



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

Louisiana

FINAL REPORT

2025



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Final Report: Louisiana Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the state of Louisiana. 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 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 Louisiana are based on:

- The Statewide Assessment prepared by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and submitted to CB on February 1, 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 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 66 cases (40 foster care and 26 in-home services), conducted via a State-Led Review process in Louisiana April 2025 through September 2025 examining case practices occurring during April 2024 through September 2025.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
 - Attorneys for parents, the agency, and children/youth
 - Court Appointed Special Advocates and Guardians ad Litem
 - Child welfare agency statewide leadership
 - Child welfare agency regional and program managers
 - Child welfare agency case workers and supervisors
 - Foster and adoptive parents and relative caregivers
 - Foster and adoptive parent licensing staff
 - Information system staff
 - Bureau of General Counsel attorneys and Office of Juvenile Justice staff
 - Judges
 - Parents
 - Service providers
 - 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*.

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

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

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. 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 Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more Reentry to foster care in 12 months Placement stability

Outcome	Case Review Item(s)	Statewide Data Indicators
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

Louisiana 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 Louisiana DCFS 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, in-home services, foster care, and adoption.

In 2018, during its Round 3 CFSR, Louisiana was in substantial conformity with none of the 7 outcomes and in substantial conformity with 2 of the 7 systemic factors, Quality Assurance System and Agency Responsiveness to the Community. Louisiana’s Round 3 PIP was approved with an effective date of June 1, 2019, for a 2-year implementation period. On August 6, 2021, CB determined that Louisiana had successfully completed all of its PIP measurement goals and activities for Round 3. Some overarching challenges affecting performance and practice during the Round 3 PIP and non-overlapping evaluation period were due to the COVID-19 pandemic and catastrophic hurricanes. Combined, these challenges had a direct impact on programs and service delivery.

The Round 4 CFSR, conducted by DCFS with support from CB between April 1, 2025, and September 3, 2025, and stakeholder interviews conducted June 9–13, 2025, found that Louisiana is 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. Louisiana was found to be in substantial conformity with four systemic factors: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance System, Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention.

For Safety Outcome 1, Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect, 56% of applicable cases were rated as substantially achieved. For those cases not in substantial conformity, the data showed that Louisiana did not respond to reports of child maltreatment timely and, in some of the applicable cases, did not make face-to-face contact with the alleged victim(s) in accordance with state policy.

Practice related to the two items that comprise Safety Outcome 2—ensuring that children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate—indicates a need for improvement. This outcome was rated as substantially achieved in 23% of applicable cases.

For Item 2, Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care, 40% of applicable cases were rated as a Strength. Opportunities for improvement were noted in the consistent provision and follow-up of services to address key risk and safety factors, including parental substance use, parenting needs, domestic violence, and mental health concerns.

For Item 3, Risk and Safety Assessment and Management, 26% of applicable cases were rated as a Strength. Findings suggest opportunities to strengthen ongoing assessment practices, particularly through consistent contact and engagement with parents, as well as thorough documentation of efforts to locate or engage both parents.

Ensuring child safety remains a core priority. CB encourages Louisiana to continue building on its efforts by identifying strategies that support caseworkers in conducting accurate and comprehensive assessments of risk and safety.

The state's performance on Permanency Outcome 1 also indicates opportunities for improvement, with 23% of cases rated as in substantial conformity. Performance on this outcome is closely connected to Item 6, Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA), which was rated as a Strength in 33% of the 40 foster care cases reviewed. Findings suggest that when permanency goals were established in a timely manner and aligned with case circumstances (Item 5 rated as a Strength), permanency was more likely to be achieved within federal timeframes, and Item 6 was also rated as a Strength. In these cases, consistent family engagement, accurate assessment, and timely service referrals supported the achievement of timely permanency.

