

(4) The State Developmental Disabilities Council shall follow the requirements of section 124(c) (8), (9) and (10) of the Act regarding budgeting, staff hiring and supervision and staff assignment. Budget expenditures must be consistent with applicable State laws and policies regarding grants and contracts and proper accounting and book-keeping practices and procedures. In relation to staff hiring, the clause "consistent with State law" in section 124(c)(9) means that the hiring of State Developmental Disabilities Council staff must be done in accordance with State personnel policies and procedures except that a State shall not apply hiring freezes, reductions in force, prohibitions on staff travel, or other policies, to the extent that such policies would impact staff or functions funded with Federal funds and would prevent the Council from carrying out its functions under the Act.

(Information collection requirements contained in paragraph (c) under control number 0980-0162 and paragraph (e) under control number 0980-0139 are approved by the Office of Management and Budget)

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 44847, Nov. 20, 1987; 54 FR 47985, Nov. 20, 1989; 61 FR 51159, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.31 State Plan submittal and approval.

(a) The Council shall issue a public notice about the availability of the proposed State Plan or State Plan amendment(s) for comment. The Notice shall be published in formats accessible to individuals with developmental disabilities and the general public (e.g., tape, diskette, public forums, newspapers) and shall provide a 45 day period for public review and comment. The Council shall take into account comments submitted within that period and respond in the State Plan to significant comments and suggestions. A summary of the Council's response to State Plan comments shall be submitted with the State Plan and made available for public review. This document shall be made available in accessible formats upon request.

(b) The State plan must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office of the Department 45 days prior to the fiscal year for which it is applicable. Un-

less State law provides differently, the State plan and amendments or related documents must be approved by the Governor or the Governor's designee as may be required by any applicable Federal issuances.

(c) Failure to submit an approvable State plan or amendment prior to the Federal fiscal years for which it is applicable may result in the loss of Federal financial participation. Costs resulting from obligations incurred during the period of the fiscal year for which an approved plan is not in effect are not eligible for Federal financial participation.

(d) The Commissioner must approve any State plan or plan amendment provided it meets the requirements of the Act and these regulations.

(e) Amendments to the State plan are required when substantive changes are contemplated in plan content.

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 51160, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.32 Periodic reports: Federal assistance to State Developmental Disabilities Councils.

(a) The Governor or appropriate State financial officer must submit financial status reports on the programs funded under this subpart according to a frequency interval which will be specified by the Administration for Children and Families. In no case will such reports be required more frequently than quarterly.

(b) Pursuant to section 107(a) of the Act (U.S.C. 6006a), the State Developmental Disabilities Council shall submit an Annual Program Performance Report in a form that facilitates Council reporting of results of activities required under sections 122 and 124 of the Act. The report shall be submitted to the appropriate Regional ACF office, by January 1 of each year.

[61 FR 51160, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.33 Protection of employee's interests.

(a) Based on section 122(c)(5)(K) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 6022(c)(5)(K)), the

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State plan must assure fair and equitable arrangements to protect the interest of all institutional employees affected by actions under the plan to provide community living activities. Specific arrangements for the protection of affected employees must be developed through negotiations between the appropriate State authorities and employees or their representatives. Fair and equitable arrangements must include procedures that provide for the impartial resolution of disputes between the State and an employee concerning the interpretation, application, and enforcement of protection arrangements. The State must inform employees of the State's decision to provide for community living activities.

(b) To the maximum extent practicable, fair and equitable arrangements must include provisions for:

- (1) The preservation of rights and benefits;
- (2) Guaranteeing employment to employees affected by action under the plan to provide alternative community living arrangements; and
- (3) Employee training and retraining programs.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0980-0162)

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 44847, Nov. 20, 1987; 54 FR 47985, Nov. 20, 1989; 61 FR 51160, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.34 Designated State Agency.

(a) The Designated State Agency shall provide the required assurances and other support services as requested by and negotiated with the Council. These include:

- (1) Provision of financial reporting and other services as provided under section 124(d)(3)(C) of the Act; and
- (2) Information and direction, as appropriate, on procedures on the hiring, supervision and assignment of staff in accordance with State law.

(b) If the State Developmental Disabilities Council requests a review by the Governor (or legislature) of the Designated State Agency, the Council must provide documentation of the reason for change and recommend a preferred Designated State Agency.

(c) After the review is completed, a majority of the non-State agency members of the Council may appeal to

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the Assistant Secretary for a review of the designation of the designated State agency if the Council's independence as an advocate is not assured because of the actions or inactions of the designated State agency.

(d) The following steps apply to the appeal of the Governor's (or legislature's) designation of the Designated State Agency.

(1) Prior to an appeal to the Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, the State Developmental Disabilities Council, must give a 30 day written notice, by certified mail, to the Governor (or legislature) of the majority of non-State members' intention to appeal the designation of the Designated State Agency.

(2) The appeal must clearly identify the grounds for the claim that the Council's independence as an advocate is not assured because of the actions or inactions of the designated State agency.

(3) Upon receipt of the appeal from the State Developmental Disabilities Council, the Assistant Secretary will notify the State Developmental Disabilities Council and the Governor (or legislature), by certified mail, that the appeal has been received and will be acted upon within 60 days. The Governor (or legislature) shall within 10 working days from the receipt of the Assistant Secretary's notification provide written comments to the Assistant Secretary (with a copy sent by registered or certified mail to the Council) on the claims in the Council's appeal. Either party may request, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, an opportunity for an informal meeting with the Assistant Secretary at which representatives of both parties will present their views on the issues in the appeal. The meeting will be held within 20 working days of the submission of written comments by the Governor (or legislature). The Assistant Secretary will promptly notify the parties of the date and place of the meeting.

(4) The Assistant Secretary will review the issue(s) and provide a final written decision within 60 days following receipt of the State Developmental Disabilities Council's appeal. If the determination is made that the