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# 42 U.S. Code § 1320a-9

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## Demonstration projects

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### **(a) Authority to approve demonstration projects**

#### **(1) In general**

The Secretary may authorize States to conduct demonstration projects pursuant to this section which the Secretary finds are likely to promote the objectives of part B or E of subchapter IV.

#### **(2) Limitation**

During fiscal years 2012 through 2014, the Secretary may authorize demonstration projects described in paragraph (1), with not more than 10 demonstration projects to be authorized in each fiscal year.

#### **(3) Conditions for State eligibility**

For purposes of a new demonstration project under this section that is initially approved in any of fiscal years 2012 through 2014, a State shall be authorized to conduct such demonstration project only if the State satisfies the following conditions:

##### **(A) Identify 1 or more goals**

###### **(i) In general**

The State shall demonstrate that the demonstration project is designed to accomplish 1 or more of the following goals:

- (I) Increase permanency for all infants, children, and youth by reducing the time in foster placements when possible and promoting a successful transition to adulthood for older youth.
- (II) Increase positive outcomes for infants, children, youth, and families in their homes and communities, including tribal communities, and improve the safety and well-being of infants, children, and youth.
- (III) Prevent child abuse and neglect and the re-entry of infants, children, and youth into foster care.

###### **(ii) Long-term therapeutic family treatment centers; addressing domestic violence**

With respect to a demonstration project that is designed to accomplish 1 or more of the goals described in clause (i), the State may elect to establish a program—

- (I) to permit foster care maintenance payments to be made under part E of subchapter IV to a long-term therapeutic family treatment center (as described in paragraph (8)(B)) on behalf of a child residing in the center; or
- (II) to identify and address domestic violence that endangers children and results in the placement of children in foster care.

##### **(B) Demonstrate readiness**

The State shall demonstrate through a narrative description the State's capacity to effectively use the authority to conduct a demonstration project under this section by identifying changes the State has made or plans to make in policies, procedures, or other elements of the State's child welfare program

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that will enable the State to successfully achieve the goal or goals of the project.

**(c) Demonstrate implemented or planned child welfare program improvement policies**

**(i) In general**

The State shall demonstrate that the State has implemented, or plans to implement within 3 years of the date on which the State submits its application to conduct the demonstration project or 2 years after the date on which the Secretary approves such demonstration project (whichever is later), at least 2 of the child welfare program improvement policies described in paragraph (7).

**(ii) Previous implementation**

For purposes of the requirement described in clause (i), at least 1 of the child welfare program improvement policies to be implemented by the State shall be a policy that the State has not previously implemented as of the date on which the State submits an application to conduct the demonstration project.

**(iii) Implementation review**

The Secretary may terminate the authority of a State to conduct a demonstration project under this section if, after the 3-year period following approval of the demonstration project, the State has not made significant progress in implementing the child welfare program improvement policies proposed by the State under clause (i).

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