

## Report in Brief

Date: July 2017

Report No. A-05-16-00020

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



### Why OIG Did This Review

Congress has expressed concerns about the safety and well-being of foster care children. These issues were highlighted in a media report that provided several examples of children who died while in foster care. Accompanying the deaths were allegations of negligence as a contributing factor and evidence of sexual and physical abuse, sometimes after clear warning signs.

Our objective was to determine whether the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (State agency) ensured that allegations and referrals of abuse and neglect of children eligible for foster care payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended (P.L. No. 74-271, Aug. 14, 1935) (the Act), were recorded, investigated, and resolved in accordance with State requirements as required by Federal law.

### How OIG Did This Review

We obtained the State agency data on allegations and referrals of abuse and neglect of Title IV-E foster care children for which a Public Children Services Agency assigned an investigation for the period January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015. We selected 128 cases that were reported incidents of abuse or neglect during our audit period.

## Ohio Ensured That Allegations and Referrals of Abuse and Neglect of Children Eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care Payments Were Recorded and Investigated in Accordance With State Requirements As Required By Federal Law

### What OIG Found

The State agency ensured that allegations and referrals of abuse and neglect for children in foster care covered by Title IV-E of the Act were recorded, investigated, and resolved in accordance with State requirements as required by Federal law. Specifically, each case file contained the details of the allegation, the time and method of the investigation's initiation, interviews with the potential victim(s) and the foster parent(s), notification to law enforcement, a supervisory review, an investigation completion date, and the supervisor's approval of the investigation.

### What OIG Recommends

This report contains no recommendations.