Adoption & Guardianship

Preparing for Subsidy Negotiations
What is a subsidy?

- Provides ongoing support
- Last until a child turns 18
- Can include:
  - Reimbursement of up to $2,000 of finalization expenses
  - Ongoing Medicaid
  - Monthly cash payment
Important To Remember:

The subsidy is not an extension of Foster Care

The negotiated amount must be based on the child’s current needs
What Subsidy Is My Child Eligible For?

- OCS conducts an eligibility determination
- Subsidies can be either Federally (Title IV-E) Funded or State Funded
- Funding source can impact Medicaid but does not impact maximum payable amount
- If you disagree, you have the right to an appeal through a first level review or evidentiary hearing
The Negotiation Meeting

- Can be one or more meetings
- Discuss the amount of funding, if any, you need in order to meet the special needs of the child
- The goal is to be able to come to a mutual agreement on a monthly amount
What Items Can Be Considered?

- A subsidy is negotiated based on the cost of meeting a child’s special needs that cannot be met by the family or any other, such as:
  - Cost of childcare for working parents
  - Costs to maintain cultural continuity
  - Cost of adding the child to your health insurance
- Some items cannot be considered, such as:
  - Tutoring or educational services
  - Enrichment activities
- OCS must consider all other sources of income available to the child
What Can I Do To Prepare?

- Consider your child’s needs and costs of services
- Complete the Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy Negotiation Worksheet
- Bring the completed worksheet to your negotiation meeting
Signing The Subsidy

- Once you sign the agreement, it is sent to OCS State Office for final approval
- Adoption subsidies begin the first day of the month it was approved
- Guardianship subsidies begin the date the guardianship finalizes
- Once the subsidy begins, payments are made by the first day of each month
This presentation was a joint effort of Alaska Center of Resource Families and The Office of Children’s Services.

**ACRF:**
(800) 478-7307  
acrf@nwresource.org  
https://www.acrf.org

**OCS Adoption Unit:**
(907) 465-3209  
http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/