CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Nebraska

FINAL REPORT

2025

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

This page is intentionally blank.

Final Report: Nebraska Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the state of Nebraska. The CFSRs enable the Children's Bureau (CB) to: (1) ensure conformity with certain federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and (3) assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes. Federal law and regulations authorize the CB, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, to administer the review of child and family services programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The CFSRs are structured to help states identify strengths and areas needing improvement in their child welfare practices and programs as well as institute systemic changes that will improve child and family outcomes.

The findings for Nebraska are based on:

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Division of Children and Family Services (CFS) of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and submitted to the CB on February 28, 2025. The Statewide Assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The August 2024 State Data Profile, prepared by the CB, which provides the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) compared to national performance on 7 statewide data indicators.
- The results of case reviews of 65 cases (40 foster care, 19 in-home, and 6 in-home-differential/alternative response) conducted via a State-Led Review process across multiple sites in Nebraska May 2025 through August 2025 examining case practices occurring during May 2024 through August 2025.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Attorneys for the agency
  - Attorneys for children, youth, and Guardians Ad Litem
  - Attorneys for parents
  - Child welfare agency statewide leadership and regional managers
  - Child welfare agency caseworkers and supervisors
  - Child welfare agency program managers
  - Child welfare agency and private agency training staff
  - Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
  - Court Improvement Program (CIP) and court system representatives
  - Foster and adoptive parents and representatives from the Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
  - Judicial officers
  - Licensing staff
  - Parents
  - Quality Assurance staff
  - Service providers
  - Tribal child welfare staff and Tribal representatives
  - Youth

Background Information

The Round 4 CFSR assesses state performance with regard to substantial conformity with 7 child and family outcomes and 7 systemic factors. Each outcome incorporates 1 or more of the 18 items included in the case review, and each item is rated as a Strength or Area Needing Improvement based on an evaluation of certain child welfare practices and processes in the cases reviewed in the state. With two exceptions, an item is

assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90% or more of the applicable cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies to those items. For a state to be in substantial conformity with a particular outcome, 95% or more of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome. In addition, for Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's RSP on applicable statewide data indicators must be better than or no different than national performance. This determination for substantial conformity is based on the data profile transmitted to the state to signal the start of that state's CFSR. The state's RSP in subsequent data profiles will be factored into the determination of indicators required to be included in the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

Eighteen items are considered in assessing the state's substantial conformity with the 7 systemic factors. Each item reflects a key federal program requirement relevant to the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for that systemic factor. An item is rated as a Strength or an Area Needing Improvement based on how well the item-specific requirement is functioning. A determination of the rating is based on information provided by the state to demonstrate the functioning of the systemic factor in the Statewide Assessment and, as needed, from interviews with stakeholders and partners. For a state to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factors, no more than 1 of the items associated with the systemic factor can be rated as an Area Needing Improvement. For systemic factors that have only 1 item associated with them, that item must be rated as a Strength for a determination of substantial conformity. An overview of the pathways to substantial conformity for the CFSR outcomes and systemic factors is in Appendix B of the Round 4 *CFSR Procedures Manual*.

The CB made several changes to the CFSR process, items, and indicators that are relevant to evaluating performance, based on lessons learned during the third round of reviews. As such, a state's performance in the fourth round of the CFSRs may not be directly comparable to its performance in the third round.

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

Nebraska 2025 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

The CB has established high standards of performance for the CFSR based on the belief that because child welfare agencies work with our country's most vulnerable children and families, only the highest standards of performance should be considered acceptable. The high standards ensure ongoing attention to achieving positive outcomes for children and families regarding safety, permanency, and well-being. This is consistent with the CFSR's goal of promoting continuous improvement in performance on these outcomes. A state must develop and implement a PIP to address the areas of concern identified for each outcome or systemic factor for which the state is found not to be in substantial conformity. The CB recognizes that the kinds of systemic and practice changes necessary to bring about improvement in some outcome areas often take time to implement. The results of this CFSR are intended to serve as the basis for continued improvement efforts addressing areas where a state still needs to improve.

Table 1 provides a quick reminder of how case review items and statewide data indicators are combined to assess substantial conformity on each outcome:

Table 1. Outcomes, Case Review Items, and Statewide Data Indicators

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
Safety Outcome 1	Item 1	Maltreatment in foster care Recurrence of maltreatment
Safety Outcome 2	Items 2 and 3	N/A
Permanency Outcome 1	Items 4, 5, and 6	Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
		Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability
Permanency Outcome 2	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 1	Items 12, 13, 14, and 15	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 2	Item 16	N/A
Well-Being Outcome 3	Items 17 and 18	N/A

Nebraska was found in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes.

The following 4 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Statewide Information System
- Quality Assurance System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

CB Comments on State Performance

The Nebraska CFS Division of the DHHS is the state's authority designated to serve children, youth, and families in need of social services. The social service programs include but are not limited to child protection, foster care, and adoption.

In 2017, during its Round 3 CFSR, Nebraska was in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes and 4 of the 7 systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, Staff and Provider Training, and Agency Responsiveness to the Community. Nebraska's CFSR PIP was approved with an effective date of July 1, 2019, for a 2-year implementation period. On December 10, 2021, the CB determined that Nebraska had successfully completed all of the PIP measurement goals and activities.

The Round 4 CFSR, conducted by the CFS with support from the Children's Bureau during the months of May 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025, and stakeholder interviews conducted May 19–23, 2025, found that Nebraska was not in substantial conformity with all 7 outcomes as well as 3 of the 7 systemic factors: Case Review System, Staff and Provider Training, and Service Array and Resource Development. Nebraska was found to be in substantial conformity with 4 systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

The highest performing outcome in the Round 4 CFSR was Safety Outcome 1, Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect, with 93% of applicable cases rated as substantially achieved. The data showed that Nebraska did not respond to 2 reports of child maltreatment timely in accordance with state policy. Safety Outcome 1 also includes performance on statewide data indicators. In Nebraska's most recently released (February 2026) statewide data indicators, performance on Safety Outcome 1, Maltreatment in Foster Care, was statistically better than national performance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to FY 2023. Performance on Recurrence of Maltreatment was statistically better than national performance for both FY 2022–23 and FY 2023–24; however, performance was statistically no different than national performance for FY 2021–22.

Practice for the two items that comprise Safety Outcome 2, Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, requires improvement. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of cases substantially achieved this outcome. For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, 88% of applicable cases were rated as a Strength. The primary reason for low performance on Item 2 was a lack of concerted efforts to provide safety-related services to address parents' substance use issues. For Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, 78% of the cases were

rated as a Strength. While foster care cases had a lower percentage of Strength ratings, safety-related practice for both foster care and in-home services cases requires improvement. Safety-related practice improvement needs in Nebraska include case workers conducting accurate initial and ongoing assessments of child risk and safety.

Nebraska's lowest performing outcome was for Permanency Outcome 1, Children have permanency and stability in their living situations, with 25% of cases being rated as substantially achieved. Nebraska effectively identifies situations where the establishment of a concurrent goal is necessary. As such, there were many cases in the sample with the concurrent goals of reunification and adoption. In most of those cases, both goals were appropriate to the case circumstances and were timely set. In cases where an adoption goal was rated as an Area Needing Improvement, 100% of those ratings were because the goal of adoption should have been set sooner. When the reunification goal was rated as an Area Needing Improvement, it was most often due to a lack of engagement by parents, making the goal no longer appropriate. Many of the cases in the sample had Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petitions filed and completed prior to the Period Under Review (PUR). For cases where the time to file for TPR occurred during the PUR, exceptions for filing the TPR petition existed although the adoption goal was in place. Timely filing and timely TPR hearings are essential to move cases expeditiously toward adoption. The fact that an exception exists does not require it to be invoked where a child's permanency goal is adoption.

