

The Recruiting Families Using Data Act

Section-By-Section

Section 1: Short Title

This section provides that the bill may be called the Recruiting Families Using Data Act

Section 2: State Plan Amendment

(a): This section amends the state plan requirements found in section 422 of the Social Security Act to require that states document their efforts to diligently recruit foster and adoptive families that reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the children in foster care through the development and implementation of family partnership plans. These family partnership plans must be developed in consultation with foster and adoptive families and describe

- how the state will notify and engage kin
- how the state will conduct targeted and child-specific recruitment
- how the state will engage youth in recruitment efforts on their behalf
- how the state plans to use data to establish goals, measure progress, and improve outcomes such as permanency and placement stability
- how the state will stand up foster family advisory boards

This section also requires that states collect and annually report data on the state's foster and adoptive family capacity to include

- the number, demographics, and characteristics of foster and adoptive families
- the number of families that are not being fully utilized and why
- the number and demographics of children in congregate care settings
- a summary of feedback from foster and adoptive parents regarding licensing, training, support, and reasons why foster families stop taking placements

This section also requires the plan to include an analysis of the state's barriers to recruiting and using families that reflect the diversity of the kids in foster care, and how the state is working to overcome these challenges.

(b): This section provides an implementation date of October 1, 2024. It allows for a delay in implementation if a change to a state law is required to make the changes and a state legislature has not yet convened.

Section 3: Inclusion of Information on Foster and Adoptive Families

This section requires The Department of Health and Human Services to include information on foster and adoptive parent capacity in their annual child welfare outcomes report to Congress. Specifically, HHS is required to include state-by-state data on the number and characteristics of foster and adoptive parents, and the other elements of data collected by states in section 2.