5. Question: What is a ‘Medicaid eligibility group’?

Answer: There are three broad Medicaid eligibility groups: ‘categorically needy’, ‘medically needy’, and ‘special group’. Children eligible for title IV-E adoption assistance are in the ‘categorically needy’ group as defined by Medicaid. Title IV-E adoption assistance is the category and children receiving title IV-E adoption assistance are considered ‘categorically eligible’ for Medicaid. This means that receipt of Medicaid is automatic and continues as long as a child remains eligible for title IV-E adoption assistance, i.e. remains in the mandatory categorically needy Medicaid category of title IV-E. State-funded adoption assistance eligible children are in what is known as an ‘optional categorically needy group’—their Medicaid is not automatic and not guaranteed in all states.