The achievement of permanency within federal timeframes for all case types proved to be challenging. Reunification was delayed for a variety of reasons, including the lack of efforts toward reunification services as well as delays in moving to less restrictive visits, including trial home visits when services had been completed and safety factors mitigated. Nebraska's performance on statewide data indicators for the achievement of permanency within 12 months from entry into foster care was worse than national performance. While this indicator measures the achievement of all types of permanency, it is largely driven by reunification. In the most recent profile, performance on the statewide data indicators for the achievement of permanency within 12 months for the population of children in care from 12–23 months and 24+ months were both better than national performance. When delays in permanency occurred for children in care for longer periods, they were often due to a lack of concerted efforts, including completing guardianship paperwork and supporting the guardian with needed services. Delays to adoption were also observed due to the lack of completion of necessary paperwork by the agency.

Placement stability is an important component of timely achievement of permanency as well as supporting the well-being of children in foster care. While Nebraska performed better than national performance on placement stability, in the cases reviewed for children who experienced moves during the PUR, only 1 of those 12 children were moved in furtherance of case planning goals or to meet the needs of the child.

The legal and judicial system partners are significant contributors to the outcomes experienced by children and families. Case reviews identified several positive contributions from legal and judicial professionals. Specifically, hearings were held in a timely manner, judges engaged in thoughtful reviews of permanency goals, and there was an example of high-quality legal representation.

Challenges within these systems were more difficult to assess, as many case narratives describing the achievement of permanency primarily highlighted the efforts of the agency. While some delays were noted, there was often insufficient context to determine the cause of the delays or whether they were within judicial discretion.

Moving forward, Nebraska may benefit from a more in-depth examination of both the strengths and challenges within the legal and judicial system to support continued improvement in permanency outcomes—particularly in achieving permanency within the first 12 months of a child's entry into foster care.

Permanency Outcome 2, The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children, was substantially achieved in 73% of cases reviewed. Nebraska performed strongly on Item 7, Placement with Siblings, which was rated as a Strength in 93% of cases. The next highest performing item was Item 9, Preserving Connections, with 88% of cases rated as a Strength.

For Item 8, Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, 76% of cases were rated as a Strength, and for Item 11, Relationship of Child in Care with Parents, 77% of cases were rated as a Strength. In contrast, Item 10, Relative Placement, was rated as a Strength in 69% of cases. Among applicable cases, 46% of children's current or most recent placements were with a relative.

Case reviews also identified challenges related to efforts to identify and engage relatives. In all applicable cases reviewed (100%, 10 of 10), there were concerns regarding efforts to identify paternal relatives. Additionally, in 73% of applicable cases, concerns were noted regarding efforts to identify maternal relatives. Well-Being Outcome 1, Families have the enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs, was the second lowest performing outcome, with 54% of cases rated as substantially achieved. In several of the cases applicable for Item 12, Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents, it was determined that the agency did not make concerted efforts to assess the needs of the child(ren) and parents or provide the appropriate services. Across all case types, performance on work with parents was lower than performance related to work with children. Item 12B, Needs Assessment and Services to Parents, found that the work with mothers was stronger than the work with fathers. In many applicable cases, the agency did not make concerted efforts to locate and engage the fathers. Also notable was that 90% of the applicable cases were rated positively regarding assessing the needs of the foster or pre-adoptive parents, but performance dropped to 77% when considering whether appropriate services were provided to address those identified needs. Performance on Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, and Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, signals a need for practice improvement efforts when working with parents.

Well-Being Outcome 2, Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs, which consists of Item 16, Educational Needs of the Child, was the second highest performing outcome, with 91% of cases rated as substantially achieved. The agency assessed and met the educational needs of children in 92% of applicable foster care cases and 86% of in-home services cases.

Well-Being Outcome 3 assesses the agency's concerted efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's physical and dental health needs (Item 17) and mental/behavioral health needs (Item 18). Only 56% of the cases were rated as substantially achieved for this outcome. Fewer in-home services cases than foster care cases were applicable to this outcome, but performance on both Items 17 and 18 was worse for foster care cases than in-home services cases. Reasons that negatively affected this outcome across both case types included a lack of assessment of the child's physical health, dental, and mental and behavioral health needs and a lack of provision of services to address those needs. The lack of providing appropriate oversight of prescription medication was also seen in foster care cases. For the applicable in-home services cases, agency efforts to assess children's mental and behavioral health needs were rated lower than efforts to assess physical and dental health needs. For foster care cases, performance on assessment of physical and dental health needs was lower than on assessment of mental/behavioral needs.

Service Array is a significant systemic factor that affects safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. The case review results and stakeholder interviews indicated that services enabling children to remain safe with their parents and services that help children in foster care achieve permanency are not always available and accessible statewide—particularly in rural areas of Nebraska. Some of the services noted as lacking include mental health services, parenting and psychological evaluations, substance use services, and psychiatric residential treatment. This has created extensive waitlists and forces some children and families to travel across the state to access critical services. As a result, services are not individualized to the unique needs of children and families. This may contribute to unnecessary child removals and delayed permanency for children in care. There are also limited transportation and housing resources in many areas that present barriers for children and families.

The Children's Bureau (CB) recognizes Nebraska's demonstrated strengths in key areas of child welfare practice and notes that the Round 4 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) findings related to placement stability and service array capacity present a timely opportunity for the state to leverage the flexibilities outlined in CFSR Technical Bulletin (TB) #14.

Consistent with TB #14, Nebraska has chosen to utilize these flexibilities and orient its program improvement efforts around the overarching goal of *A Home for Every Child*, with a focus on achieving and sustaining a 1.1 ratio of licensed foster homes to children in foster care.

As Nebraska addresses the concerns identified in the CFSR, the state should continue to build on the strengths of its continuous quality improvement (CQI) system and its collaboration with community partners engaged during the statewide assessment process. Leveraging the flexibilities provided under TB #14 can support a cohesive, outcome-driven strategy that strengthens system capacity and ensures that every child in Nebraska has access to a safe, stable, and appropriate family home.

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

For each outcome, we provide the state's performance on the applicable statewide data indicators from the data profile that was transmitted to the state to signal the launch of the CFSR and performance summaries from the case review findings of the onsite review. CFSR statewide data indicators provide performance information on states' child safety and permanency outcomes. The statewide data indicators are aggregate measures calculated using information that states report to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). For general information on the statewide data indicators and their use, see the National Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement page, https://ncwcia.childwelfare.gov/. For a detailed description of the statewide data indicators, see CFSR Technical Bulletin #13A, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/training-technical-assistance/cfsr-technical-bulletin-13a. Results have been rounded to the nearest whole number. A summary of the state's performance for all outcomes and systemic factors is in Appendix A. Additional information on case review findings, including the state's performance on case review item rating questions, is in the state's practice performance report in Appendix B.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

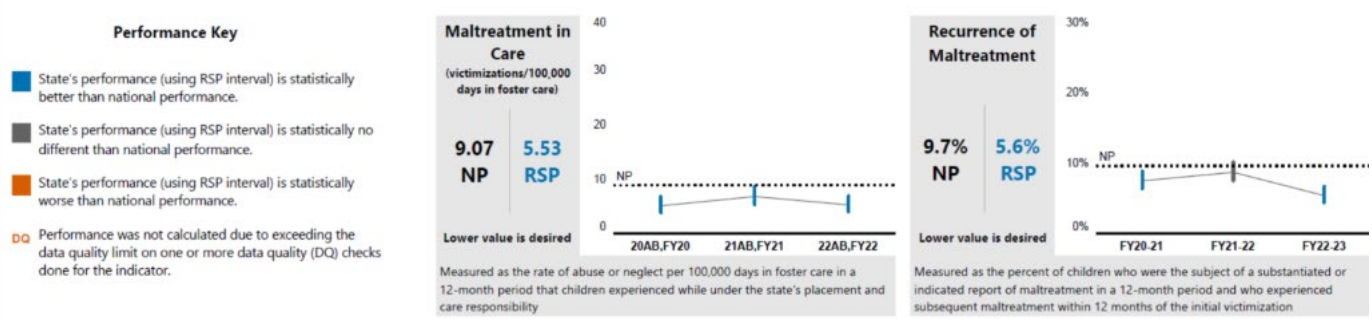
The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) on two statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Item 1, Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

The state's policy requires that all accepted reports be assigned a response priority for initiation of the investigation. Response priority includes two levels: Priority 1, which requires face-to-face contact with the child within 24 hours, and Priority 2, which requires face-to-face contact with the child within 5 calendar days.

Statewide Data Indicators

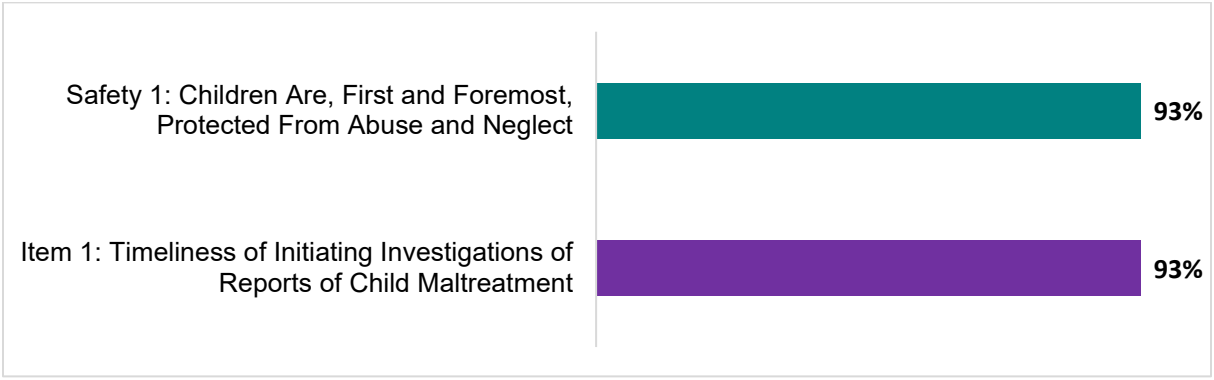
The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1.

Figure 1. State's Performance on Safety Outcome 1 Indicators



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1:

- The state's performance on the "maltreatment in foster care" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "recurrence of maltreatment" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 1.

Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Safety Outcome 1 Data Indicators During Round 4

Table 2. Risk-Standardized Performance Compared to National Performance—Safety 1 Data Indicators

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2025 Profile	August 2025 Profile	February 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Maltreatment in Foster Care	Better	Better	Better	Better	No
Recurrence of Maltreatment in 12 months	Better	Better	Better	Better	No

All results reported here are based on the February 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the August 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

For maltreatment in foster care, Nebraska's performance has been statistically better than national performance during FY 2021 to FY 2023. The calculation of maltreatment in care uses a ratio of total victimizations per 100,000 days children were in care during a 12-month period (cumulative days across all children). The following are notable observations for Nebraska's maltreatment in foster care observed performance:

- In FY 2023, the number of days children were in care (denominator) decreased by 2% compared to FY 2022, while the number of victimizations in care (numerator) also decreased by 2%.
- Children aged 6 to 10 experience the highest rate (5.10) of maltreatment in foster care compared to other age groups, and they account for a disproportionately high percentage of the victimizations. Children aged 6 to 10 account for 24.6% of the days in care but 30.8% of the victimizations in foster care.
- Children aged 11 to 16 also account for a disproportionately high percentage of the victimizations. Children aged 11 to 16 account for 31.5% of the days in care but 38.5% of the victimizations in foster care.

Nebraska's performance improved to become statistically better than national performance on recurrence of maltreatment in the most recent reporting periods. The following are notable observations for Nebraska's recurrence of maltreatment observed performance:

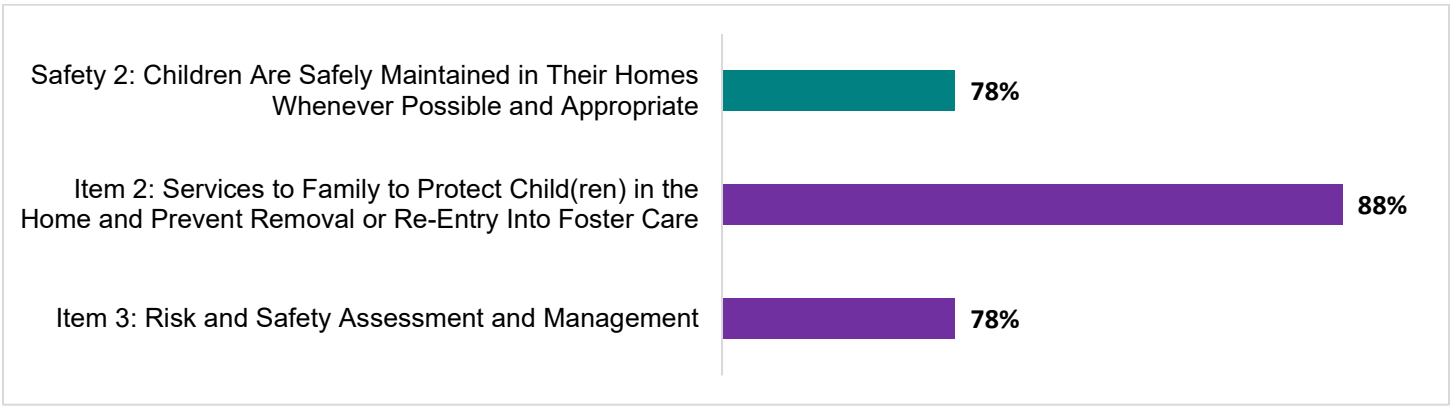
- The largest improvement was observed for children in the <1 year age group. In FY 2023–24, performance for children under 1 year old at initial victimization decreased to 3.2% from 6.5% in FY 2022–23.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 2 and 3.

Case Review

Figure 3. Performance on Safety Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 2:

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 2.

- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 3.

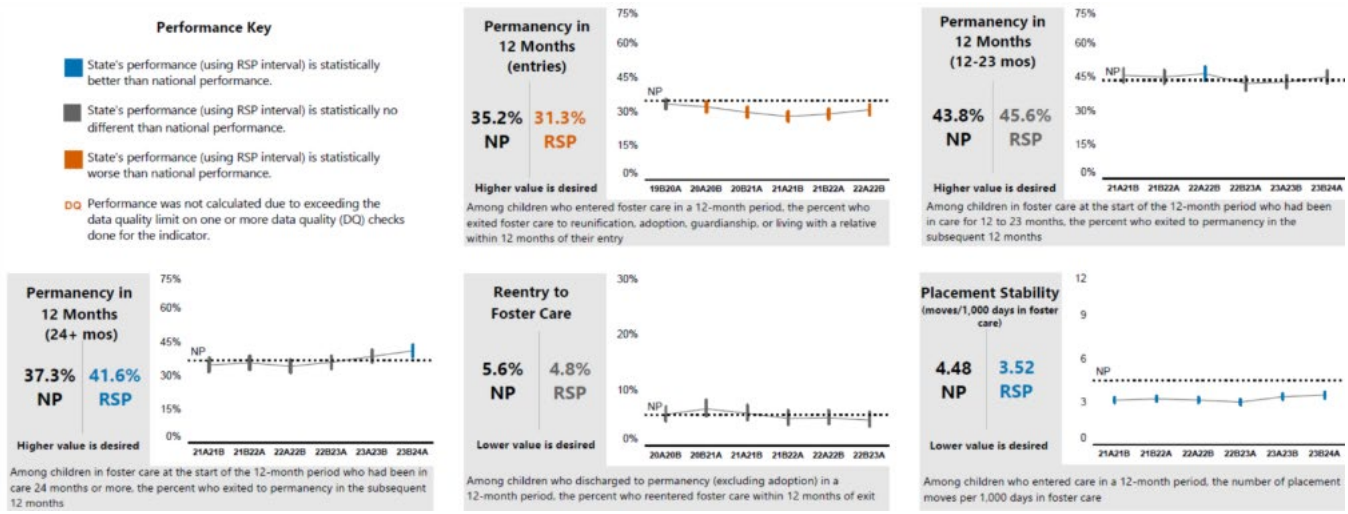
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's RSP on 5 statewide data indicators and the state's performance on Items 4, 5, and 6.

Statewide Data Indicators

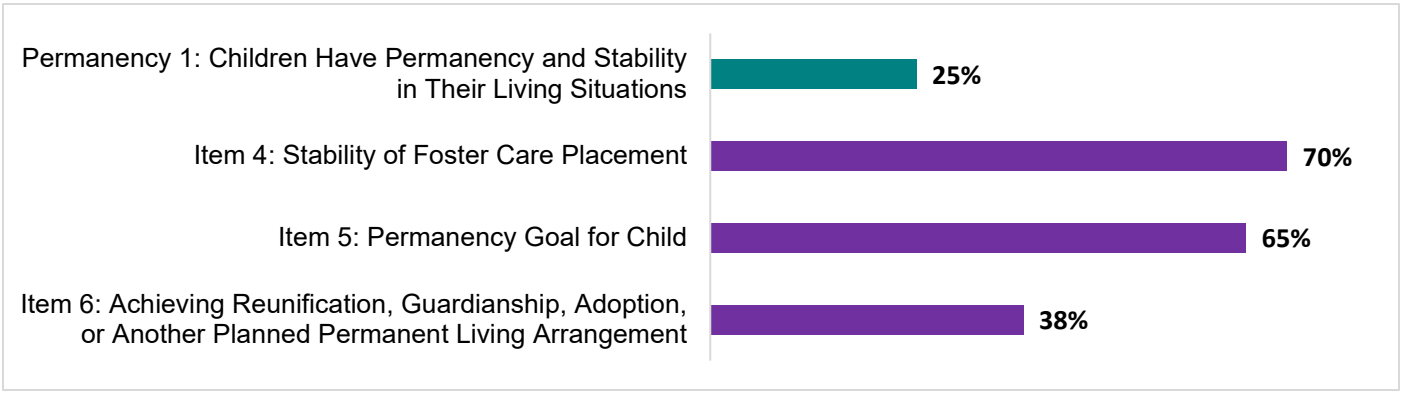
The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

Figure 4. State's Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 Indicators



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 1:

- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care" data indicator was statistically worse than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months" data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.

- The state's performance on the "reentry to foster care in 12 months" data indicator was statistically no different than national performance.
- The state's performance on the "placement stability" data indicator was statistically better than national performance.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 4.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 5.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 6.

Notable Changes and Observations in Performance on the Permanency Outcome 1 Data Indicators During Round 4

Table 3. Risk-Standardized Performance Compared to National Performance—Permanency 1 Data Indicators

Statewide Data Indicator	Data Profile Transmitted With Statewide Assessment and Used to Determine Substantial Conformity	February 2025 Profile	August 2025 Profile	February 2026 Profile	Inclusion in PIP?
Permanency in 12 months for children entering care	Worse	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months	No Different	Better	No Different	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more	Better	Better	Better	Better	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	No Different	No Different	No Different	No Different	No
Placement stability	Better	Better	Better	Better	No

All results reported here are based on the February 2026 data profile and supplementary context data and thus may describe performance that is different from what is depicted in Figure 1 because that is from the August 2024 data profile, which was transmitted with the Statewide Assessment and used to determine substantial conformity.

The statewide data indicator for permanency in 12 months for children entering care is the only indicator where Nebraska's performance is statistically worse than national performance. The following are notable observations regarding Nebraska's performance on this indicator, beginning with observations regarding the foster care entry rate, which is a component of measuring and understanding permanency in 12 months for children entering care.

- Nebraska's entry rate of 3.74 entries per 1,000 children in the population in FY 2025 is higher than the national entry rate of 2.28 entries per 1,000 children in the population.
- Statewide, for children under age 1 at entry, the entry rate is 9.94 entries per 1,000 children in the population. Children under age 1 also have a disproportionately low rate of exits to permanency within

12 months of entry. While children under age 1 account for 16.2% of foster care entries, they represent only 12.8% of exits to permanency within 12 months of entry.

- Lancaster County has a disproportionately low rate of exits to permanency within 12 months of entry. Lancaster County accounts for 15.3% of foster care entries but only 9.9% of exits to permanency within 12 months of entry.

Performance on the 2 statewide data indicators for later-term permanency, permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months, and permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more, was statistically better than national performance for each indicator in the most recent reporting year. The following are notable observations regarding Nebraska's observed performance:

- Performance on permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months improved from 43.2% in FY 2023 to 48.1% in FY 2024 and 49.5% in FY 2025. Similarly, performance on permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more improved from 41.9% in FY 2023 to 46.3% in FY 2024 but decreased slightly to 45.4% in FY 2025.
- Douglas County has the highest number of children in care across all indicators, and its performance on each indicator was below the statewide performance.

Nebraska's performance on the statewide data indicator for reentry to foster care was statistically no different than national performance in each reporting period. The following are notable observations for Nebraska's reentry to foster care observed performance:

- Performance on this indicator improved from 4.7% in FY 2022 to 3.8% in FY 2024.
- Douglas County also saw a decrease in reentry to foster care from 5.4% in FY 2022 to 3.8% in FY 2024.
- Lancaster County saw an increase in reentry to foster care from 5.5% in FY 2022 to 8.3% in FY 2023. Performance then improved to 1.8% in FY 2024.

Performance on the statewide data indicator for placement stability was statistically better than national performance across the 3 years of reporting. The following are notable observations for Nebraska's placement stability observed performance:

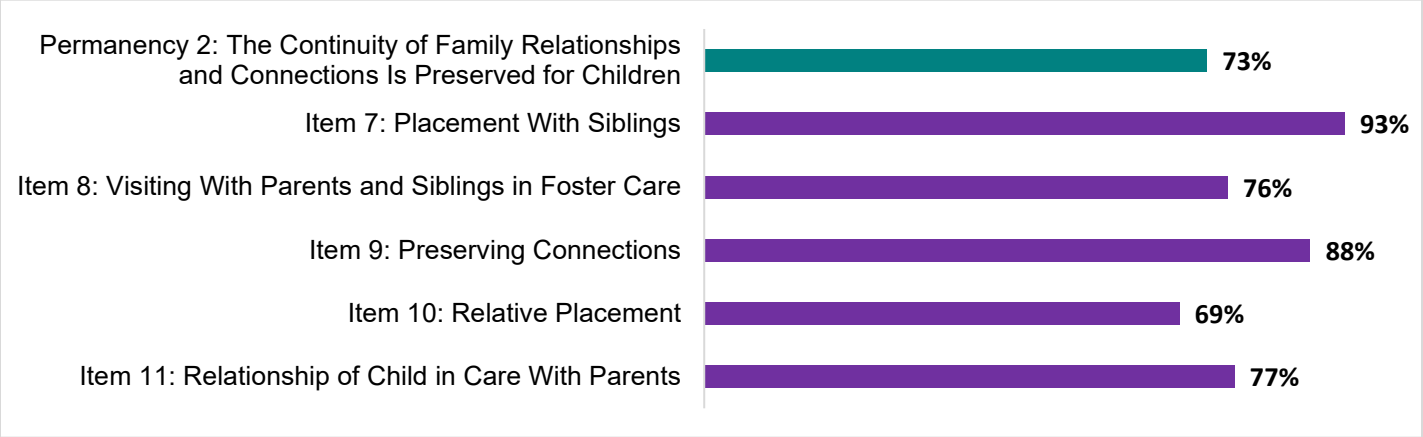
- Performance on this indicator remained relatively consistent over the three-year period, decreasing slightly from 3.59 moves per 1,000 days in care in FY 2023 to 3.57 in FY 2024 and 3.49 in FY 2025.
- Among all age groups, children under age 1 at entry experienced the highest placement stability (1.77 moves per 1,000 days in care), while children aged 17 at entry experienced the lowest placement stability (6.58 moves per 1,000 days in care).
- In FY 2025, Douglas County accounted for 29.8% of the total days in care but 36.2% of the total moves.

