

## Evaluation Technical Assistance for Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstrations

Section 1130 of the Social Security Act was amended by the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112–34) and signed into law on September 30, 2011. This law reauthorized the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to approve up to 10 new waiver demonstrations in each of Federal Fiscal Years 2012 through 2014. Each title IV-E agency selected as a demonstration site is required to conduct a rigorous evaluation that includes outcome, process, and cost analyses.

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), HHS, has contracted with James Bell Associates (JBA) to provide “Evaluation Technical Assistance for Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstrations.” The purpose of the contract is to provide assistance and support to participating title IV-E agencies in their efforts to evaluate their child welfare waiver demonstrations, assist ACYF in monitoring and reviewing the progress of title IV-E agencies’ evaluations, and synthesize and disseminate implementation and outcome findings from the evaluations of waiver demonstrations. The contract has the following components:

- **Needs Assessment:** JBA conducts assessments of title IV-E agencies’ evaluation and implementation plans to clarify their programmatic objectives, research designs and procedures; identify potential areas for improvement in the agencies’ evaluation plans that may require technical assistance; assess the agencies’ readiness for implementation; and, as directed by ACYF, develop syntheses of the evaluation plans.
- **Technical Assistance:** JBA is available to assist title IV-E agencies in the implementation of rigorous evaluations that produce useful and pertinent information regarding the impact of title IV-E waiver demonstrations. Title IV-E agencies may receive technical assistance through a JBA Research Associate or through a consultant retained by JBA with specialized expertise in child welfare research and program evaluation. JBA is available to provide technical assistance through a variety of modalities that include telephone consultations, Webinars, and site visits.
- **Logistical Support:** Each year, JBA provides logistical support for planning and conducting a meeting for Federal officials and child welfare agency staff and evaluators from title IV-E agencies with title IV-E waivers. The meetings are designed to disseminate information regarding the effects of waiver demonstrations on key child safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes; broaden the knowledge base for evaluation approaches that enhance the child welfare field’s understanding of the impact of title IV-E waivers; strengthen networks for sharing information; and identify lessons learned through the implementation of waiver demonstrations.
- **Cross-Project Analysis:** JBA conducts cross-project analyses based on quantitative and qualitative data from title IV-E agencies’ respective evaluations. The cross-project analyses examine the extent to which title IV-E agencies achieve common outcome objectives, such as reducing the number of children in foster care, length of stay in foster care, and re-entry into the child welfare system. JBA also reviews similarities and differences in the service interventions tested, lessons learned through the implementation of the demonstrations, and the implications of waiver findings for Federal, state, and tribal child welfare policies and practices.
- **Information Dissemination:** JBA engages in a wide range of information dissemination activities to inform ACYF, title IV-E agency officials, and other child welfare constituents about the title IV-E agencies’ demonstrations; highlight key findings of interest; and identify the policy implications of title IV-E waivers. Examples of dissemination activities include the development of detailed profiles of each waiver demonstration that highlight the demonstration’s programmatic design, evaluation design, and key evaluation findings; synthesis papers that summarize major findings and policy implications for major groups of waiver demonstrations (e.g., subsidized guardianship, flexible IV-E

funding); other summary materials such as tables that synthesize information across all agencies with title IV-E waivers; and Webinars on selected research, evaluation, and policy topics of relevance to title IV-E waivers.

For further information regarding the contract, please contact:

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