



Title IV-E Prevention Services Candidacy Groups

Source: [California's Five-Year State Prevention Plan \(April 2022 draft\)](#) (Child & Family Eligibility, p. 18)

Children currently considered candidates for foster care who may also be eligible for Title IV-E prevention services based on individual assessment:

- Children in families receiving voluntary or court-ordered family maintenance services who are at imminent risk for foster care.
- Probation youth subject to a petition under section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), and for whom the probation department determines to be at imminent risk for foster care per a state-approved assessment tool.

Candidacy categories under which children may be eligible for Title IV-E prevention services, if they are determined to be at “imminent risk for foster care” by a local IV-E agency, or a tribe with a Title IV-E agreement with the state:

- *Children whose guardianship or adoption arrangement is at-risk of disruption and who are also determined to be at imminent risk of foster care.* These are non-reunified children and youth who have exited foster care to some form of permanency and are at risk of re-entry due to disruption of that permanency arrangement according to an approved assessment tool.
- *Children with a Substantiated or Inconclusive Disposition of a child abuse or neglect allegation, but no case opened, if the child is at imminent risk of foster care.*
- *Children who have siblings in foster care, and who are at imminent risk of foster care.* Siblings have been defined by statute as children or youth related by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common legal or biological parent (in essence- full, adopted, or half siblings through both biological and legal parents).



- *Homeless or runaway youth who are determined to be at imminent risk of foster care.* Title IV-E prevention services provide the opportunity to keep families together by directly addressing certain root causes of homelessness, such as mental health and substance use disorders.
- *LGBTQ youth determined to be at imminent risk of entering foster care.*
- *Substance-exposed newborns who are determined to be at imminent risk of entering foster care.* Substance-exposed newborns are defined as infants born and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including both illegal and prescribed drugs.
- *Trafficked children and youth who are determined to be at imminent risk of entering foster care due to being trafficked, based upon the use of an approved assessment tool for this specialized population.* These are children and youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), as defined in WIC section 300(b)(2).
- *Children exposed to domestic violence who are at imminent risk of entering foster care.*
- *Children whose caretakers experience a substance use disorder who are also determined to be at imminent risk of entering foster care.* These are children living in households with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder and are at increased risk for child maltreatment and child welfare involvement compared to other children. Children who are at a greater risk may be affected by trauma due to parental neglect, prenatal substance exposure, or chaotic environments.
- *Children or youth experiencing other serious risk factors, that when combined with family instability or safety threats, would be assessed to be at imminent risk of foster care.*