

FACTSHEET



The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on **Adoption** and Medical Assistance®

The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (AAICAMA, the Association) receives questions from states and adoptive families on permanency, Adoption Assistance, and Medicaid. The goal of AAICAMA's *Factsheets* is to provide responses to these questions in an easy-to-reference resource that includes discussion and cites law, regulation, and policy.

The ICAMA: The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

The ICAMA is an interstate compact. Interstate compacts are legal agreements between Member States to address an interstate issue. The ICAMA was created to address the need to protect the interests of children in interstate adoption as mandated by federal legislation, *The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-272.)*¹

- ☑ State law in all Member States
- ☑ Supersedes conflicting state laws to create unified policy and practice
- ☑ Has jurisdiction (applies) when:
 - There is an Adoption Assistance Agreement in effect
and
 - A youth with an Agreement is placed interstate or moves after finalization

The ICAMA and interstate realities: Why this information is important in the life of a child

The ICAMA is a bridge between states. It works to ensure the uninterrupted receipt of Medicaid to children and youth determined to have special needs. The Compact makes opening and closing Medicaid cases interstate easy for families *and* states.

How does ICAMA create a bridge between states?

Making Medicaid Happen. The ICAMA is a network of state, child welfare professionals designated as Administrators of the Compact. Compact Administrators and their colleagues:



- ☑ Work as a team to make Medicaid happen between states for children and youth under the jurisdiction of the Compact.
- ☑ Contact the ICAMA Administrator in the Agreement State- the state with which the family holds an Assistance Agreement. Link: <https://aaicama.org/icama-state-contacts-full-information/>
- ☑ Use the ICAMA System of electronic, case management or ICAMA Forms to open Medicaid in a new state of residence and close Medicaid in a former state of residence. This frees families from time spent navigating state agencies and frees state agencies' time and resources.

¹ 42 U.S.C. §675(3) defines the term "adoption assistance agreement" and mandates that the adoption assistance agreement "...shall contain provisions for the protection (*under an interstate compact* approved by the Secretary or otherwise) of the interests of the child...while the agreement is effective."

ICAMA and You: What to know and how to assist families and children

- The Agreement State is the state that the family has an Assistance Agreement with and is- usually- the state from which the child was adopted.
- The Adoption Assistance Agreement is a contract that binds the Agreement State to the adoptive family and obligates the Agreement State to the provisions of the Agreement.
- The Assistance Agreement remains in effect regardless of the state in which the family or youth lives.
- The Assistance Agreement is binding for the duration of the youth's eligibility for assistance- to a minimum age of 18 and a maximum age of 21 for Title IV-E Assistance.
- The type of Assistance a youth receives is important to know: Is the Assistance federal, Title IV-E or is it Non-Title IV-E Assistance (aka State-Funded Assistance?) The type of Assistance may affect a child's access to Medicaid in an interstate placement or move.

The Medicaid Program

- Vital to meeting the medical needs of youth adopted with special needs
- Strengthens permanency- think of Medicaid as a post adoption service
- Can be a daunting bureaucracy to navigate- especially interstate
- Is provided through a youth's state of residence

Medicaid is not a single program. It is public, health insurance offered by each district, state, and U.S. territory.

Medicaid services vary by jurisdiction. Services offered in the Medicaid State Plan of a new state of residence may not be the same as those offered in the Medicaid State Plan of a previous state of residence.

Children and youth receiving Title IV-E Assistance do NOT have to apply for Medicaid. The youth's application for and determination of eligibility for Title IV-E serves as the application for Medicaid.

Title IV-E is a mandatory category of eligibility under Medicaid. Youth eligible for Title IV-E are eligible for Medicaid in and across all states.

Non-Title IV-E Adoption Assistance (aka State-Funded) is an optional category of eligibility under Medicaid. Youth eligible for this category of assistance are ineligible for Medicaid interstate in IL, HI, NV, and NM.

Families MUST notify the Agreement State when the family or child plans to move. This is true for temporary and permanent moves and includes placements in residential schools or treatment facilities. Notification is required so that Medicaid can be closed in the former state of residence and opened in the new state of residence. This process is necessary because Medicaid cards/receipt is state-specific.

Securing inpatient, mental health services under Medicaid is involved. Contact the Agreement State in advance of placement to discuss Medicaid coverage and the possible, financial implications on the family.

AAICAMA encourages sharing this publication with all, interested persons and invites input and suggestions from child welfare stakeholders- states, families, agencies, and NGOs. Together, we strengthen permanency.

#Team AAICAMA



727 15th Street NW, 12th Floor (Suite 1200)
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 913-3226
Website: www.aaicama.org

