

Child and Family Services Review Resource Finder

Capacity Building Center for Courts





U.S. Children's Bureau

This document pulls together resources on the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) to make it easier for the legal and judicial community to find relevant materials to support CFSR work. Materials are organized within six broader categories and include title and description and the main objective of each document.

Time estimates to read each resource: ⌚ = 1-3 minutes, ⌚⌚ = 4-9 minutes, ⌚⌚⌚ = 10+ minutes



GENERAL RESOURCES

Title & Description	Read This To:
<p><u>CFSR Round 4 Portal</u> https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources A collection of round four resources within ACF's website (including tools, resources, guides, powerpoints, fact sheets, etc).</p>	<p>Learn more about the CFSR or access CFSR-related tools or resources.</p>
<p><u>Advancing Equity and Inclusion Through the CFSRs</u> ⌚⌚ https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/rpPxGN White House Executive Order 139851 focuses on advancing racial equity and support for underserved and adversely affected communities. This includes people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, children and families living with persistent poverty, and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and otherwise not provided fair, just, and impartial treatment. Ensuring that child welfare serves all people equitably and respects all individuals, is essential to the CB's work. This document provides a framework to advance that work.</p>	<p>Leverage the CFSR to advance equity and inclusion in case reviews, systemic change efforts, and at various stages of the CFSR.</p>
<p><u>Engaging Young People With Lived Experience in the CFSRs: Key Considerations, Roles, and Recommendations</u> ⌚⌚ https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/dkPOyI Through a series of focus groups, 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 CFSRs. This brief summarizes the results of the focus groups and discusses key considerations, roles, and recommendations for states when engaging young people in the CFSRs.</p>	<p>Learn best practices in including young people with lived experience in case reviews, systemic change efforts, and at various stages of the CFSR.</p>
<p><u>CFSR Round 4 Process Graphic</u> ⌚ https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/oljBIY One pager that demonstrates the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) process timeline according to the federal regulations, from the statewide assessment and running through the post-PIP evaluation period.</p>	<p>Understand the process of the CFSR from the beginning to the end of each round.</p>
<p><u>Understanding the CFSRs</u> ⌚ https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/EZPOBD This infographic provides an overview of the purpose and structure of the CFSR, onsite review process, and Program Improvement Plan (PIP) planning efforts.</p>	<p>Understand each stage of the CFSR process.</p>
<p><u>Infographic on CFSR: The Role of Courts and Attorneys</u> ⌚ https://www.cipshare.org/files/wl/?id=zZm77tLPiHPIgAuX6AsD6u42JYiCIG2B One pager that discusses the three phases of the CFSR process with ideas on how legal and judicial community can be involved at each phase.</p>	<p>Understand each stage of the CFSR process with a focus on legal/judicial roles in CFSR.</p>

<p>Infographic on Joint Collaboration https://www.cipshare.org/files/wl/?id=OelVEGbCsUu2OWiWvqNEvu2DB9IPVvtF One pager that provides ideas for ways that courts and agencies can partner together to improve child welfare.</p>	 Learn how to support collaboration efforts.
<p>FAQs: Understanding Statewide Data Indicator Calculations https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/gkRWLo This document explains various aspects of statewide data indicators, including how they are calculated and how national performance, observed performance, and Risk-Standardized Performance are used.</p>	 Understand calculations found in the statewide data indicators.
<p>CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators Data Dictionary https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/NxyBrq This document provides a description of each statewide data indicator and data quality check, including the numerators, denominators, risk adjustments, exclusions, and corresponding data notes.</p>	 Understand the statewide data indicators.
<p>State Legal-Judicial Specialist Description/Flyer https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/KxOVPw This flyer describes the role of the state’s Legal-Judicial Specialist, who will join the state’s CFSR team to assist and support an elevated understanding of how legal and judicial policies and practices contribute to the outcomes achieved as part of the CFSR’s review of the state’s child welfare system. Adding this role to the state’s CFSR team is encouraged but not mandatory.</p>	 Understand the role of the state legal-judicial specialist (LJS). Review when discussing and selecting the state LJS.

SPOTLIGHT SERIES FOR THE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL COMMUNITIES

This series spotlights CFSR-related topics for the legal and judicial communities. The content is drawn from the [CFSR Round 3 Report for Legal and Judicial Communities](#), which summarizes states’ performance in meeting safety, permanency, and well-being needs of children and families as a result of the federal Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) conducted between 2015 and 2018. These reports share results in four areas in which the legal and judicial communities play a key role.

<p>Spotlight Series I: Achieving Timely Permanency https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/zpxvWV As a lawyer or judge handling child welfare cases, you share the common goal of helping achieve permanency for children and families quickly and safely. Round 3 of the CFSR assessed states’ practices and structures to support timely permanency for children placed into foster care. Understanding the results can help you identify states’ strengths and challenges and offer insights as you work to achieve permanency for children and families in your cases.</p>	 Understand states’ performance on CFSR measures relating to achieving timely permanency and how it relates to the work of lawyers and judges.
<p>Spotlight Series II: Meaningfully Engaging Families https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/NndjgR When a family becomes involved in the child welfare system, how court and agency professionals engage the family—child, parents, and other family members—has a bearing on case outcomes. As a lawyer or judge handling child welfare cases, understanding the CFSR results in this area can help you identify states’ strengths and challenges at engaging families. It can offer insights as you work to promote and support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families in your cases.</p>	 Understand states’ performance on CFSR measures relating to meaningfully engaging families and how it relates to the work of lawyers and judges.

