

Assets for Independence Act

The Assets for Independence Act (AFIA) is the Federal law that authorizes the Office of Community Services to administer the AFI Program. AFIA is a subcomponent of the overarching Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998. It was amended in 2000. The law explicitly requires grantees to use particular design elements in their AFI Projects.

The following sections are of particular interest:

- Section 404 (definitions)
- Section 407 (reserve account or fund)
- Section 408 (eligibility)
- Section 410 (deposits and withdrawals)
- Section 415 (clause protecting other public benefits).

The AFI Resource Center has developed a variety of tip sheets and other tools to assist grantees in applying the terms of the act. Many of these are found in the next section of this HANDBOOK, on project administration, and on the AFI Asset-Building Web site:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding>.