

CCWIS Final Rule Overview



June, 2016

Agenda

- The need for CCWIS
- Background
- Overview
- Benefits
- NPRM
- Major changes to the final rule
- Section-by-section discussion

The Need for CCWIS

- Regulations not updated since 1993
- Technology & practice have advanced, allowing:
 - Data sharing with service providers, health and human service systems, education and court systems, resulting in better outcomes for children and families
 - Title IV-E agencies to build more effective and less expensive IT systems
 - Smaller title IV-E agencies, such as tribes, to implement these types of systems to support their IV-E program

Background

- Enabling legislation: Social Security Act (section 474(a)(3)(C) and (D) and 474(c))
- Optional
- CCWIS benefits over the SACWIS model include:
 - Accommodates changes in practice & technology
 - Provides flexibility to “right size” systems
 - Promotes program and system interoperability
 - Requires data quality processes
 - Reduces costs for development & maintenance

CCWIS Overview

- CCWIS requirements focus on quality data and program outcomes:
 - Develop and implement a data quality plan
 - New data exchanges
 - Require a data exchange standard
- CCWIS must be developed with a modular design capable of reuse
- Agencies have 24 months to decide if an existing system will be transitioned to a CCWIS

CCWIS Benefits

- Expected to support state or tribal child welfare policies and practices – it should be built to meet agency, not federal needs
- Provides child welfare staff with information to make informed decisions and take action
- Encourages program innovation
- Supports collaboration with other human service, health and education programs/systems
- Facilitates communication with courts
- Promotes continuous quality improvement
- Uses new technology to support the child welfare team

Notice of Proposed Rule Making

Prior to issuing the final rule, ACF:

- Solicited ideas from the public through a Federal Register notice on July 23, 2010 and again on April 5, 2011 and conducted a series of conference calls with interested stakeholder groups.
- Conducted two tribal consultations concerning the S/TACWIS on February 15 and 16, 2012.
- Published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on August 11, 2015 (80 FR 48200 – 748229) outlining our CCWIS proposal.

Final Rule Changes

Based on comments we received from the NPRM, we made the following rule changes:

- Data quality reviews – required biennially
- Flexibility in allowing multiple data exchanges
 - Must be efficient, economical and effective
- Eliminated data exchange standards between internal modules
- Other minor clarifications
 - Measure of data quality - “Most Rigorous”
 - Project description in Notice of Intent
 - Exchange current and historical CCWIS data

Section by Section discussion of the CCWIS Final Rule

Purpose and Definitions

1355.50 Purpose:

- We specify in § 1355.50 that §§ 1355.50 through 1355.59 set forth the requirements for receiving FFP as authorized under section 474(a)(3)(C) and (D) and 474(c) of the Act for the planning, design, development, installation, operation, and maintenance of a CCWIS.

1355.51 Definitions:

- We specify in § 1355.51 definitions applicable to §§ 1355.50 through 1355.59.

1355.52

System Requirements

- This is the “heart” of the CCWIS final rule; this section defines what a CCWIS is – what state and tribal title IV-E agencies must build or implement if they select the option to build a CCWIS
- Requirements organized into 10 categories.
[1355.52(a) – (j)]

1355.52(a)

Efficient, Economical, & Effective

In paragraph 1355.52(a), we specify that the system must support the efficient, economical, and effective administration of the title IV-B and IV-E plans.

- Statutory basis – 474(a)(3)(c)(iv)
- General requirement applicable to all CCWIS development.

1355.52(b)

Required Data

A CCWIS must maintain data needed to support federal & agency requirements, including:

- IV-B/IV-E data for federal or agency reports, audits, reviews, & monitoring
- IV-B/IV-E data to support federal or agency laws, regulations, and policy
- Data to support Indian Child Welfare Act (states only)
- National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) data for federal audits, reviews, & reports (states only)

1355.52(c) Reporting

Data maintained in the CCWIS must support federal and agency reporting for:

- Ongoing federal reports
 - Adoption & Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)
 - National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)
- Other reports needed by the agency

1355.52(d)

Data Quality

A title IV-E agency with a CCWIS must:

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive data quality plan
- Coordinate with child welfare contributing agencies to support complete, timely, accurate, and consistent CCWIS data
- Actively monitor and manage data quality
- Complete biennial data quality reviews*

1355.52(e)

Required Data Exchanges

A title IV-E agency with a CCWIS must support collaboration, interoperability, and data sharing by:

- Keeping current data exchanges:
 - TANF systems – title IV-A
 - Child Support systems – title IV-D
 - Medicaid eligibility systems – title XIX
 - Child abuse/neglect systems
 - Financial systems
 - Title IV-E eligibility systems

1355.52(e)

Required Data Exchanges (Cont.)

