

## **Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008:**

### **Key Considerations for TFC Agencies**

1. Areas of legislation that states must implement immediately unless state legislation is required (in which case, states have until first quarter after close of current legislative session).
  - Identify and give notice to adult relatives when child is removed from home.
  - Keep siblings together or ensure frequent visitation (and add'l record keeping as to why siblings cannot be placed together)
  - Keep children in their current school to address educational stability (or prove why that is not in child's best interest).
  - Ensure that children are enrolled full-time and attending school.
  - Inform adoptive parents of adoption tax credit.
  - Prepare transition plan for youth exiting care and for those receiving independent living services.
2. Which measures can bring in new federal dollars for my state?
  - Family Connections grants
  - Provision of federal funds for transporting IV-E eligible children to school
  - Federal reimbursement to keep older youth in care (18yrs+)
  - Adoption assistance payments for children with special need
  - Technical assistance grants related to serving Indian tribes/children
  - Expanded eligibility under IV-E for training of private agency staff, court staff, etc. in conjunction with child welfare agency.
  - Kinship guardianship assistance payments