



National Association of Public
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

January 12, 2010

To: State and Local Child Welfare Administrators

From: Courteney Holden, Senior Policy Associate, Child and Family Services

Re: ACF to Issue New PI on GAP

In an exciting new development, the Administration for Children and Families informed NAPCWA, NGA, NCSL and NACo about their intentions to change policy on the new Guardianship Assistance Program. On December 24, 2008 ACF issued program instructions that only allowed states to claim federal reimbursement for new cases. States operating existing programs would not be allowed to claim for those cases finalized before the passage of Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351) on October 7, 2008. Thirty seven states and the District of Columbia operated similar programs prior to the passage of Fostering Connections, mainly funded from state coffers. Pre-existing placements in these states were ineligible for the new federal program. David Hansell, ACF's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, explain to NAPCWA and other state associations that the Administration will expand their interpretation and those pre-existing guardianship placement can now be included. Several states have submitted IV-E amendments and will be able to update them to reflect the change in policy. New program instructions are due out soon and will be placed on the website as soon as they are released.