steps in the negotiation process
  - Exploration
  - Information Exchange
  - Clarification
  - Closing and Commitment

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# Role of the Assessor in Negotiations

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- Assessors should be familiar with ODJFS rules and ORC and OAC codes regarding subsidy and adoption.
- Assessors working in a PCSA will need to document any discussions of subsidy that occur with a family within the SACWIS system.
- Assessors can support a family in the negotiation process by providing information and tools such as a financial planning guide .

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## Summary and Action Planning

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- What are three “take-aways” from this training that you can share with your supervisor?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Resources

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### **Ohio Child Welfare Training Program**

Training handouts and supplemental resources

<http://www.ocwtp.net/Trainee%20Resources.htm#A>

### **SACWIS Knowledge Base**

Resources and training materials on utilizing SACWIS

<http://jfskb.com/sacwis/>

### **Adoption Assistance Information and Forms**

For copies of the forms, go to ODJFS Forms Central (<https://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/inter.asp>) and search for form by name or number.

### **General Information**

JFS 01985 Adoption Subsidies Guide

JFS 01975 Ohio Adoption Guide, A Handbook for Prospective Adoptive Families

### **Adoption Assistance (IV-E)**

JFS 01451 Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Application

JFS 01453 Adoption Assistance Agreement

JFS 01454 Approval and Agreement for Title IV-E Retroactive Adoption Assistance Payments

### **Non-recurring Adoption Expenses**

JFS 01421 Application for Reimbursement of Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy

JFS 01050 Application for Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy

JFS 01051 Application for Additional Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy Funding for Extraordinary Circumstances

JFS 01052 Credentials for Providers of PASSS Funded Therapeutic Services and Memorandum of Understanding

JFS 01652 Credential of Professional Providers of PASSS Funded Therapeutic Services and Memorandum of Understanding

State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy - SAMS

JFS 01613 Application for State Adoption Subsidy

JFS 01614 Redetermination or Amendment of a State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy

JFS 01615 Approval for State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy

**Adoption Subsidy Web Links**

Ohio Administrative Code Rules – <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/>

Chapter 5101:2-49 contains Title IV-E rules, Chapter 5101:2-44 contains State Adoption Maintenance subsidy and Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy rules

Federal Child Welfare Policy Guide –

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/policy.jsp?idFlag=2](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy.jsp?idFlag=2)

ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings – [jfs.ohio.gov/ols/bsh/index.stm](http://jfs.ohio.gov/ols/bsh/index.stm)

ODJFS State Hearings and Appeals – <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/HearingsAppeals/>  
Copies of State Hearings and Administrative Appeals

North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) – [www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org)

Information for associates of each state's subsidy program

Child Welfare Information Gateway – <https://www.childwelfare.gov>

Articles and information about child welfare issues including adoption subsidies

Tax Guide for Foster and Adoptive Parents (2009) -

[http://www.nfpaonline.org/Resources/Documents/Tax/NFPA\\_2009\\_Federal\\_Tax\\_Benefits.pdf](http://www.nfpaonline.org/Resources/Documents/Tax/NFPA_2009_Federal_Tax_Benefits.pdf)

Developed by the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA)