

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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CFSR Round 4 Is Underway As Year 2 Approaches!

Year 1 reviews are underway as Year 2 approaches. Kansas and Puerto Rico were the first states to have CB-Led Reviews, in April and May 2023, respectively. Missouri's review was in July, and Idaho's review was in August. Next up on the CB-Led front are Florida (October) and Arizona (December). Several states also finished up their case reviews in September for State-Led Reviews, including Delaware, Indiana, and Massachusetts. Upcoming State-Led Review kickoffs include California, Oklahoma, and Tennessee (October), and Wyoming (November). Georgia's State-Led Review will kick off in January 2024.

Some key Round 4 resources include:

- [Reviews schedule](#) lists each state's CFSR review type (State-Led or CB-Led) and the date range for the review.
- [Round 4 Resources](#) includes links to resources for planning for, conducting, and participating in the CFSR process; analyzing and understanding the results; and planning for program improvement and continuous quality improvement (CQI).
- [Round 4 Planning and Implementation](#) includes tools from the [Capacity Building Center for States](#) to help teams prepare for CFSR Round 4.

Capacity Building Center for States—CFSR Round 4 Community of Practice Opportunity

The Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) offers opportunities for child welfare professionals to connect virtually with peers working in similar practice areas or on common initiatives through networks called peer groups. For example, the CFSR Round 4 Community of Practice (CoP) promotes collaboration and learning among states or territories engaged in Round 4 of the CFSRs.

On its website, CBCS explains that the CFSR Round 4 CoP focuses on the components of the CFSR and the priorities of the Children's Bureau in Round 4, including robust use of data and evidence, engagement of those with lived experience, and advancing equity. It is currently open to Years 1 and 2 jurisdictions, and Year 3 jurisdictions will be able to join soon.

Membership includes CFSR Managers/Leads, Child Welfare Directors, Case Review Coordinators, CQI Managers/Leads, Court Improvement Administrators, Legal/Judicial partners,

Data System Managers, Data Analysts, individuals with lived experience and lived expertise, relevant partners to an individual jurisdiction, and anyone who is part of a jurisdiction's CFSR planning and implementation team. Membership is open to those who meet the criteria and must be approved by the Children's Bureau.

For more information, see [Peer Groups - Center for States - Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative](#) (scroll to "Child and Family Services Review Round 4 Community of Practice [CFSR Round 4 CoP]").

Legal and Judicial Communities' Involvement Encouraged in All CFSR Phases

The overall results from Round 3 highlight the need for greater collaborative work in consideration of the courts' and agencies' shared responsibility in ensuring child safety, achieving timely permanency, promoting and maintaining family relationships and connections, meaningfully engaging parents and youth, and keeping families together.

In Round 4, the Children's Bureau has encouraged the involvement of representatives from states' legal and judicial communities in all phases of the CFSR. Legal and judicial communities consist of attorneys for children and youth, parents, and agencies; judges; court administrators and personnel; and Court Improvement Program (CIP) directors. These professionals are an integral part of every state's child welfare system, which works to address the needs of children who have been abused or neglected and to achieve positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for them and their families. There are several resources on the [CFSR Information Portal](#) to support legal and judicial communities' involvement, including:

- Spotlight Series for the Legal and Judicial Communities
- CFSR Resource Finder for Legal and Judicial Communities
- Infographic: Connections Between the Court Improvement Program and the Child and Family Services Review
- State Legal-Judicial Specialist Description/Flyer

Information on how involving courts and attorneys in the CFSR can support making effective improvements to state child welfare programs can also be found in "[How and Why to Involve the Courts in Your Child and Family Services Review: Suggestions for Agency Administrators](#)" on the Capacity Building Center for Courts website.

CB's Vision for Final Results Meetings and PIP Development

The Children's Bureau envisions the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) development, implementation, and monitoring process as collaborative among state child welfare staff and leadership, Tribes, legal and judicial partners, other system partners, and individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system. Effective collaboration takes planning, time, and a commitment to work together to create change. Facilitators and structured facilitation methods can assist with being deliberate in the creation, coordination, management, and continuous assessment of PIP improvement efforts. Facilitation assists in creating productive, inclusive, and meaningful participation by all internal and external partners. This also provides an opportunity to have system partners, including legal and judicial representatives, Tribes, and persons with lived experience, lead or co-lead meetings, discussions, and/or focus groups that occur as part of the process.

The Children's Bureau encourages state agencies to begin thinking about strategies for PIP development during the statewide assessment phase of the CFSR and how collaborative efforts

during the creation of the Statewide Assessment document can be built upon and leveraged to later support PIP development.

After the onsite review and the issuance of the CFSR Final Report, the Children's Bureau offers to meet with state agencies, partners, and stakeholders during a Final Results meeting to review the findings of the review and discuss those areas that the state will need to address within its PIP. While part of the purpose of this meeting is to formally communicate the CFSR findings, it can also be used to share the state agency's vision for PIP development, engage system partners in the review and discussion of additional data and information that has been collected since the completion of the review, identify additional data and information still needed, and build momentum for PIP development.

If states would like to have multi-day onsite meetings to help develop their PIPs, they are encouraged to take advantage of technical assistance provided by the Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative, a service of the Children's Bureau.

Spanish Translations Added to Portal

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

- OSRI QA Guide update
- CFSR Round 4 Program Improvement Plan Development Guidance