

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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New CFSR Overview Video

The CFSR Overview Video is now available on the CFSR Information Portal's E-Training Platform. The video provides an overview of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), which are periodic reviews of state child welfare systems conducted by the Children's Bureau (CB) in partnership with states. The video covers the history and purpose of the CFSRs, outcomes and systemic factors, the review process, and program improvement planning. The video may be accessed at <https://training.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/cfsr-overview>.

CFSR Unit Court Child Welfare Specialist

In April, Christine Kiesel, a new Child Welfare Specialist, joined the CFSR Unit. The primary focus of the Court Child Welfare Specialist is assisting the CB in its work with states, state courts, other legal representatives in the child welfare system, Court Improvement Programs (CIP), CB's technical assistance providers, and national and state legal/judicial organizations in preparing for and participating in the CFSR; supporting the integration of state child welfare agency and court activities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of Program Improvement Plans (PIPs); and supporting CB in aligning state court improvement assessments and strategic plans with Child and Family Services Plans/Annual Progress and Services Reports and CFSR functions. The specialist will be working closely with the CB to engage legal/judicial representatives in the CFSR and PIP processes through active communication, collaborative meetings, and data analysis and interpretation that highlight opportunities for legal and judicial practice changes.

Round 3 Year 4 States' CFSRs

Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, and Washington began their State Conducted Case Review period on April 1, 2018. New Hampshire participated in a Traditional Review during the week of April 2, 2018, and Wisconsin participated in a Traditional Review during the week of April 16, 2018. The Illinois Traditional Review is scheduled for the week of May 14, 2018. The remaining Year 4 states—Rhode Island, Alabama, Utah, Michigan, and Mississippi—are scheduled for Traditional Reviews in June, July, and August.