

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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Data Indicator Profiles Update

In May 2021, the data indicator visualizations on the Online Monitoring System (OMS) were updated with the February 2021 Statewide Data Indicator Profiles. PDF copies were sent to states. In June, the Statewide Data Indicator Profiles Workbook was finalized and posted on the CFSR Information Portal, due to be published on the CFSR website in July.

The Workbook provides an overview of each state's Observed Performance (OP) and Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP), as well as the national performance on a given data indicator. The CFSR Statewide Data Indicator Series and Data Dictionary (available on the portal) provide information on how each indicator is calculated. OP describes how a state performed on a given indicator without any adjustments. RSP is used to assess state performance on the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) statewide data indicators compared to national performance. RSP accounts for some of the factors that influence performance on the indicators over which states have little control. Accounting for such factors allows for a fairer comparison of each state's performance relative to the national performance.

The RSP interval is the state's 95% confidence interval estimate for the state's RSP, with lower and upper values for the interval. If the interval overlaps the national performance, the state's performance is statistically no different than the national performance. Otherwise, the state's performance is statistically better or worse than the national performance. Whether a higher or lower value is desirable depends on the desired direction of performance for the indicator.

- RSP should only be used to compare a state's performance to national performance. It also allows a better way to compare across state performance. It helps identify areas of strength and improvement needs on the CFSR safety and permanency data indicators relative to national performance.
- A state's OP is used to determine how the state performs based on its actual child population, to identify how the state performs on an indicator over time, and to show how performance on one indicator (e.g., permanency in 12 months) relates to another indicator (e.g., re-entry to foster care).
- OP data also helps identify areas of strength and improvement needs on the CFSR safety and permanency data indicators, and is what's used to produce supplemental context data to help understand state performance information included in CFSR data profiles.

Integrating CFSR Findings/Work Into the APSR

Over the last three Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) submissions, the Children's Bureau (CB) has intentionally integrated the CFSP/Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) process with the CFSR. As states complete Program Improvement Plans (PIPs) for CFSR Round 3 and move into Round 4, ongoing integration is essential. During the next submission of APSRs, more states will be completing the goals outlined in their PIPs, and some goals and strategies may be "rolled" into the APSR for continued implementation. In such cases, but also as part of the continuous quality improvement (CQI) process, states are encouraged to continue tracking system performance and outcomes to assess progress toward goals and outcomes for children and families, as well as the quality of practice.

These ongoing activities will support a smooth transition to CFSR Round 4. In the 2022 APSR, each state must review and update the data and information provided in its 2020-2024 CFSP and subsequent APSR, including identifying strengths and concerns related to performance on each CFSR outcome and systemic factor. In developing these updates, states are encouraged to supplement use of the Statewide Data Indicators and additional Contextual Data, with use of additional current administrative data, as appropriate. Those administrative data resources should be combined with case record review data and other relevant data for this assessment to provide relevant and reliable data on performance on each of the seven CFSR child and family outcomes and each of the seven CFSR systemic factors.

For more information, see ACYF-CB-PI-20-13, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2013.pdf>

State Court Improvement Grant Info Released

Previous Court Improvement Program (CIP) grant-related Program Instructions (PIs) were issued every 5 years, but CB is now issuing annual PIs to ensure that CIPs have current and accurate information on requirements for annual funding and to better align CIP processes with related child welfare program planning requirements.

The PI issued in December 2020, notes that the CIP grant enables state courts to make improvements to provide for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in foster care and engagement of families in child welfare cases. It also allows the courts to improve collaboration including in the implementation of PIPs as a result of the CFSRs. State courts must also commit to participate in all stages of child welfare program planning and improvement efforts, including but not limited to the CFSR. A joint project with the title IV-B/IV-E agency to improve specific safety, permanency, or well-being outcomes as identified through the CFSR or other CQI process is also required.

The CIP was most recently amended and reauthorized through FY 2022 by Public Law (P.L.) 116-260, Section 305 of title III of Division CC of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.. If further amendments are enacted that affect funding or requirements for FYs 2022 and beyond, CB will issue additional guidance.

For more information see ACYF-CB-PI-20-12, State Court Improvement Program Basic, Training and Data Grants, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2012.pdf>

Multi-Item Data Analysis Tool Coming Soon

The Multi-Item Data Analysis Tool (also known as MIDAT) will allow OMS users with access to review data to analyze CFSR and CQI review data by item rating, compare ratings across a maximum of seven Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) items, and by case characteristic. The MIDAT also will provide case-level details with hyperlinks to go directly to an individual case in the OMS. Another feature of the MIDAT is the ability to pull Rationale Statements for selected Items into a single document. To access the MIDAT, users will log into the portal and access the OMS, select a review or CQI site, and access “Reports” via a link at the top of the page. Only OMS users with access to review data will be able to use the MIDAT. It is projected to be released next month.

New Training Content Now Available on ELA

The second module of the three-module Quality Assurance (QA) Course, *Reviewer QA*, is now available on the E-Learning Academy (ELA). The module provides a comprehensive overview of the QA process from the perspective of reviewers who are using the OSRI to conduct a case review. In addition to three videos that provide a comprehensive overview of QA from this perspective, the module also includes an interactive Case Review Simulation that provides learners with the opportunity to apply the OSRI to a mock case scenario and receive simulated QA Notes based on their ratings.

All portal account holders who are logged into their accounts can now access this module on the ELA at <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/e-learning/osri-quality-assurance/reviewer-qa>. Learners who complete all module activities may request a Certificate of Completion by emailing ela@cfsrportal.org.