Child and Family Services Reviews Update
Volume 18, Issue 2, March 2024

In This Issue:

Year 2 of the Round 4 CFSRs is Gearing Up!

Year 2 of the Round 4 Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) is gearing up! Year 1 reviews wrapping up in 2024 include California, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Wyoming, all with State-Led Reviews ending in late March. Year 2 State-Led Reviews starting in April include the District of Columbia, North Carolina, and Texas. Vermont has a CB-Led Review in May. Next is New York with a CB-Led Review in September. Connecticut, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico, and North Dakota have State-Led Reviews starting in October. Oregon's State-Led Review starts in November. South Dakota will have a CB-Led Review in March 2025.

Round 4 of the CFSRs will run through fiscal year 2026. The schedule of reviews for Years 1 and 2 is now available on the CFSR Information Portal, which offers many resources for Round 4 preparation.

Final Reports released in Round 4 so far are available at CFSR Official Reports and Results. The Round 4 Online Monitoring System (OMS) is continually updated as states use it for continuous quality improvement (CQI) reviews and for their Round 4 CFSRs. As of March 2024, there were 49 states using the Round 4 OMS for CQI purposes.

Children's Bureau Clarifies Parent/Caregiver Applicability

The Children's Bureau has released clarifications about parent/caregiver applicability. Most of the revisions clarified language regarding who should be considered as a parent for purposes of Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) Items 8, 11, 12B, 13, and 15. The Children's Bureau also revised language in response to a recent update to the OSRI Quality Assurance Guide that provides additional clarity on parent/caregiver applicability, to clarify guidance on timeliness of goal achievement in Item 6, and to clarify guidance on how to answer Face Sheet Question E (date case review was completed).

- The OSRI QA Guide has been updated accordingly.

- An OSRI Virtual Training on parent/caregiver applicability was delivered January 2024. It was recorded and is available as a new (unaccredited) course in the state catalog on the Round 4 E-Learning Academy (ELA).

NASW Approves Mock Case for Continuing Education; Training Consultations Available

In January 2024, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) approved the Round 4 Javier Diaz mock case for 4 continuing education contact hours. The mock case is now available on the CFSR Round 4 E-Learning Academy (ELA). The Javier Diaz mock case can be used to practice applying the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI). The course includes 16 modules. These modules include links to key databases, mock case interviews available as audio files, an OSRI answer key, a series of Rationale Videos that explain and justify the item and outcome ratings for the case, and a mandatory quiz and course evaluation.

The ELA is a resource designed to help federal and state review teams access information and build skills necessary to successfully complete the full CFSR process. This includes trainings on the use of the Round 4 OSRI, which is necessary for the CFSR, but may also figure in PIP reviews and as part of a jurisdiction's ongoing CQI efforts.

For states conducting their own CFSRs, training consultations are available for 2024. States can also request consultations on using the OMS, and on the functions available to their assigned E-Learning Manager for the ELA. All consultations should be arranged through the Children's Bureau Regional Office.

Program Improvement Planning Support Services Are Available Now

Program improvement planning work has started in a number of states. The PIP is expected to implement, support, and install lasting and statewide systemic change in key areas identified in the CFSR, while also addressing the practice and process concerns found during the review that affect the system's ability to meet the needs of children and families served.

Resources for PIP development are available on the CFSR Information Portal and on the Capacity Building Collaborative website. The Children's Bureau encourages states to reach out early to the Centers to explore what's available as they delve into program improvement planning. For additional resources, see the Capacity Building Center for States' Strategic Planning page and the Capacity Building Center for Courts' CFSR page.

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. Updated Spanish translations in 2024 include:

- Spanish Procedures Manual
- Spanish Guidance for Case Elimination
- Spanish Legal-Judicial Specialist flyer
- Spanish OSRI Quality Assurance Guide

Reminders—Additional Resources

Below are reminders about several additional resources for conducting successful strategic planning, monitoring, and review processes:

- The State Planning Package has been updated. It includes resources related to logistics, equipment, and review site layouts that states can use in planning a CFSR.

- [Systemic Factor Data Planning Worksheets](#) can help you identify data sources to explore how well your state's systems are functioning.

- [Strategic Planning in Child Welfare: Strategies for Meaningful Youth, Family, and Other Partner Engagement](#) discusses the importance of meaningful partner engagement in the Child and Family Services Plan, the Annual Progress and Services Report, and the PIP, as well as prevention and disaster planning. The brief explores potential barriers to partner engagement, offers strategies for overcoming them, and suggests actionable steps for achieving meaningful partner engagement in these processes.