In contrast, when permanency goals were not established timely or were not well aligned with case circumstances, permanency was less likely to be achieved within federal timeframes. Cases with reunification, adoption, and guardianship goals reflected a mix of Strengths and Areas Needing Improvement for Item 5. For adoption cases, opportunities for improvement were often related to delays in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR). In guardianship cases, delays were more frequently associated with the timing of goal establishment. In both goal types, the selected permanency goals were generally appropriate to the case circumstances.

Cases with reunification goals showed a somewhat different pattern. Most were rated as a Strength on Item 5; however, in a small number of cases rated as an Area Needing Improvement, the reunification goal remained in place longer than was appropriate given the case circumstances. For example, there were instances where parents indicated they did not intend to reunify, were unavailable due to extended incarceration, or expressed an intention to relinquish parental rights, yet the case goal was not adjusted in a timely manner.

In some cases, reviewed, termination of parental rights (TPR) had been completed prior to the Period Under Review (PUR). For cases in which the decision to file a TPR petition occurred during the PUR, petitions were not always filed within expected timeframes, although documented exceptions were often present (most commonly when children were placed with relatives). In a few instances, exceptions were applied even when adoption was the established permanency goal. Timely filing of TPR petitions and timely court proceedings are important factors in supporting progress toward adoption, and the presence of an exception does not preclude consideration of whether filing would better support timely permanency for the child.

In cases where adoption was the permanency goal, the goal itself was almost always appropriate. However, the review identified some challenges in achieving timely adoptions. In one case, strong and persistent efforts to identify an adoptive placement for a child with special needs were noted, ultimately resulting in an adoptive placement at the time of the review, even though federal timeframes were not met. In other cases, delays were associated with the timing of TPR filings, progression of surrender processes, and efforts to identify and certify relatives.

Similarly, in cases with guardianship goals, there were opportunities to strengthen timeliness, particularly related to early identification and certification of relatives and timely establishment of guardianship as the most appropriate permanency goal. Despite practice challenges observed in the case sample, on the most recent data profile (February 2026), Louisiana performed better than national performance on all three Permanency in 12 months data indicators, with strongest performance for children in care 12–23 months, at 59.9%.

Legal and judicial practices also played a role in the permanency outcomes observed. In several cases, reunification goals that were not well aligned with case circumstances continued to be approved during permanency hearings. While hearings were generally held within required timeframes, there were opportunities to strengthen the depth of court inquiry and discussion. For example, case reviews reflected limited focus on the timeliness of TPR filings, factors contributing to delays in adoption or guardianship, and the status of services for parents working toward reunification. In some instances, exceptions to filing TPR petitions were approved even when adoption was the established permanency goal. Additionally, delays in issuing orders or decisions on TPR petitions were noted, which affected the timeliness of moving cases toward adoption.

Placement stability also contributed to the rating for Permanency Outcome 1. Louisiana demonstrated strong performance on Item 4, Placement Stability, with 83% of cases rated as a Strength. In all cases reviewed, children's current placements were assessed as stable. In some cases, however, the overall rating reflected an Area Needing Improvement due to earlier placement changes that were unplanned or not aligned with achieving the child's permanency goal. Among the children who experienced moves, fewer than half of those moves were clearly connected to case plan goals or the child's best interests.

Statewide data indicators for placement stability also suggest opportunities for continued improvement, as Louisiana's performance was below national performance on both the data profile used for the statewide assessment and the most recent data profile (February 2026). Performance assessed in other outcomes can also affect time to permanency. Louisiana should note its low performance on engagement efforts such as child and family involvement in case planning (Item 13) and needs assessment and services to parents (Sub-Item 12B). Additionally, Item 8, which assesses visitation with parents and siblings, had a Strength rating of 39%. Regular, quality visitation is imperative to successfully achieving reunification.

Permanency Outcome 2, which focuses on preserving the continuity of family relationships and connections for children, was substantially achieved in 43% of cases reviewed, indicating opportunities for continued improvement. Louisiana demonstrated strong performance on Item 7, Placement With Siblings, with 84% of cases rated as a Strength. In applicable cases, slightly more than one-third of children were placed with their siblings, and when they were not, a valid reason for separation was identified in most cases.

