

# Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Round 4

## Context and Overview

September 28, 2021

# CFSR – Context and Overview

- CFSR is utilized by the Children’s Bureau (CB) to **assess the extent to which federally funded child welfare programs function effectively to promote safety, permanency, and well-being** for children and families.
- **Federal/state partnership** through a 2-level process:
  - Statewide Assessment (SWA)
  - Onsite Review – State or CB-led
- Jurisdictions found not in substantial conformity enter a **Program Improvement Plan (PIP)** to address areas requiring improvement.
- CFSR process from start-to-finish spans a minimum of **3-years**.
- SWA, Onsite Review, and PIP are **posted online** by CB.

# CFSR – Overall Goals

- **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** including the **legal and judicial processes**; and
- Assist state child welfare systems in helping children and families achieve **positive outcomes** through continuous quality improvement.

# CFSR Rd 4 – Primary Changes

- Integrating the principles of continuous quality improvement (CQI), the CFSR **statewide data indicators** (SWDI) will function as the framework for grounding the CFSR and PIP in **sound measurement**.
- **SWDI** will form the core of the **Statewide Assessment** (SWA) process in which the CFSR **Systemic Factors** will be assessed using qualitative and quantitative data.

**Corroborating data serve as the standard throughout CFSR Round 4!**

# CFSR Rd 4 – Statewide Data Indicators (SWDI)

- Calculated from administrative data submitted to CB by the states.
  - **Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)**
  - **National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)**
- Used to establish **substantial conformity** on **safety and permanency outcomes**.
- Used to set **baselines** and **goals** for states required to include *non-conformant* outcomes in their PIPs.

# CFSR Rd 4 – SWDI: Safety and Permanency

- 1. Recurrence of Maltreatment** – Of all children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during a 12-month period, what percent were victims of another substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 12 months of the initial victimization?
- 2. Maltreatment in Foster Care** – Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization per 100,000 days of foster care?
- 3. Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Foster Care** – Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what percentage are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care?
- 4. Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12 to 23 Months** – Of all children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months, what percentage are discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?
- 5. Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24 Months or More** – Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) for 24 months or more, what percentage are discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?
- 6. Reentry to Foster Care** – Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period who were discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative, or guardianship, what percentage reentered foster care within 12 months of their discharge?
- 7. Placement Stability** – Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of foster care?

# CFSR Rd 4 – Statewide Assessment (SWA)

- States submit a Statewide Assessment—**comprehensive evaluation of performance on CFSR outcomes and systemic factors.**
- Statewide Assessment is used to **guide the focus** of the CFSR onsite review—which stakeholder groups to interview.

# CFSR Rd 4 – Statewide Assessment - Changes

- Supports increased input from **child welfare system stakeholders**.
- CB's **Statewide Data Indicators, state administrative data, and case record review results** obtained through state CQI processes will serve as anchors for identifying strengths and challenges—including the evaluation of the CFSR Systemic Factors.



# Statewide Assessment (SWA) – Overview

- **Section I:** General Info – CFSR Sample/AFCARS/NCANDS Period
- **Section II:** Safety and Permanency Data – State Data Profile
- **Section III:** Assessment of Child and Family Outcomes and Performance on National Standards
  - Safety Outcomes
  - Permanency Outcomes
  - Well-Being Outcomes
- **Section IV:** Assessment of Systemic Factors

# Statewide Assessment – Systemic Factors

## **A. Statewide Information System**

- Item 19: Statewide Information System

## **B. Case Review System**

- Item 20: Written Case Plan
- Item 21: Periodic Review
- Item 22: Permanency Hearings
- Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights
- Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

## **C. Quality Assurance System**

- Item 25: Quality Assurance System

## **D. Staff and Provider Training**

- Item 26: Initial Staff Training
- Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training
- Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

## **E. Service Array and Resource Development**

- Item 29: Array of Services
- Item 30: Individualizing Services

## **F. Agency Responsiveness to the Community**

- Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation with Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR
- Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services with Other Federal Programs

## **G. Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention**

- Item 33: Standards Applied Equally
- Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks
- Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes
- Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

# CFSR Rd 4 – Onsite Review

- **Stakeholder interviews to assess family service outcomes and program systems**—tied back to performance on the **Statewide Assessment (SWA)**.
- **Case reviews** are used to assess casework practice—information is gathered through reading **case files and case-related interviews** with child welfare staff, parents, and youth.
- **CB Onsite Review Instrument (OSRI)** guides the case reviews and interviews—results are entered into the **Online Management System (OMS)**.
  - DCF CQI Unit utilizes the OSRI and OMS for conducting routine comprehensive case review and quality improvement.

# CFSR Rd 4 – Onsite Review Instrument

- OSRI assesses practice performance on **18-key items (84 sub-items)**.
  1. Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment
  2. Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care
  3. Risk and Safety Assessment and Management
  4. Stability of Foster Care Placement
  5. Permanency Goal for Child
  6. Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
  7. Placement with Siblings
  8. Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care
  9. Preserving Connections
  10. Relative Placement
  11. Relationship of Child in Care with Parents
  12. Needs Assessment and Services to Children, Parents, and Foster Parents
  13. Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning
  14. Caseworker Visits with Children
  15. Caseworker Visits with Parents
  16. Educational Needs of the Child
  17. Physical Health of the Child
  18. Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

# CFSR Rd 4 – PIP Development Process

- The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is developed by the state in coordination with the Children’s Bureau after the CFSR is concluded **to address any challenges in meeting outcomes identified by the CFSR.**
- **Outcome and administrative data** will serve as the benchmark of progress throughout the CFSR Rd 4 PIP.
- PIP runs up to **2.5 years.**

# DISCUSSION