

# Child and Family Services Reviews Update

Volume 19, Issue 1, December 2024

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### **New CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook Posted**

The latest [CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook](#) has been posted on the CFSR Information Portal. The workbook provides detailed, state-by-state performance on the CFSR Round 4 statewide data indicators and comparisons to national performance for the most recent 12-month reporting period included in the August 2024 data profiles.

### **Year 2 of the Round 4 CFSRs is Underway as Year 3 Approaches**

State-Led Reviews are underway in Connecticut, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Oregon. South Dakota's CB-led onsite review will be held in March 2025. Year 3 will kick off in April 2025 with State-Led Reviews in Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, and South Carolina. For a full schedule of CB-Led and State-Led Reviews by CFSR year, see [schedule of reviews](#).

### **Latest Final Reports: Texas and Vermont**

The Texas and Vermont CFSR Final Reports have been released and are available at [CFSR Official Reports and Results](#).

### **OMS Update**

We continually update the Round 4 Online Monitoring System (OMS) as states use it for continuous quality improvement reviews and for their Round 4 CFSRs. As of December 2024:

- 25 states have an active or completed CFSR.
- 6 states have an active Program Improvement Plan review.
- 46 states have an active Continuous Quality Improvement review.

## Round 4 Changes to PIP Measurement as Outlined in Technical Bulletin #13A

CFSR Technical Bulletin #13A (TB #13A) provides information and guidance for Round 4 of the CFSTRs, including updates to the ways a state's progress in its Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is to be measured and evaluated. The list below quotes or paraphrases excerpts from TB #13A to briefly highlight these changes. For details, please see [Technical Bulletin #13A](#).

- **PIP measurement requirements when a state is not in substantial conformity with Safety Outcomes 1 and 2, Permanency Outcome 1, and Well Being Outcome 1:**
  - A state not in substantial conformity with an outcome due to its Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) on a particular statewide data indicator (SWDI) must include that indicator in its PIP and PIP Measurement Plan.
  - When a Safety outcome is not in substantial conformity, the state's PIP Measurement Plan must include all of the Safety SWDIs with RSPs worse than national performance and all of the associated case review items rated as areas needing improvement.
  - When Permanency Outcome 1 is not in substantial conformity, the state's PIP Measurement Plan must include all of the Permanency SWDIs with RSPs worse than national performance.
  - When Well-Being Outcome 1 is not in substantial conformity, the state's PIP Measurement Plan must include each of the case review items for that outcome that were rated as areas needing improvement.
- **Case Population:** A Round 4 change to the case elimination criteria is to eliminate cases that were reviewed in the previous 12 months.
- **PIP Measurement Sites:** States identify a select group of localities designated in the PIP as target populations for implementation of selected strategies and interventions. One purpose is increased confidence that a detected change is likely the result of PIP implementation strategies and interventions.
- **Baseline Period (Measurement Period 1):** The amount of improvement a state is required to attain on each case review item in the PIP Measurement Plan is calculated based on performance during the baseline period. Ordinarily, baselines are established post-CFSR, after PIP implementation sites are selected and approved by the CB; some exceptions are allowed (see TB #13A for details).
- **Measurement Periods:** In CFSR Round 4, each measurement period consists of a unique population of cases. The Children's Bureau recommends that states use measurement periods of 6 months or less to maximize the number of opportunities a state has to achieve the required amount of improvement for PIP measurement, assess progress, and make needed adjustments.
- **Sample Size and Minimum Applicable Cases:** States electing to use recommended measurement periods of 6 months or less need to review a sample of cases that result in a minimum of 33 applicable cases (20 foster care and 13 in-home services) per case review item in each measurement period. States electing to use measurement periods of

7 to 12 months need to review a minimum of 65 cases (40 foster care and 25 in-home services) with at least 33 applicable cases per case review item.

- **Methods to Calculate and Determine States Achieved Required Amount of Improvement for Case Review Items:** The required amount of improvement is expressed as a percentage and is adjusted based on a state's baseline performance on that case review item. The higher a state performs during Measurement Period 1, the smaller the amount of improvement required; the lower a state performs, the larger the amount of improvement required.
  - The first pathway is to meet or exceed the sustained improvement goal in any three measurement periods.
  - The second pathway is to meet or exceed the high-performance value in any single measurement period.
- **Method to Calculate and Determine Achievement of Required Amount of Improvement for Item 1 State Aggregate Data Measure:** The Children's Bureau recommends that states use a statewide aggregate data measure in their PIP Measurement Plans.
- **Methods to Establish PIP Measurement Goals and Evaluate Required Amount of Improvement Achieved for Statewide Data Indicators:** The first pathway is for the state's observed performance for a 12-month reporting period to meet or exceed the improvement goal. The second pathway is for the state's RSP for a 12-month reporting period to be better or no different than national performance.

### **Training Reminders**

- Training consultations are available from the Child Welfare Reviews Project for states leading their own reviews in 2025. States interested in scheduling a training consultation should contact their Regional Office.
- A new course on Case-Related Interviews (Part 1) is now available on the Round 4 E-Learning Academy (ELA). Two additional modules will be forthcoming.
- An OSRI Virtual Training on how legal and judicial issues that affect item ratings can be documented in the OSRI will be offered in early 2025. An official notice and registration information will be sent to all ELA managers via email.

### **Spanish Translations Updated on Portal**

Spanish translations of many CFSR materials are posted on the [CFSR Information Portal](#) as they become available, next to the English versions.