

# Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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## Planning for Stakeholder/Partner Engagement

The Children's Bureau encourages states to plan and prepare for the intentional and authentic involvement of stakeholders and partners in all phases of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), beginning with the statewide assessment. System partners may include, but are not limited to, Tribes, judicial and legal communities, agency caseworkers and supervisors, foster and adoptive families, private agencies, service providers, federal partners, and community representatives.

Here are a few resources available to help in this work:

- An important consideration is how to involve those with lived experience. As the Children's Bureau explained in "[Advancing Equity and Inclusion Through the CFSRs](#)," engaging families and young people with lived experience, as well as other system partners and individuals with a vested interest in the child welfare system, "is a cornerstone of all phases of the CFSR. This principle is grounded in the knowledge that a child welfare system is most effective in achieving its vision and goals to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families when all partners who have a role in it contribute to its design and operation. Engaging diverse individuals with lived expertise, particularly those who may be at risk of negative outcomes, is vital to the process."
- [Engaging Young People With Lived Experience in the CFSRs: Key Considerations, Roles, and Recommendations](#) summarizes the results of a series of focus groups in which 18 young people with self-identified lived child welfare experience were asked about the best methods of recruiting, engaging, supporting, and retaining young people in all aspects of the CFSR. The brief discusses key considerations, roles, and recommendations for states when engaging young people in the CFSR.
- The [CFSR Round 3 Report for Legal and Judicial Communities](#) analyzes the Round 3 results from the CFSRs, spotlights some improvement projects from across the country, and provides recommendations for collaboration between child welfare agencies and the legal and judicial communities. The Children's Bureau makes funding available to states through the Court Improvement Program to promote continuous quality improvement (CQI) for court proceedings in child welfare and to enhance and expand collaboration

between the judicial branch of each state government and its child welfare agency to improve child welfare outcomes.

- Additional resources are available from the [Capacity Building Center for States](#).

### **Round 4 OSRI Course Available on Portal**

A course on the Round 4 Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) is now available for designated users (login required) on the [E-Learning Academy](#), part of the CFSR Information Portal. The course consists of six videos divided into three separate courses approved by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). A learner who completes all three courses will receive 3 continuing education certificates worth 1 contact hour each, for a total of 3 continuing education contact hours.

Each course includes a quiz that enrolled learners must pass with a score of 80 percent or better. After passing the quiz, the learner must also complete a course evaluation form before receiving a continuing education certificate, which may be printed or saved as a PDF.

### **Round 4 FAQs Page Is Launched!**

The [OSRI Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) page](#) provides official responses from the Children's Bureau to questions regarding the Round 4 OSRI. The questions and their responses are organized by outcome, with an additional "General Questions" category that includes questions related to the overall instrument, its general application, or the Face Sheet. Answers posted here are the Children's Bureau's responses to the FAQs. Only logged-in users may submit questions.

### **Round 4 Year 1 Reviews Schedule Released**

Round 4 of the CFSRs is scheduled to run through fiscal year 2026. The [Round 4 Year 1 schedule](#) of onsite reviews is now available on the portal under CFSR Logistics. The portal page lists each state's CFSR review type (State-Led or CB-Led) and the date range for the onsite review. The list of states participating in [Round 4 Year 2](#) is also available. Information on the review type and date range for the onsite review for Round 4 Year 2 states will be added as it becomes available.

### **New Resources Added to Portal**

Many new resources are now publicly available on the portal's [Round 4 Resources](#) section. Additional resources will be posted as they become available. Highlights of the latest new materials added include:

- [Review Site Visual](#) (English and Spanish), part of the State Planning Package, shows a typical onsite review office layout at the major metropolitan site and rural sites.
- [Reviewer Brief: Rating CFSR OSRI Item 12: Assessment of Needs and Provision of Services](#) provides reviewers with information to strengthen how to determine the quality, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of needs assessments and how the agency ensures provision of appropriate services to meet the identified needs of children, parents, and foster/pre-adoptive parents.

- The [CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook](#) provides state-by-state performance on the CSFR Round 4 statewide data indicators and comparisons to national performance for the most recent 12-month reporting period.

Spanish translations of Round 4 CSFR materials are being posted as they become available.

### **Diverse Agile Staff Sought for CSFRs**

The Child Welfare Reviews Project (CWRP) is [now recruiting](#) for agile staff, which includes CSFR Reviewers, Quality Assurance Specialists, and Note-Taking Specialists. CWRP oversees a diverse national pool of agile staff who participate in the CSFRs conducted by the Children's Bureau. Upon receipt of applications, CWRP reviews and maintains information on candidates' qualifications and identifies candidates to participate in trainings. Preference will be given to individuals who are experienced in applying the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions and/or who demonstrate fluency in Spanish and/or lived experience within the child welfare system or within indigenous/Tribal social services. Qualified candidates will be required to attend an in-person 2-day training and complete online training and other ongoing trainings as needed.