APPENDIX H:

ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Attachment C - States

Title IV-B, subpart 1 Assurances

The assurances listed below are in 45 CFR 1357.15(c) and title IV-B, subpart 1, sections 422(b)(8), 422(b)(10), and 422 (b)(14) of the Social Security Act (Act). These assurances will remain in effect during the period of the current five-year Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP).

1. The State assures that it is operating, to the satisfaction of the Secretary:

    a. A statewide information system from which can be readily determined the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or, within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care;

    b. A case review system (as defined in section 475(5) of the Act) for each child receiving foster care under the supervision of the State/Tribe;

    c. A service program designed to help children:

        i. Where safe and appropriate, return to families from which they have been removed; or

        ii. Be placed for adoption, with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be appropriate for a child, in some other planned, permanent living arrangement which may include a residential educational program; and

    d. A preplacement preventative services program designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely with their families.

2. The State assures that it has in effect policies and administrative and judicial procedures for children abandoned at or shortly after birth (including policies and procedures providing for legal representation of the children) which enable permanent decisions to be made expeditiously with respect to the placement of the children.

3. The State assures that it shall make effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources (including through contracts for the purchase of services), and shall eliminate legal barriers, to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children.

4. The State assures that not more than 10 percent of the expenditures of the State with respect to activities funded from amounts provided under this subpart will be for administrative costs.

5. The State assures that it will participate in any evaluations the Secretary of HHS may require.

6. The State assures that it shall administer the Child and Family Services Plan in accordance with methods determined by the Secretary to be proper and efficient.

Effective Date and Official Signature

I hereby certify that the State complies with the requirements of the above assurances.

Certified by: Phil Bryant

Title: Governor, Mississippi

Agency: Mississippi Department of Human Services

Dated: 6/30/14

Reviewed by: _____

(ACF Regional Representative)

Dated: _____

Title IV-B, subpart 2 Assurances

The assurances listed below are in 45 CFR 1357.15(c) and title IV-B, subpart 2, sections 432(a)(2)(C), 432(a)(4), 432 (a)(5), 432(a)(7) and 432(a)(9) of the Social Security Act (Act). These assurances will remain in effect during the period of the current five-year CFSP.

1. The State assures that after the end of each of the first four fiscal years covered by a set of goals, it will perform an interim review of progress toward accomplishment of the goals, and on the basis of the interim review will revise the statement of goals in the plan, if necessary, to reflect changed circumstances.

2. The State assures that after the end of the last fiscal year covered by a set of goals, it will perform a final review of progress toward accomplishments of the goals, and on the basis of the final review:

   a. Will prepare, transmit to the Secretary, and make available to the public a final report on progress toward accomplishment of the goals; and

   b. Will develop (in consultation with the entities required to be consulted pursuant to subsection 432(b)) and add to the plan a statement of the goals intended to be accomplished by the end of the 5th succeeding fiscal year.

3. The State assures that it will annually prepare, furnish to the Secretary, and make available to the public a description (including separate descriptions with respect to family preservation services, community-based family support services, time limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services) of:

   a. The service programs to be made available under the plan in the immediately succeeding fiscal year;

   b. The populations which the programs will serve; and

   c. The geographic areas in the State in which the services will be available.

4. The State assures that it will perform the annual activities in the 432(a)(5)(A) in the first fiscal year under the plan, at the time the State submits its initial plan, and in each succeeding fiscal year, by the end of the third quarter of the immediately preceding fiscal year.

5. The State assures that Federal funds provided under subpart 2 will not be used to supplant Federal or non-Federal funds for existing services and activities which promote the purposes of subpart 2.

6. The State will furnish reports to the Secretary, at such times, in such format, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, that demonstrate the State's compliance with the prohibition contained in 432(a)(7)(A) of the Act.

7. The State assures that in administering and conducting service programs under the subpart 2 plan, the safety of the children to be served shall be of paramount concern.

8. The State assures that it will participate in any evaluations the Secretary of HHS may require.

9. The State assures that it shall administer the Child and Family Services Plan in accordance with methods determined by the Secretary to be proper and efficient.

10. The State assures that not more than 10 percent of expenditures under the plan for any fiscal year with respect to which the State is eligible for payment under section 434 of the Act for the fiscal year shall be for administrative costs, and that the remaining expenditures shall be for programs of family preservation services, community based support services, time limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services, with significant portions of such expenditures for each such program.

Effective Date and Official Signature

I hereby certify that the State complies with the requirements of the above assurances.

Certified by: Phil Bryant

Title: Governor, Mississippi

Agency: Mississippi Department of Human Services

Dated: 6/30/14

Reviewed by: _____

(ACF Regional Representative)

Dated: _____

Title IV-E, Section 477 Certifications

Certifications for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

As Chief Executive Officer of the State of Mississippi, I certify that the State has in effect and is operating a Statewide or areawide program pursuant to section 477(b) relating to the Foster Care Independence Program and that the following provisions to effectively implement the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program are in place:

1. The State will provide assistance and services to youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(A)];
2. Not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment for a fiscal year will be expended for room and board for youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(B)];
3. None of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment will be expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(C)];
4. The State has consulted widely with public and private organizations in developing the plan and has given all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(E)];
5. The State will make every effort to coordinate the State programs receiving funds provided from an allotment made to the State with other Federal, State and Tribal programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under part B of title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974); abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies [Section 477(b)(3)(F)];
6. Adolescents participating in the program under this section will participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and the adolescents will be required to accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program [Section 477(b)(3)(H)]; and
7. The State has established and will enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse in the programs carried out under the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(I)].
8. The State will use training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance to provide training to help foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living, and will, to the extent possible, coordinate such training with the independent living program conducted for adolescents [Section 477(b)(3)(D)];
9. The State has consulted each Tribe in the State about the programs to be carried out under the plan; there have been efforts to coordinate the programs with such Tribes; and benefits and services under the programs will be made available to Indian youth in the State/Tribe on the same basis as to other youth in the State; and that the State negotiates in good faith with any Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium in the State

that does not receive an allotment under 477(j)(4) for a fiscal year and that requests to develop an agreement with the State to administer, supervise, or oversee the programs to be carried out under the plan with respect to the Indian children who are eligible for such programs and who are under the authority of the tribe, organization, or consortium and to receive from the State an appropriated portion of the State allotment for the cost of such administration, supervision or oversight [Section 477(b)(3)(G)];

10. The State will ensure that an adolescent participating in this program is provided with education about the importance of designating another individual to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the adolescent if the adolescent becomes unable to participate in such decisions and the adolescent does not have or does not want, a relative who would otherwise be authorized under State law to make such decisions, whether a health care power of attorney, health care proxy or other similar document is recognized under State law, and how to execute such document if the adolescent wants to do so [Section 477(b)(3)(K)].

Phil Bryant

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

6/30/14

Date

State Chief Executive Officer's Certification
for the
Education and Training Voucher Program
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

As Chief Executive Officer of the State of Mississippi, I certify that the State has in effect and is operating a Statewide program relating to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program:

1. The State will comply with the conditions specified in subsection 477(i).
2. The State has described methods it will use to:
    - ensure that the total amount of educational assistance to a youth under this and any other Federal assistance program does not exceed the total cost of attendance; and
    - avoid duplication of benefits under this and any other Federal assistance program, as defined in section 477(b)(3)(J).

Phil Bryant

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

6/30/14

Date