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Case Review

Figure 6. Performance on Permanency Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 2:

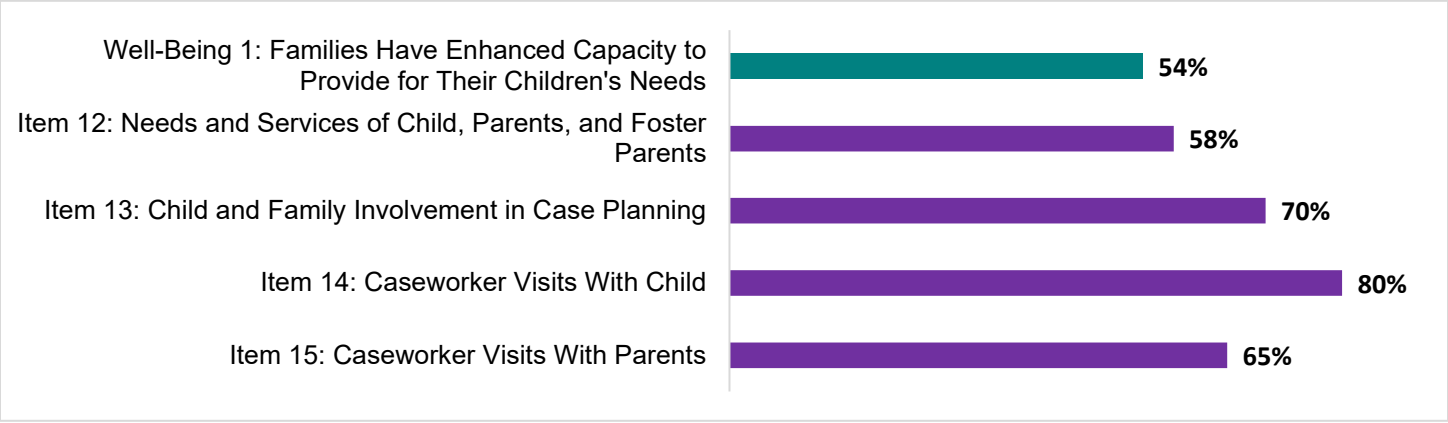
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- More than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 10.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 11.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Case Review

Figure 7. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 1:

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.

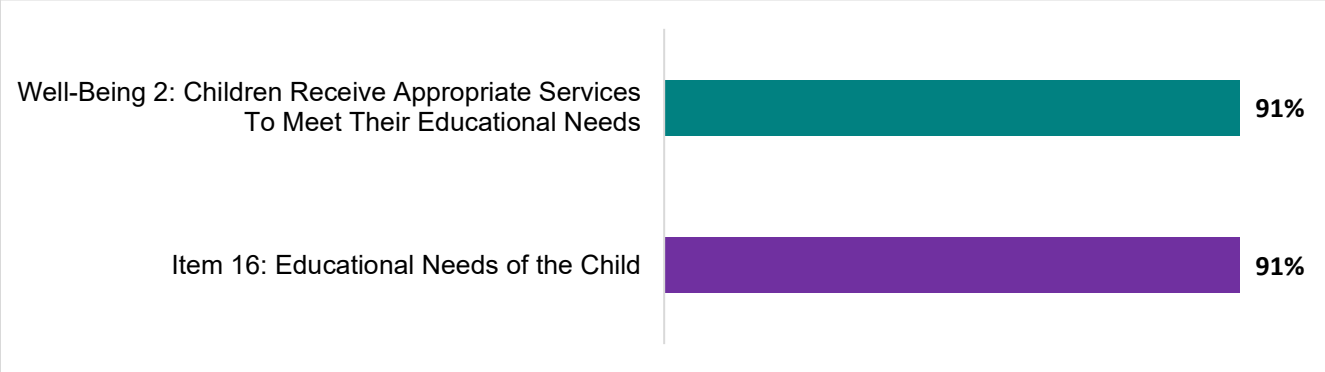
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
  - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12C.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 13.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 14.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 15.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 16.

Case Review

Figure 8. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 2 and Supporting Items



Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 2:

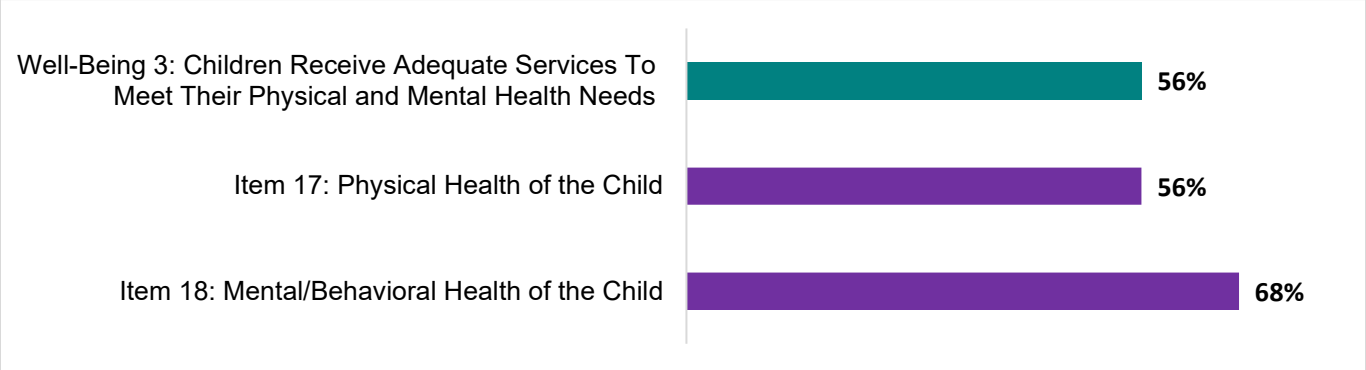
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 17 and 18.

Case Review

Figure 9. Performance on Well-Being Outcome 3 and Supporting Items



Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 3:

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 17.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 18.

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The CB determines substantial conformity with the systemic factors based on ratings for the item or items within each factor. Performance on 5 of the 7 systemic factors is determined based on ratings for multiple items or plan requirements. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with these systemic factors, the CB must find that no more than 1 of the required items for that systemic factor fails to function as required. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with the 2 systemic factors that are determined based on the rating of a single item, the CB must find that the item is functioning as required. For each systemic factor below, we provide performance summaries and a determination of whether the state is in substantial conformity with that systemic factor. In addition, we provide ratings for each item.

Statewide Information System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 19.

Item	Rating
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Strength

Nebraska was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Statewide Information System.

Item 19: Statewide Information System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The statewide information system is functioning statewide to ensure that, at a minimum, the state can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or, within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected demonstrated that the state can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for placements. Nebraska has policy and statute guiding data entry in the statewide information system, and there are processes in place to ensure timeliness and accuracy.

Case Review System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Items	Rating
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Area Needing Improvement
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Area Needing Improvement

Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Case Review System.

Item 20: Written Case Plan

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parent(s) and includes the required provisions.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected did not demonstrate that written case plans for children in foster care were routinely developed jointly with the children's parents.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that a periodic review for each child occurs no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected did not demonstrate that a periodic review for each child occurred no less frequently than once every 6 months. Although Nebraska has a systemic process for tracking the occurrence of periodic reviews, this monitoring does not distinguish between the timeliness of initial and subsequent reviews to ensure that periodic reviews are held timely and may over-report reviews due to capturing both reviews in court and foster care review board reviews.

Item 22: Permanency Hearings

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body that occurs no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected did not demonstrate that permanency hearings were occurring within 12 months of each child's entry into foster care and every 12 months thereafter. Although Nebraska has a systemic process for tracking the occurrence of permanency hearings, this monitoring does not assess whether permanency hearings are held timely.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that the filing of termination of parental rights proceedings occurs in accordance with required provisions.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected did not demonstrate that Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petitions were filed in accordance with required provisions. Nebraska has a systemic process for tracking whether a TPR petition has been filed and when there is an exception, including compelling reasons not to file. However, the state's data did not reflect whether the TPR filings were timely in accordance with federal timeframes.

Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning to ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are notified of, and have a right to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected did not demonstrate that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care were routinely receiving notification of all reviews and hearings as required. Nebraska does not have a systemic process for tracking and monitoring this to ensure that proper notification of periodic reviews and permanency hearings occurs, which includes the caregiver's right to be heard.

Quality Assurance System

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Item 25.

Item	Rating
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Strength

Nebraska was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Quality Assurance System.

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The quality assurance system is functioning statewide to ensure that it (1) is operating in the jurisdictions where the services included in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) are provided, (2) has standards to evaluate the quality of services (including standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect their health and safety), (3) identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, (4) provides relevant reports, and (5) evaluates implemented program improvement measures.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected demonstrated that the state's quality assurance (QA) system covered all service areas in the state. The Nebraska QA system employs multiple strategies for evaluating the quality of services, enhancing the service delivery system, and utilizing administrative and performance data to improve positive outcomes for children and families. The QA system has standards to evaluate service quality, identifies strengths and weaknesses of the service delivery system, provides relevant data and reports, and evaluates implemented program improvement measures.

Staff and Provider Training

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 26, 27, and 28.

Items	Rating
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Area Needing Improvement

Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Staff and Provider Training.

Item 26: Initial Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that initial training is provided to all staff who deliver services pursuant to the CFSP that includes the basic skills and knowledge required for their positions.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected demonstrated that new staff were not routinely completing the initial training program in accordance with the timeframes established by the state. Delays in completing the initial training were commonly due to missed training courses. Additionally, the evidence indicated that Nebraska's initial training does not sufficiently address the basic skills and knowledge needed by staff to carry out their duties.

Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that ongoing training is provided for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected showed that case management and supervisory staff were not routinely meeting the state's established requirement for ongoing training. After completion of initial training, Nebraska requires case managers and supervisors to complete 24 hours of in-service professional development training per calendar year. There were notable limitations to the data provided by the state because the learning management system did not accurately reflect completion of external trainings provided by outside agencies and organizations, and Nebraska was not able to accurately exclude new staff who were not yet expected to meet the state's ongoing training requirement. Additionally, the data and evidence collected did not demonstrate that the ongoing training addressed the basic skills and knowledge needed by staff to carry out their duties.

Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that training is occurring statewide for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities (that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E) that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected did not demonstrate that the pre-service and ongoing training for foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities addresses the skills and knowledge needed to carry out their duties in caring for foster and adopted children. Although training requirements were being met, Nebraska does not have a systemic process for gathering information and data to assess training content and efficacy.

Service Array and Resource Development

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 29 and 30.

Items	Rating
Item 29: Array of Services	Area Needing Improvement
Item 30: Individualizing Services	Area Needing Improvement

Nebraska was found not to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Service Array and Resource Development.

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning to ensure that the following array of services is accessible in all political jurisdictions covered by the CFSP: (1) services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, (2) services that address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, (3) services that enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and (4) services that help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected indicate that services that enable children to remain safely with their parents and services that support children in foster care in achieving permanency are not routinely available and readily accessible statewide, particularly in rural areas of Nebraska. Transportation and housing resources in many areas were identified as limited, creating barriers for children and families. Limited provider capacity has contributed to waitlists for children and families seeking access to services, including therapeutic services, parenting and psychological evaluations, substance use treatment services, dental services, psychiatric residential treatment, Intensive Family Preservation Services, and Intensive Family Reunification Services.

Item 30: Individualizing Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning statewide to ensure that the services in Item 29 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected suggest that services are not consistently able to be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families involved with the state child welfare system. Specialized services are primarily available in more populated areas in the eastern part of the state, and this variation in access limits the ability to individualize services statewide. Identified service needs include services for children with developmental disabilities, placement and treatment for youth with problematic sexual behavior, services for youth who are dually involved in the juvenile justice system, and services for children and families whose primary language is not English.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 31 and 32.

Items	Rating
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Area Needing Improvement
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Strength

Nebraska was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Agency Responsiveness to the Community.

Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that, in implementing the provisions of the CFSP and developing related Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSRs), the state engages in ongoing consultation with Tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected indicated that while there is a patchwork of local efforts to engage and consult community stakeholders, there was no evidence to support that information from these groups is routinely incorporated into the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP.

Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state's services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected demonstrated that the state routinely coordinates services and benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population through engagement and partnerships across state systems. Specific program examples include mental health and substance use services, Medicaid and disability services, home visiting programs, domestic violence services, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) prevention services, and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state's performance on Items 33, 34, 35, and 36.

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

Nebraska was found to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that state standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected demonstrated that state standards are routinely applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes and childcare institutions. The standards are established in state regulation. To ensure that these standards are applied equally, Nebraska utilizes standardized forms and checklists as well as centralized review, monitoring, and ongoing QA processes. The only exception permitted is exceeding the placement limit when doing so is in the best interests of each child in the home. Nebraska tracks and routinely reviews this approved exception.

Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state complies with federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- The data and evidence collected demonstrated that the state complies with federal requirements for criminal background clearances used for licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has an established process and a standardized procedure for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children. To ensure compliance with federal requirements, Nebraska has established a centralized team to complete and oversee the background check process. The state does not grant waivers for disqualifying criminal offenses in criminal background check results. When a safety concern in a placement is reported, the response is coordinated between licensing staff and the child's case worker.

Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed is occurring statewide.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and evidence collected demonstrated that the process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state's care is occurring statewide. On a quarterly basis, Nebraska uses the demographic data of children in foster care to inform, develop, and approve plans from child-placing agencies for recruiting potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the children served.

Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide.

- Nebraska received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Although the data and evidence collected demonstrated that the state has tools and processes to facilitate and monitor the effective use of cross-jurisdictional placement resources, Nebraska has not demonstrated compliance with completion of home-study requests from other states within the required timeframes.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Nebraska 2025 Child and Family Services Review Performance

I. Ratings for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes and Items and Performance on Statewide Data Indicators

Outcome Achievement: Outcomes may be rated as in substantial conformity or not in substantial conformity. 95% of the applicable cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome for the state to be in substantial conformity with the outcome.

Item Achievement: Items may be rated as a Strength or as an Area Needing Improvement. For an overall rating of Strength, 90% of the cases reviewed for the item (with the exception of Item 1 and Item 16) must be rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies.

Statewide Data Indicators: For Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1, the state's performance is also considered against the national performance for each statewide data indicator. State performance may be statistically better, worse, or no different than the national performance. If a state did not provide the required data or did not meet the applicable item data quality limits, the CB did not calculate the state's performance for the statewide data indicator.

RSP (Risk-Standardized Performance) is derived from a multi-level statistical model, reflects the state's performance relative to states with similar children, and takes into account the number of children the state served, the age distribution of these children and, for some indicators, the state's entry rate. It uses risk adjustment to minimize differences in outcomes due to factors over which the state has little control and provides a fairer comparison of state performance against national performance.

RSP Interval is the 95% confidence interval estimate for the state's RSP. The values shown are the lower RSP and upper RSP of the interval estimate. The interval accounts for the amount of uncertainty associated with the RSP. For example, the CB is 95% confident that the true value of the RSP is between the lower and upper limit of the interval.

Data Period(s) Used refers to the initial 12-month period and the period(s) of data needed to follow the children to observe their outcomes. The FY or federal fiscal year refers to NCANDS data, which spans the 12-month period October 1-September 30. All other periods refer to AFCARS data. "A" refers to the 6-month period October 1-March 31. "B" refers to the 6-month period April 1-September 30. The 2-digit year refers to the calendar year in which the period ends.

