

**Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for  
The Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is CCWIS?**

A Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) is a case management information system that states and tribes may develop to support their child welfare program needs. If a state or tribe elects to build a CCWIS, the federal government will provide additional funds to help pay for it as long as the system is designed to support social workers automation needs to organize and record quality case information about the children and families receiving child welfare services.

**Why are the SACWIS/TACWIS regulations being replaced?**

We published the original Statewide or Tribal Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS/TACWIS) regulations in 1993. Those regulations defined SACWIS/TACWIS as a large function based application that all social workers would use to track and manage their child welfare caseloads. In the intervening years, child welfare practice and technology have changed considerably. The proposed CCWIS regulations will provide states and tribes the opportunity to take advantage of modern technology offerings that will enable them to share data between multiple systems rather than building large “one-size-fits-all” SACWIS/TACWIS applications. This flexibility will allow states and tribes to tailor their information technology needs to align more closely to their unique program requirements.

**What are the key differences between SACWIS/TACWIS and CCWIS?**

States and tribes will now have flexibility to design and implement a child welfare information system that meets their unique needs. The proposed CCWIS regulations only have 14 requirements, whereas the current SACWIS/TACWIS regulations include 51 mandatory federal requirements.

**Is my title IV-E agency required to have a CCWIS?**

No; CCWIS is optional. Title IV-E agencies exercising the option to build a CCWIS would receive additional title IV-E funding if the system meets the requirements of our proposal.

**What happens to SACWIS/TACWIS?**

Since this is a NPRM, nothing changes now. If our proposal becomes a final rule, we will provide a 2-year transition period for a title IV-E agency to determine the type of system that will meet its future needs. The proposal also allows agencies to enhance their SACWIS/TACWIS to meet modified CCWIS requirements. After the two-year evaluation period, the agency will receive ongoing funding as either a CCWIS or a non-CCWIS, depending on the type of system it has elected to operate.

**What are the options under the proposal?**

If our proposal becomes a final rule, title IV-E agencies will have three options:

1. Enhance an existing system (SACWIS/TACWIS, or non-SACWIS/TACWIS) to meet modified CCWIS requirements.
2. Build a new system that meets all of CCWIS requirements.
3. Build or maintain a non-CCWIS system, which could be either an existing or new system project.

**How does CCWIS cost allocation compare to SACWIS/TACWIS cost allocation?**

The CCWIS proposal does not change the cost allocation methodology that was available to design, build and operate a SACWIS/TACWIS application. In short, states and tribes may continue to claim system costs without regard to the title IV-E eligibility of foster care children served through a CCWIS, as they were able to do for a SACWIS/TACWIS.

**Should my title IV-E agency have a CCWIS?**

Every situation is unique. A title IV-E agency should evaluate its specific business practices, needs, and other relevant circumstances to determine if a CCWIS is appropriate. A state or tribe's [assigned federal analyst](#) can provide additional advice on CCWIS and guidance on submitting an Advance Planning Document if that is the direction the agency chooses.