

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

Volume 20, Issue 1, May 2026

In This Issue:

[ACF Initiative: A Home for Every Child](#)

[Webinar](#)

[Technical Bulletin #14](#)

[PIP Pilot](#)

[Many States Opt In to AH4EC PIP Pilot](#)

[Year 4 Is Underway](#)

[Latest Final Reports, Other Reports Available](#)

ACF's Initiative: A Home for Every Child

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) initiative, *A Home for Every Child* (AH4EC), sets the “Wildly Important Goal” of a foster home-to-child ratio greater than 1:1 in every state.



The initiative, announced in November 2025, focuses on both sides of the ratio—increasing the

“Our mission is straightforward: homes waiting for kids, not kids waiting for homes,” [said](#) Alex J. Adams, ACF Assistant Secretary. “Every child grows best in family, and our *A Home for Every Child* initiative will ensure we are doubling down on prevention to keep families intact whenever it’s safe to do so, while ensuring there are enough loving foster homes available for any child who needs one.”

ACF plans to leverage all \$11.4 billion of its annual federal funding for foster care and child welfare to advance this mission. ACF plans to streamline foster family licensing, support kinship caregivers, and encourage faith-based partnerships to expand the network of caring families. The Children’s Bureau is working with state agencies to give broad latitude, flexibility, and technical support to reimagine community-specific interventions, the agency said.

To kick off efforts and disseminate information, ACF held a [national webinar](#) and released [Technical Bulletin #14](#) (TB #14). Below are highlights of the webinar, TB #14, and the new AH4EC PIP pilot.

- **Webinar.** The national ACF Webinar, “*A Home for Every Child* Initiative and CFSR Technical Bulletin #14,” was held on January 15, 2026. The webinar recording (video) and slides are available at the link above.
- **Technical Bulletin #14.** The changes outlined in the new TB #14 aim to maintain state accountability for achieving meaningful outcomes for children and families, enhance transparency and public accountability, reduce administrative burden, and provide states

with greater flexibility to innovate and build capacity to manage and improve child welfare systems and outcomes, centered around the AH4EC goal.

- **AH4EC PIP Pilot.** As noted above, TB #14 gives states the option of remaining in the traditional PIP model or participating in a new piloted approach “to generate meaningful data and inform a comprehensive modernization of the CFSR,” Mr. Adams [said](#). Under the new AH4EC PIP pilot, “states can concentrate their efforts on a handful of high-priority interventions grounded in their CFSR results.” States participating in the PIP pilot report monthly ratio data to ACF. States that opt in are released immediately from the current PIP reporting and measurement requirements. The AH4EC PIP pilot applies only to states that have reached the PIP development phase.

Many States Opt In to AH4EC PIP Pilot

As of May 7, 35 jurisdictions have [opted in](#) to the pilot: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Vermont. They will be working with the CB on specifics.

So far, four states have [approved AH4EC PIPs](#), including Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Questions? Please email the CFSR Team at CFSRTeam@acf.hhs.gov.

New AH4EC Data Tool Launches

States opting in to the AH4EC PIP pilot agree to submit monthly data on the Core Measure (the home-to-child ratio) and the wraparound measures mentioned in TB #14, which are framed as four “chaser measures”: Maintain Family Connections, Use of Congregate Care, Recent Maltreatment History, and Home Disruptions. States submit monthly data via the AH4EC Data Tool.

To access the AH4EC Data Tool, authorized state users must log in to the [CFSR Information Portal](#), navigate to the Round 4 Official OMS (Online Monitoring System), and then select the “AH4EC data” link at the top right of the OMS landing page. States should work closely with their federal CFSR teams as they prepare to submit the required data and to gain access to the tool. The Child Welfare Reviews Project Help Desk is available in the OMS to assist state users with technical issues.

Participating states also must submit data on lead measures (state-selected indicators of system performance expected to drive improvement in the homes-to-children ratio). The measures, frequency of submission, and method of submission are negotiated between the state and federal team.

Year 4 Is Underway

To finish out Round 4, upcoming Year 4 Children’s Bureau (CB)-Led Reviews include Colorado (July 20–24, 2026), New Hampshire (September 14–18, 2026), and Washington (August 17–21, 2026). Many State-Led Reviews are also in the pipeline. See the [full schedule](#) of CB-Led and State-Led Reviews (search by CFSR year).

Latest Final Reports, Other Reports Available

The latest available Final Reports can be found on the portal at [CFSR Official Reports and Results](#), along with earlier reports. Statewide Assessments and Program Improvement Plans, including both traditional and AH4EC PIPs, are also available at the same link. All are searchable by CFSR round, report type, and state.