SAFETY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PROTECTED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Not in Substantial Conformity	93% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	93% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR SAFETY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.07	Better Than National Performance	Lower	5.53	4.26–7.18	22A–22B, FY22–23
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	Better Than National Performance	Lower	5.6%	4.6%–6.9%	FY22–23

SAFETY OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Not in Substantial Conformity	78% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	88% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	Not in Substantial Conformity	25% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	65% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	38% Strength

DATA INDICATORS FOR PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Overall Determination	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP	RSP Interval	Data Period(s) Used
Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care	35.2%	Worse Than National Performance	Higher	31.3%	29.2%–33.5%	22A–24A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months	43.8%	No Different Than National Performance	Higher	45.6%	42.7%–48.5%	23B–24A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	41.6%	39.0%–44.3%	23B–24A
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	4.8%	3.7%–6.2%	22B–24A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Better Than National Performance	Lower	3.52	3.3–3.75	23B–24A

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2: THE CONTINUITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS IS PRESERVED FOR CHILDREN.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Not in Substantial Conformity	73% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Strength	93% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	76% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	88% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	69% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	77% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1: FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	54% Substantially Achieved
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	58% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	88% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	56% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	83% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	80% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	65% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	91% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	91% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	Not in Substantial Conformity	56% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	56% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

The CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The CB determines substantial conformity with the systemic factors based on ratings for the item or items within each factor. Performance on 5 of the 7 systemic factors is determined on the basis of ratings for multiple items or plan requirements. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with these systemic factors, the CB must find that no more than 1 of the required items for that systemic factor fails to function as required. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with the 2 systemic factors that are determined based on the rating of a single item, the CB must find that the item is functioning as required.

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Case Review System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22: Permanency Hearings	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Substantial Conformity
Item 25: Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 26: Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Service Array and Resource Development	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 29: Array of Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 30: Individualizing Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Statewide Assessment	Strength

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

APPENDIX B: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT
Nebraska CFSR (State-Led) 2025

The Practice Performance Report provides an aggregated summary of practice performance for all 18 items in the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) for all approved and final cases from all the sites in the Nebraska CFSR (State-Led) and includes a breakdown of performance by case type. Please refer to the Rating Criteria section at the end of each item in the OSRI to identify which responses to questions will result in a Strength rating. For more information on the OSRI, see https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-instruments-tools-and-guides

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment

Practice Description	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 1A) Investigations or assessments were initiated in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	89.66% (26 of 29)
(Question 1B) Face-to-face contact with the child(ren) who is (are) the subject of the report were made in accordance with the state's timeframes and requirements in cases.	79.31% (23 of 29)
(Question 1C) Reasons for delays in initiation of investigations or assessments and/or face-to-face contact were due to circumstances beyond the control of the agency.	66.67% (4 of 6)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	93.1% (27 of 29)

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Item 2: Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency made concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care.	43.75% (7 of 16)	81.25% (13 of 16)	100% (2 of 2)	64.71% (22 of 34)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 2A and 2B) Although the agency did not make concerted efforts to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry into foster care, the child(ren) was removed from the home because this action was necessary to ensure the child's safety.	37.5% (6 of 16)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	37.5% (6 of 16)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	6.25% (1 of 16)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	6.25% (1 of 16)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Concerted efforts were not made to provide appropriate services to address safety/risk issues and the child(ren) remained in the home.	0% (0 of 16)	18.75% (3 of 16)	0% (0 of 2)	8.82% (3 of 34)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	93.75% (15 of 16)	81.25% (13 of 16)	100% (2 of 2)	88.24% (30 of 34)

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations about the family that were not formally reported or formally investigated/ assessed.	97.5% (39 of 40)	100% (19 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	98.46% (64 of 65)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	95% (38 of 40)	94.74% (18 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	95.38% (62 of 65)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	80% (4 of 5)	92.31% (12 of 13)	100% (3 of 3)	90.48% (19 of 21)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	77.5% (31 of 40)	78.95% (15 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	80% (52 of 65)
(Question 3C) When safety concerns were present, the agency developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continually monitored the safety plan as needed, including monitoring family engagement in safety-related services.	66.67% (2 of 3)	78.57% (11 of 14)	0	76.47% (13 of 17)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	90% (18 of 20)	92.31% (12 of 13)	100% (1 of 1)	91.18% (31 of 34)
(Question 3E) There were no concerns related to the safety of the target child in foster care during visitation with parent(s)/caregiver(s) or other family members that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	96.77% (30 of 31)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	96.77% (30 of 31)
(Question 3F) There were no concerns for the target child's safety in the foster home or placement facility that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	95% (38 of 40)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	95% (38 of 40)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	75% (30 of 40)	78.95% (15 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	78.46% (51 of 65)

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4B) Placement changes for the child were planned by the agency in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child.	8.33% (1 of 12)	8.33% (1 of 12)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	97.5% (39 of 40)	97.5% (39 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	70% (28 of 40)	70% (28 of 40)

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 5A3) Permanency goal(s) is (are) specified in the case file.	97.5% (39 of 40)	97.5% (39 of 40)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	77.5% (31 of 40)	77.5% (31 of 40)
(Question 5C) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were appropriate to the child's needs for permanency and to the circumstances of the case.	82.5% (33 of 40)	82.5% (33 of 40)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	70% (28 of 40)	70% (28 of 40)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 12)	0% (0 of 12)
(Questions 5F and 5G) The agency filed or joined a TPR petition before the period under review (PUR) or in a timely manner during the PUR or an exception applied.	87.5% (21 of 24)	87.5% (21 of 24)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	65% (26 of 40)	65% (26 of 40)

Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve reunification in a timely manner.	70% (7 of 10)	70% (7 of 10)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	25% (1 of 4)	25% (1 of 4)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	11.11% (1 of 9)	11.11% (1 of 9)
(Questions 6A4 and 6C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to place a child with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) in a living arrangement that can be considered permanent until discharge from foster care.	100% (2 of 2)	100% (2 of 2)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 6A4 and B **or** 6A4 and C) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve concurrent goals. If one of two concurrent goals was achieved during the period under review, rating is based on the goal that was achieved.	26.67% (4 of 15)	26.67% (4 of 15)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	37.5% (15 of 40)	37.5% (15 of 40)

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Item 7: Placement With Siblings

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 7A) The child was placed with all siblings who also were in foster care.	59.26% (16 of 27)	59.26% (16 of 27)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	81.82% (9 of 11)	81.82% (9 of 11)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	92.59% (25 of 27)	92.59% (25 of 27)

Item 8: Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was more than once a week.	58.33% (14 of 24)	58.33% (14 of 24)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	8.33% (2 of 24)	8.33% (2 of 24)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	8.33% (2 of 24)	8.33% (2 of 24)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	0% (0 of 24)	0% (0 of 24)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	20.83% (5 of 24)	20.83% (5 of 24)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	4.17% (1 of 24)	4.17% (1 of 24)
(Question 8A) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	87.5% (21 of 24)	87.5% (21 of 24)
(Question 8C) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the mother and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	86.96% (20 of 23)	86.96% (20 of 23)
(Questions 8A and 8C) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and mother was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	75% (18 of 24)	75% (18 of 24)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was more than once a week.	53.33% (8 of 15)	53.33% (8 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	6.67% (1 of 15)	6.67% (1 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	6.67% (1 of 15)	6.67% (1 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	0% (0 of 15)	0% (0 of 15)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	26.67% (4 of 15)	26.67% (4 of 15)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	6.67% (1 of 15)	6.67% (1 of 15)
(Question 8B) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	80% (12 of 15)	80% (12 of 15)
(Question 8D) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the father and child was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	92.86% (13 of 14)	92.86% (13 of 14)
(Questions 8B and 8D) The frequency and quality of visitation between the child and father was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	73.33% (11 of 15)	73.33% (11 of 15)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	50% (5 of 10)	50% (5 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	10% (1 of 10)	10% (1 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	20% (2 of 10)	20% (2 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	10% (1 of 10)	10% (1 of 10)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	10% (1 of 10)	10% (1 of 10)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	0% (0 of 10)	0% (0 of 10)
(Question 8E) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the frequency of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	90% (9 of 10)	90% (9 of 10)
(Question 8F) Concerted efforts were made to ensure that the quality of visitation between the child and siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship.	80% (8 of 10)	80% (8 of 10)
(Questions 8E and 8F) The frequency and quality of visitation with siblings in foster care was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.	70% (7 of 10)	70% (7 of 10)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	75.86% (22 of 29)	75.86% (22 of 29)

