

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

Volume 14, Issue 2, April 2020

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CB Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Children's Bureau recognizes the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on populations served by child welfare systems nationwide. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services, continues to provide updates and guidance from medical professionals about how to protect yourself and those you serve from COVID-19. Resources can be accessed via <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/covid-19-resources>. In addition to general CDC guidance relating to the child welfare population, you can find communications issued 3/12/20 and 3/18/20 from Associate Commissioner Jerry Milner providing specific guidance on caseworker visitation and Program Improvement Plans (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/new_guidance_videoconferencing.pdf), and housing support for foster youth residing in on-campus college housing. (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/housing_support_covid19.pdf).

CFSR Technical Bulletin #11

This Technical Bulletin provides information about adjustments the Children's Bureau (CB) is making when setting and evaluating the attainment of case review measurement goals for Program Improvement Plans (PIPs). The adjustments include how case review PIP measurement goal percentages will be set and how goals will be truncated to a whole number, and how case review performance values will be rounded to the nearest whole number to evaluate state attainment of PIP measurement goals. The bulletin includes information regarding actions CB will take to implement these changes and recommended actions for states. These changes apply to the third round of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) and amend information provided in CFSR Technical Bulletin #9, Section IIC. It can be accessed via <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-technical-bulletin-11>

Enhancements to the Data Indicator Visualizations

A number of enhancements were made within the CFSR Online Monitoring System (OMS) data indicator visualizations in March 2020. JBS added numerator and denominator visuals into the observed performance charts. Within any of the seven observed performance indicators, users may select one of four tabs that appear above the chart to display observed performance data, numerator data, denominator data, or both numerator and denominator data simultaneously. A "Submit a Question" link has been added to each page of the data indicator visualizations. Users may use this feature to submit any questions about using or interpreting the data indicator charts within the OMS. JBS will respond to questions on the data indicators involving the functionality of the OMS and will forward all other questions to the Children's Bureau for

response. The Children's Bureau revised its Data Indicator Data Dictionary in February, and links to the data dictionary have been updated now as well. See

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-round3-sdi-data-dictionary-2020>

State Data Profiles Released

The February 2020 CFSR state data profiles and March 2020 Supplemental context data were transmitted to states. A new breakdown in the supplemental context data was added to show race/ethnicity counts. The data periods in the profiles (dated February 2020) for the indicators are:

- Maltreatment in Care: 15AB to 17AB
- Recurrence of Maltreatment: FY15-16 to FY17-18
- Permanency in 12 Months (entries): 14B-15A to 17A-17B
- Re-Entry to Foster Care: 14B-15A to 17A-17B
- Permanency in 12 Months (12-23 months): 16B-17A to 19A-19B
- Permanency in 12 Months (24+ months): 16B-17A to 19A-19B
- Placement Stability: 16B-17A to 19A-19B

ACYF-CB-PI-20-02

This Program Instruction (PI) provides guidance to states, territories, and insular areas (hereafter collectively referred to as "states," unless otherwise noted) on actions they must take to receive their allotments for Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 (subject to the availability of appropriations) authorized under title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, section 106 of CAPTA, Chafee, and ETV programs. It was published February 4, 2020, and can be accessed via <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/pi2002>.

In the 2020-2024 CFSP Program Instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-19-02), CB emphasized the importance of integrating the planning for and development of the 5-year CFSP with the CFSR process. Maintaining that focus on integration in preparing the 2021 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) allows states to assess the strengths of their child welfare systems and the areas needing improvement on an ongoing basis. An integrated approach to planning for the use of federal funds and developing strategies will result in sustained program improvement that extends beyond the period of implementing a CFSR PIP.

Status of Approved PIPs

At the end of a CFSR onsite review, states determined not to have achieved substantial conformity in all the areas assessed must develop and implement PIPs addressing the areas of nonconformity. The Children's Bureau supports the states with technical assistance and monitors implementation of their plans. States must successfully complete their plans to avoid financial penalties for nonconformity.

The Children's Bureau has approved a total of 47 Round 3 PIPs. All 8 of the states participating in the Year 1 (FY 2015) CFSRs, all 16 of the states participating in the Year 2 (FY 2016) CFSRs, all 14 states participating in the Year 3 (FY 2017) CFSRs, and 9 of the 13 states participating in the Year 4 (FY 2018) CFSRs have approved PIPs. PIPs and other CFSR official documents are searchable on the CB website from https://library.childwelfare.gov/cwig/ws/cwmd/docs/cb_web/SearchForm.

PIP Evaluation During Non-Overlapping Evaluation Periods

PIP evaluation can extend through what is referred to as a "non-overlapping evaluation period" that follows the conclusion of the 2-year PIP implementation period. The additional observation

window provides states additional time to achieve unmet PIP measurement goals, recognizing that more time may be needed to realize the results of implemented PIPs. The non-overlapping evaluation period ends after the completion of 2 full AFCARS periods following the end of the 2-year PIP Implementation Period.

Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, New Mexico, and Vermont recently completed their non-overlapping evaluation period. The following 5 states are currently in their non-overlapping evaluation periods: Florida, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, and North Carolina.