

## Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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### 2015 and 2016 State Reviews

Round 3 of the Child and Family Services Reviews has begun! The overall goals of the review remain to:

- Ensure conformity with title IV-B and IV-E child welfare requirements using a framework focused on safety, permanency, and well-being through seven outcomes and seven systemic factors;
- Determine what is happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and
- Assist states in helping children and families achieve positive outcomes.

Modifications have been made in how reviews are conducted in Round 3 to:

- Support a state's capacity to self-monitor for child and family outcomes, systems functioning, and improvement practices. In particular, states will have the ability to seek Children's Bureau approval to conduct their own case reviews as part of the CFSR as long as they meet certain criteria.
- Better integrate the monitoring process with the state's 5-year title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSR). Each state will use these IV-B planning processes to assess performance and strategize around improvement, and build on this work in the CFSR statewide assessment and program improvement plan.
- Ensure that data measures and methods used to establish national standards better reflect state practices and improvement efforts.

As in the first two rounds of reviews, Round 3 will be staggered over 4 years: federal fiscal years 2015–2018. Delaware, North Carolina, Vermont, Georgia, New Mexico, Kansas, Massachusetts, and Arizona are scheduled for review in 2015. The Children's Bureau has confirmed Vermont and Massachusetts for Traditional Reviews that will occur in June and September 2015, respectively. The Children's Bureau has approved New Mexico and Kansas for State Conducted Case Reviews. The Children's Bureau will continue working with the remaining FY 2015 states on their plans for state conducted reviews and make decisions by January 2015.

South Dakota, Indiana, Oregon, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Florida, Arkansas, California, Texas, Idaho, Kentucky, New York, District of Columbia, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Connecticut are scheduled for review in FY 2016. These states have been asked to submit a letter of intent, indicating whether the state would like to conduct its own case review for CFSR purposes, to the Children's Bureau's Regional Office Program Manager by July 15, 2015.

For additional information on how states and the Children's Bureau will work together to verify each state's ability to meet the case review criteria, please see the *CFSR Procedures Manual*, Volume 1 and Criteria for Using State Case Review for CFSR Purposes at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews/round3>.

### **Data Indicators and National Standards**

On October 10, 2014, the Administration for Children and Families published a final public notice in the Federal Register of statewide data indicators and national standards that the Children's Bureau will use in the CFSRs.

Seven statewide data indicators will be used in Round 3 of the CFSR. Two statewide data indicators will be used in evaluating Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect; and five permanency indicators will be used in evaluating Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations. The national standard is set at the national observed performance for each of the seven indicators. For more information on the data indicators and the national standards, please see the Final Notice of Statewide Data Indicators and National Standards for Child and Family Services Reviews in the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/10/2014-24204/statewide-data-indicators-and-national-standards-for-child-and-family-services-reviews>.

### **Revised Onsite Review Instrument (OSRI) and Training Opportunities**

The OSRI focuses on state practice and procedures that support positive child and family outcomes in safety, permanency, and well-being. However, the Children's Bureau has revised and streamlined the instrument for Round 3. The OSRI and guidance related to the federal expectations of the reviews, conducting interviews with case-related participants and quality assurance of the OSRI can be found on the CFSR Information Portal under the Resources tab.

The CFSR E-Training Platform is designed to provide Review Team members with the information and skills needed to participate successfully in the CFSRs. Section 1: Online Training for States is designed to provide review teams, partners, and stakeholders with information relevant to the Round 3 onsite reviews.

The training is divided into the following topical modules:

- **Module 1: The OSRI**—This module contains a series of seven videos that provide an overview of the instrument, its layout, and key elements for each of its outcomes. The module also contains a video that provides an overview of the quality assurance process used to ensure accurate completion of the OSRI.
- **Module 2: Foster Care Mock Case**—This module contains a complete foster care mock case that can be used to practice applying the OSRI. The module also contains a downloadable answer key for the mock case, so individuals may check their own work, and a video series that provides detailed explanations for arriving at these answers.
- **Module 3: In-Home Mock Case**—This module contains a complete in-home mock case that can be used to practice applying the OSRI. The module also contains a downloadable answer key for the mock case, so individuals may check their own work, and a video series that provides detailed explanations for arriving at these answers. In addition, the module contains an overview video providing information on conducting case-related interviews and using the Case-Related Interview Guides and Instructions.

The E-Training Platform can be accessed at <https://www.cfsrportal.org/>.

### **The Online Monitoring System**

The CFSR Online Monitoring System (OMS) is scheduled for release on January 5, 2015. The CFSR OMS is a Web-based application consisting of the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions and the Stakeholder Interview Guide. The OMS will be available to all states during Round 3 reviews and will also be available to states for use as part of their ongoing Continuous Quality Improvement efforts outside of the CFSR.

The OMS online application features a user-friendly interface, intuitive navigation, and customized, supported software. Users can access the OMS anywhere there is an Internet connection. Instructions are incorporated into the OMS itself through a Help tab, and a comprehensive user manual will also be made available for further guidance.

Training on the OMS will begin shortly after its release in January 2015.

### **Round 3 CFSR Consultants**

CFSR consultants will support individual state reviews on an as-needed basis. The Child Welfare Reviews Project, managed by JBS International, Inc., has been contacting a limited number of consultant reviewers to determine their continued interest. Training to prepare identified consultants will begin in early 2015. The Child Welfare Reviews Project also continues to accept applications from eligible individuals. For information, contact [cw-mail@jbsinternational.com](mailto:cw-mail@jbsinternational.com).