



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of the Assistant Secretary | 330 C Street, S.W., Suite 4034
Washington, D.C. 20201 | www.acf.hhs.gov

February 2, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is focused on ensuring a home for every child, with an ambitious goal of achieving a foster home-to-child ratio greater than 1:1 in every state. The initiative will focus on both sides of the equation — increasing the availability of safe foster homes and reducing entries into foster care through effective prevention.

To date, prevention efforts have been underutilized in Title IV-E. This is not because states or communities doubt the value of prevention. It is because, in too many cases, the system we built to support prevention has been harder to use than it needed to be.

I am committed to cutting through the red tape to make safe and effective prevention more accessible. So today I am writing to share that ACF implemented a *Fast-Track Evidence Review Procedure for FDA-Approved Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)*. This approach leverages extensive clinical research and rigorous review already completed by the FDA and removes duplicative review steps which have historically delayed access to care.

As a result of this action, States and Tribes may now use Title IV-E prevention funding for the following FDA-approved MOUDs:

- Buprenorphine
- Methadone Maintenance Therapy
- Naltrexone

These treatments are well-established, evidence-based interventions that support recovery, promote family stability, and reduce risk factors associated with child welfare involvement. By accelerating the clearance process, this new procedure reduces administrative burden and allows States and Tribes to more quickly implement effective prevention services within their communities.

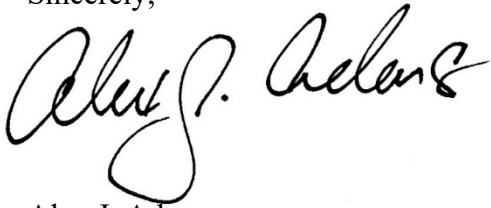
To support implementation, the Children's Bureau has also attached sample program language and program requirements for each medication-assisted treatment. States and Tribes may incorporate these services into existing Title IV-E five-year prevention plans through the established plan amendment process. When the attached pre-reviewed language and requirements are used, this language will fast track approval for Title IV-E prevention purposes, streamlining review and facilitating more timely deployment.

I strongly encourage States and Tribes to consider how these options can be integrated into their prevention continuums and to use this streamlined pathway to expand access to evidence-based treatment for families.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in advancing prevention services that

strengthen families and promote child and family well-being. Together, we can achieve a home for every child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alex J. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alex" being more prominent and the last name "Adams" following in a similar style.

Alex J. Adams
Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families

Attachments