Item 9: Preserving Connections

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 9A) Concerted efforts were made to maintain the child's important connections (for example, neighborhood, community, faith, language, extended family members including siblings who are not in foster care, Tribe, school, and/or friends).	87.5% (35 of 40)	87.5% (35 of 40)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	87.5% (35 of 40)	87.5% (35 of 40)

Item 10: Relative Placement

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 10A1) The child's current, or most recent, placement was with a relative.	46.15% (18 of 39)	46.15% (18 of 39)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	94.44% (17 of 18)	94.44% (17 of 18)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** maternal relatives.	72.73% (8 of 11)	72.73% (8 of 11)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** maternal relatives.	90.91% (10 of 11)	90.91% (10 of 11)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** maternal relatives.	90.91% (10 of 11)	90.91% (10 of 11)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** maternal relatives.	100% (11 of 11)	100% (11 of 11)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Identify** paternal relatives.	100% (10 of 10)	100% (10 of 10)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Locate** paternal relatives.	100% (10 of 10)	100% (10 of 10)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Inform** paternal relatives.	100% (10 of 10)	100% (10 of 10)
(Question 10C) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to **Evaluate** paternal relatives.	100% (10 of 10)	100% (10 of 10)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	69.23% (27 of 39)	69.23% (27 of 39)

Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 11A) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.	87.5% (21 of 24)	87.5% (21 of 24)
(Question 11B) Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.	66.67% (10 of 15)	66.67% (10 of 15)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 11 Strength Ratings	76.92% (20 of 26)	76.92% (20 of 26)

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Item 12: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 12 Strength Ratings	52.5% (21 of 40)	63.16% (12 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	58.46% (38 of 65)

Sub-Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12A1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the children's needs.	95% (38 of 40)	78.95% (15 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	90.77% (59 of 65)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	84.62% (22 of 26)	75% (6 of 8)	100% (2 of 2)	83.33% (30 of 36)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	90% (36 of 40)	78.95% (15 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	87.69% (57 of 65)

Sub-Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12B1) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the mother's needs.	82.76% (24 of 29)	77.78% (14 of 18)	100% (6 of 6)	83.02% (44 of 53)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	75% (21 of 28)	76.47% (13 of 17)	80% (4 of 5)	76% (38 of 50)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Questions 12B1 and B3) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of mothers.	75.86% (22 of 29)	77.78% (14 of 18)	83.33% (5 of 6)	77.36% (41 of 53)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	51.85% (14 of 27)	64.29% (9 of 14)	0	56.1% (23 of 41)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	47.62% (10 of 21)	69.23% (9 of 13)	0	55.88% (19 of 34)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	48.15% (13 of 27)	64.29% (9 of 14)	0	53.66% (22 of 41)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	46.67% (14 of 30)	63.16% (12 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	56.36% (31 of 55)

Sub-Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 12C1) The agency adequately assessed the needs of the foster or pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care on an ongoing basis.	90% (36 of 40)	90% (36 of 40)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	77.42% (24 of 31)	77.42% (24 of 31)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	82.5% (33 of 40)	82.5% (33 of 40)

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 13A) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the child in the case planning process.	87.1% (27 of 31)	76.92% (10 of 13)	100% (6 of 6)	86% (43 of 50)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	75.86% (22 of 29)	94.44% (17 of 18)	100% (6 of 6)	84.91% (45 of 53)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	59.09% (13 of 22)	69.23% (9 of 13)	(0 of 0)	62.86% (22 of 35)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	64.1% (25 of 39)	73.68% (14 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	70.31% (45 of 64)

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 6)	0% (0 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0% (0 of 40)	5.26% (1 of 19)	0% (0 of 6)	1.54% (1 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 40)	5.26% (1 of 19)	0% (0 of 6)	1.54% (1 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	97.5% (39 of 40)	78.95% (15 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	90.77% (59 of 65)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	2.5% (1 of 40)	10.53% (2 of 19)	16.67% (1 of 6)	6.15% (4 of 65)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 19)	0% (0 of 6)	0% (0 of 65)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	92.5% (37 of 40)	89.47% (17 of 19)	83.33% (5 of 6)	90.77% (59 of 65)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	82.5% (33 of 40)	78.95% (15 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	80% (52 of 65)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	82.5% (33 of 40)	78.95% (15 of 19)	66.67% (4 of 6)	80% (52 of 65)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 29)	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 6)	0% (0 of 53)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	0% (0 of 29)	5.56% (1 of 18)	0% (0 of 6)	1.89% (1 of 53)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	3.45% (1 of 29)	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 6)	1.89% (1 of 53)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	65.52% (19 of 29)	77.78% (14 of 18)	83.33% (5 of 6)	71.7% (38 of 53)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	27.59% (8 of 29)	16.67% (3 of 18)	16.67% (1 of 6)	22.64% (12 of 53)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	3.45% (1 of 29)	0% (0 of 18)	0% (0 of 6)	1.89% (1 of 53)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	79.31% (23 of 29)	83.33% (15 of 18)	100% (6 of 6)	83.02% (44 of 53)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	78.57% (22 of 28)	88.24% (15 of 17)	100% (6 of 6)	84.31% (43 of 51)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	68.97% (20 of 29)	77.78% (14 of 18)	100% (6 of 6)	75.47% (40 of 53)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 13)	0	0% (0 of 35)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 13)	0	0% (0 of 35)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	0% (0 of 22)	0% (0 of 13)	0	0% (0 of 35)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	50% (11 of 22)	61.54% (8 of 13)	0	54.29% (19 of 35)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	36.36% (8 of 22)	38.46% (5 of 13)	0	37.14% (13 of 35)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	13.64% (3 of 22)	0% (0 of 13)	0	8.57% (3 of 35)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the case worker and the father was sufficient.	68.18% (15 of 22)	69.23% (9 of 13)	0	68.57% (24 of 35)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	73.68% (14 of 19)	61.54% (8 of 13)	0	68.75% (22 of 32)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	63.64% (14 of 22)	61.54% (8 of 13)	0	62.86% (22 of 35)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	63.33% (19 of 30)	57.89% (11 of 19)	100% (6 of 6)	65.45% (36 of 55)

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	94.87% (37 of 39)	75% (3 of 4)	100% (3 of 3)	93.48% (43 of 46)

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	91.67% (22 of 24)	100% (3 of 3)	100% (2 of 2)	93.1% (27 of 29)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	92.31% (36 of 39)	75% (3 of 4)	100% (3 of 3)	91.3% (42 of 46)

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	92.5% (37 of 40)	100% (6 of 6)	50% (1 of 2)	91.67% (44 of 48)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	70% (7 of 10)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	70% (7 of 10)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	83.87% (26 of 31)	100% (3 of 3)	0% (0 of 1)	82.86% (29 of 35)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	60% (24 of 40)	100% (2 of 2)	0	61.9% (26 of 42)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	54.05% (20 of 37)	(0 of 0)	0	54.05% (20 of 37)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	50% (20 of 40)	100% (6 of 6)	50% (1 of 2)	56.25% (27 of 48)

Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services—Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services AR/DR—Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types—Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs.	91.18% (31 of 34)	78.57% (11 of 14)	50% (1 of 2)	86% (43 of 50)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	47.37% (9 of 19)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	47.37% (9 of 19)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	81.82% (27 of 33)	76.92% (10 of 13)	50% (1 of 2)	79.17% (38 of 48)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	64.71% (22 of 34)	78.57% (11 of 14)	50% (1 of 2)	68% (34 of 50)