

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

Volume 1, Issue 4, February 2005

Review Update

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has released a Technical Bulletin that provides information on the scheduling of the second round of child and family services reviews (CFSRs). The first round of reviews was completed in 2004 and all States were required to develop Program Improvement Plans (PIPs). Federal regulations require that States that were not in substantial conformity following the initial review begin a full review 2 years after approval of their PIP.

Technical Bulletin #1 explains that data for the second CFSR will not overlap with the prior PIP implementation period so that States will have the full 2-year period to implement program changes. Therefore, AFCARS data for a State's second CFSR will encompass a rolling annual file based on two consecutive AFCARS submissions, beginning with the next 6-month AFCARS period following the end of the State's PIP implementation period. NCANDS data will be submitted on an adjusted schedule. The bulletin also provides information on the process that will be used to evaluate States' attainment of PIP goals related to the national data standards included in the CFSR.

Based on the procedures outlined in the Technical Bulletin, the ACF will schedule the beginning of each State's second CFSR Statewide Assessment following the completion of the PIP and the preparation of data profiles based on 12 months of data.

Once the re-review schedule has been finalized, it will be published in the *Child and Family Services Reviews Update* and on the Child Welfare Reviews section of the Children's Bureau Web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>.

A copy of the Technical Bulletin is available on the Children's Bureau Web site at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/general_info/tech_bull.htm.

The *Child and Family Services Reviews Update* is designed for professionals interested in the Children's Bureau child and family services reviews. It is supported by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and published by the Child Welfare Review Project, which is managed by Johnson, Bassin & Shaw, Inc. For more information, contact the Child Welfare Review Project by e-mail at cw@jbs1.com or by telephone at (301) 565-3260.