<p>Spotlight Series III: Family Relationships and Connections https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/ZvovePK What the federal reviews found during round 3 that demonstrate the strengths and needs of systems maintaining family connections of child in care and how the legal and judicial communities can incorporate practice changes to help maintain family relationships and connections.</p>		<p>Understand states' performance on CFSR measures relating to maintaining family relationships and connections and how it relates to the work of lawyers and judges.</p>
<p>Spotlight Series IV: Keeping Families Together https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/jaNODY When families come to the attention of the child welfare system, keeping them safely together to avoid unnecessary separation is a fundamental priority. As a lawyer or judge handling child welfare cases, understanding the CFSR results in this area can support your inquiries into efforts of the child welfare agency to keep families safely together.</p>		<p>Understand states' performance on CFSR measures relating to keeping families together and how it relates to the work of lawyers and judges.</p>
FACT SHEETS		
<p>Fact Sheet for Legal and Judicial Communities https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/PWdEDD This fact sheet provides information on the CFSR and discusses how legal and judicial professionals can participate in all phases of the CFSR, Program Improvement Plan, and continuous quality improvement processes.</p>		<p>Learn about the CFSR and how legal and judicial professionals can participate and support engagement by others.</p>
<p>General Fact Sheet https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/LadjVp This fact sheet describes the CFSR process and participants, and how state child welfare agency staff, agency partners, and stakeholders can get involved.</p>		<p>Learn how child welfare agency professionals can get involved in the CFSR and support engagement by others.</p>
<p>Fact Sheet for Youth https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/azZlGo This fact sheet provides information on the CFSR and discusses how youth can participate in all phases of the CFSR, Program Improvement Plan, and continuous quality improvement processes.</p>		<p>Learn how youth can get involved in the CFSR and support engagement by others.</p>
<p>Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/JeRBWX This fact sheet provides information on the CFSR and discusses how parents and caregivers can participate in all phases of the CFSR, Program Improvement Plan, and continuous quality improvement processes.</p>		<p>Learn the roles of parents and caregivers in the CFSR and related improvement efforts and support engagement by others.</p>
NATIONAL CALL SERIES		
<p>CFSR Round 4: Stakeholder Engagement: Meaningful Strategies and Expectations for Stakeholders (Powerpoint from recorded call, Mar.16, 2022) https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/document/download/pBNRqo Slide deck that gives an overview of engagement strategies to support authentic involvement of youth and families with lived expertise. This resource also provides strategies for stakeholder engagement including, but not limited to, legal and judicial involvement.</p>		<p>Learn how to get involved in the CFSR.</p>

CAPACITY BUILDING CENTER FOR STATES CFSR RESOURCES

CBCS' CFSR Round 4 Web Page

<https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/topics/cfsr>

Includes publications, tools, peer networking, and technical assistance to help child welfare agencies and their partners plan and implement all phases of CFSR Round 4, from statewide assessment planning through Program Improvement Plan (PIP) development and implementation.

Learn more about the CFSR or access CFSR related tools or resources.

Strategic Planning in Child Welfare: Integrating Efforts for Systems Improvements



<https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/strategic-planning-integrating-efforts>

This brief includes tips and strategies to help agencies coordinate and integrate CFSP and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) development with the CFSR, agency CQI, and other planning and improvement efforts. It also features a resource list of guidance and tools and a matrix that crosswalks elements of major federal planning and improvement processes.

Learn about strategic planning efforts across multiple projects.

Strategic Planning in Child Welfare: Strategies for Meaningful Youth, Family, and Other Partner Engagement



<https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/strategic-planning-meaningful-engagement>

This brief discusses the importance of meaningful partner engagement in child welfare agency strategic planning, monitoring, and review processes, such as the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP), the Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), and the Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan (CFSR PIP), as well as prevention and disaster planning. The brief explores potential barriers to partner engagement, offers strategies for overcoming them, and suggests steps for meaningful partner engagement.

Learn how to engage stakeholders meaningfully in strategic planning efforts in child welfare improvement efforts and plans.

CFSR Connections and Integrations Tool



<https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/cfsr-round-4-planning-tool>

The Children's Bureau encourages states to adopt an integrated and continuous improvement approach to the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Use this tool to prepare for CFSR Round 4, identify and build on successes and lessons learned in prior system improvement efforts, and integrate CFSR planning with other federal and state processes.

Learn how to build CFSR engagement plans and prepare for the Statewide Assessment or any Program Improvement efforts.

General Information and Technical Bulletins

Technical Bulletin on Independent Legal Representation



https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/technical_bulletin_faqs_legal_representation.pdf

Frequently asked questions, information, and explanations about the changes in the Child Welfare Policy Manual related to the use of Title IV-E funds to support independent legal representation.

Learn about changes to the Child Welfare Policy Manual and how Title IV-E funding can be used to support independent legal representation in state, territories or jurisdictions.



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