A title IV-E agency with a CCWIS must support collaboration, interoperability, and data sharing by:

- Adding new data exchanges:
 - Courts
 - Education
 - Medicaid claims
 - Child welfare contributing systems
 - Ancillary child welfare systems used by agency staff

The CCWIS data exchange design must be efficient, economical, and effective*

1355.52(f)

Electronic Data Exchange Standard

The CCWIS must improve efficiency and promote common understanding with a data exchange standard that applies to exchanges: *

- with child welfare contributing agencies
- with ancillary systems used by agency staff

The data exchange standard

- Does not apply to existing exchanges
- May “translate” data between the sending/receiving system

1355.52(g)

Title IV-E Eligibility

- A CCWIS must support a standard title IV-E eligibility determination process
- It must be a single process and not duplicated by other systems
- The only CCWIS functional requirement
- Unchanged from current requirement

1355.52(h)

Federal Software Library

Consistent with CMS rules, a CCWIS must promote sharing and re-use of technology between states and tribes:

- Upon request, agencies provide software modules and plain language documentation (per 1355.53) to ACF
- Software and documentation available for reuse by other agencies

1355.52(i)

Submission of CCWIS Plans

In paragraph (i)(1), we specify that before claiming funding in accordance with a CCWIS cost allocation, a title IV-E agency must submit an APD or, if below the APD submission thresholds defined at 45 CFR 95.611, a Notice of Intent including:

- A brief description of the CCWIS project
- A automated function list of modules included in the CCWIS

In paragraph (i)(2) we specify information to be included in Annual APD Updates and Operational APDs for CCWIS projects

1355.52(j)

Applicable Advance Planning Document (APD) Requirements

In paragraph (j), we specify that a title IV-E agency claiming title IV-E FFP for a CCWIS project below the APD submission thresholds at 45 CFR 95.611 will be subject to the APD rules at 95.613 – 621 and 95.626 – 641. We have determined these regulations are necessary for effective project management.

1355.53

CCWIS Design

A CCWIS must promote faster and less expensive development of reliable systems, consistent with CMS system rules, by following industry standards:

- Build independent plug-and-play modules
- Modules may be shared and reused by other states, tribes, and agencies

A waiver from the design requirements may be available for:

- A state or tribal system transitioning from a S/TACWIS or non-S/TACWIS
- A faster, less expensive, more reliable design approach for all systems

1355.54

CCWIS Options

An agency may make a business case to ACF to add additional data exchanges or automated functions to a CCWIS, if:

- The CCWIS meets all of the requirements in 1355.52 and
- The optional exchange or function is necessary to achieve title IV-E or IV-B program goals.

1355.55

CCWIS Reviews

ACF will review, assess, and inspect the planning, design, development, installation, operation, and maintenance of each CCWIS project on a continuing basis, to determine the extent to which the project meets the requirements of this rule.

1355.56

Transitioning a system to CCWIS

This rule provides a transition period of 24 months from the effective date of the rule. During the transition period, the state or tribal title IV-E agency with a S/TACWIS or non-S/TACWIS project must indicate whether it will:

- (1) transition the S/TACWIS or non S/TACWIS to a CCWIS;
- (2) become a non-CCWIS; or
- (3) build a new CCWIS.

The title IV-E agency does not need to finish the transition within the 24 months to be a CCWIS. A new CCWIS may be built at any time.

1355.57

CCWIS Cost Allocation

In 1355.57, we describe how CCWIS cost allocation applies to:

- projects transitioning to CCWIS,
- new CCWIS projects,
- approved activities, and
- projects.

Note: CCWIS cost allocation applies to eligible costs that benefit federal, state or tribal funded participants in programs and allowable activities described in title IV-E of the Act to the title IV-E program

1355.58

Failure to meet requirements

Consistent with current rules, an APD may be suspended if:

- Agency does not comply with CCWIS requirements
- Agency does not comply with other commitments made in APD

Funding may be suspended, recouped, or changed to non-CCWIS funding

Conforming Regulations

The CCWIS final rule makes conforming changes to other regulations by:

- Changing "S/TACWIS" to "CCWIS"
- Removing references to enhanced funding
- Updating regulatory cross-references

Questions?