

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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Technical Bulletin #10 is Out!

On August 13, 2019, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued Technical Bulletin #10 (TB#10). The bulletin provides ACF's response to the comments solicited in the November 27, 2018, Federal Register Notice (83 FR 60874) inviting state child welfare agencies, partner organizations, and the public to review, test, and provide comments on the revised syntax that performs data quality checks and calculates states' observed performances on the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) statewide data indicators. TB#10 is available on the CFSR Information Portal at <https://training.cfsrportal.org/resources/3105> (scroll down to "CFSR Technical Bulletins and Related Information") and on the Children's Bureau website at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-technical-bulletin-10>.

CFSR State Data Profiles: Latest Updates

In August, the Children's Bureau issued states their most recent CFSR State Data Profiles and additional state context data. The statewide data indicators will be used as context for the remainder of CFSR Round 3, and the Children's Bureau encourages state child welfare agencies and their partners to use the statewide data indicator performance information to:

- Help assess program improvement and systems change during the PIP implementation and monitoring period;
- Develop, implement, and assess progress on goals and objectives included in state Child and Family Services Plans (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSR); and
- Inform and guide ongoing continuous quality improvement activities to improve child and family outcomes, including areas to target further exploration using state administrative data systems.

A visualization of each state's most recent performance on the data indicators, showing the Risk Standardized Performance (RSP) Value and RSP Interval for each performance period (displaying the state's performance in relation to the national performance for each indicator), is now also available to all authorized users of the CFSR Online Monitoring System (OMS). Authorized users can access the OMS through the portal by signing in at <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/>.

Just Released: Parent Engagement Report, Years 2015–2017

"Parent Engagement—Reflections From the CFSR: 2015–2017" presents results from CFSRs conducted in the 38 states reviewed during the first 3 years of Round 3 of the CFSRs. It focuses on how agencies engage parents to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families in the child welfare system. The report is available on the portal under Round 3 Resources, CFSR Round 3 Findings, at <http://training.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/3105> (scroll down to "CFSR Round 3 Findings") and on the Children's Bureau website at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-parent-engagement-2015-2017>.

Other reports available on the Round 3 Resources page of the portal and on the CB website include "Focus on Youth—CFSR Findings: 2015–2017" and "CFSR Aggregate Report, Round 3: FYs 2015–2017." See <https://training.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/3105> (scroll down to "CFSR Round 3 Findings") or <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews/round3>.

Program Improvement Plans

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 Program Improvement Plans (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 35 Round 3 PIPs. All 8 of the states participating in the Year 1 (FY 2015) CFSRs, 15 of the 16 states participating in the Year 2 (FY 2016) CFSRs, 9 of the 14 states participating in the Year 3 (FY 2017) CFSRs, and 3 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.

List of States in Non-Overlapping Data Periods

PIP evaluation can last through what is referred to as a "non-overlapping data period" that follows the conclusion of the PIP implementation period. This additional observations window is allowed for the measurement plan element only, allowing time for results to be demonstrated following the implementation of the PIP's action steps.

The following 9 states are in their non-overlapping data periods: Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Vermont. Vermont will complete its non-overlapping period on September 30, 2019.