Performance was also relatively strong on Item 10, Relative Placement. Among applicable cases, 48% of children were placed with relatives, and all of those placements were assessed as appropriate to the child's needs.

Additional opportunities were noted in supporting family connections more broadly. Item 8, Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care, was rated as a Strength in 39% of cases. When assessing whether children's connections were maintained (Item 9) and whether relationships with parents were supported beyond visitation (Item 11), Strength ratings were 55% and 30%, respectively, suggesting areas for continued focus.

Well-Being Outcome 1, which addresses families' capacity to provide for their children's needs, was substantially achieved in 27% of cases, indicating a need for improvement. In reviewing Item 12, Needs Assessment and Services to Child, Parents, and Foster Parents, findings suggest opportunities to strengthen consistent assessment of needs and timely provision of appropriate services. Across case types, engagement and service provision for parents—particularly fathers—were less consistent than for children.

In addition, while the needs of foster and pre-adoptive parents were often assessed, services to support those needs were not always consistently provided. Performance on Item 13, Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, and Item 15, Caseworker Visits With Parents, further suggests opportunities to strengthen engagement and partnership with parents throughout the case process.

Well-Being Outcome 2, which focuses on children receiving appropriate services to meet their educational needs (Item 16), was the highest performing outcome, with 70% of cases rated as Substantially Achieved. The agency assessed and addressed educational needs in the majority of foster care cases; however, opportunities for improvement were noted in in-home services cases, where ongoing assessment of educational needs was less consistently documented.

Well-Being Outcome 3 addresses the agency's efforts to assess and provide services to meet children's physical and dental health needs (Item 17) and mental and behavioral health needs (Item 18). For this outcome, 52% of cases were rated as Substantially Achieved. Across both foster care and in-home services cases, performance was generally stronger in assessing and addressing physical health needs than mental and behavioral health needs. While fewer in-home services cases were applicable for Item 18, performance in those cases was somewhat stronger compared to foster care cases.

Opportunities for improvement across both case types included strengthening the consistency of assessments, ensuring timely provision of services to address identified needs, and enhancing oversight of prescription medications, particularly those related to mental and behavioral health treatment.

Service Array and Resource Development is a systemic factor that influences safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. Case reviews and stakeholder feedback suggest opportunities to expand access to key services, including behavioral health services for adolescents, therapeutic family-based services, placement stabilization supports, and services to support trial home placements. In some instances, families traveled outside their regions to access specialized services, and delays were noted in accessing services related to substance use, mental health, parenting, and domestic violence.

Stakeholders also identified challenges related to service availability, including wait times for certain mental health and disability-related services, as well as supports such as protective child care, housing, and reunification services. Access to services may be further affected when children move between service areas or for families residing in rural communities, where transportation and provider availability can present additional barriers.

Placement capacity was also identified as an area for continued attention, including the availability of foster homes and specialized placements for children and youth with higher behavioral health needs. In some cases, children experienced temporary stays in agency offices while awaiting placement. These situations highlight the importance of continued efforts to strengthen placement resources and supports for both children and staff.

Finally, stakeholders noted that workforce capacity can influence service delivery, including caseworker availability, engagement with families, and awareness of available resources. Continued attention to workforce supports may further strengthen service access and outcomes for children and families.

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

Consistent with TB #14, Louisiana has opted to use these flexibilities to focus its program improvement efforts on the overarching goal of A Home for Every Child, including achieving and sustaining a 1.1 ratio of licensed foster homes to children in foster care.

As Louisiana works to address the areas identified for improvement in the CFSR, the state is encouraged to continue building on its strong collaboration with community partners involved in the statewide assessment process. CB urges Louisiana to use the flexibilities available under TB #14 to implement a cohesive, outcome-driven strategy that strengthens system capacity, reduces administrative burden, and reinforces continuous quality improvement and state–federal partnerships. These efforts will help ensure that every child in Louisiana has timely 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.

CB determines whether a state is in substantial conformity based on the state’s RSP on two statewide data indicators and the state’s performance on Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

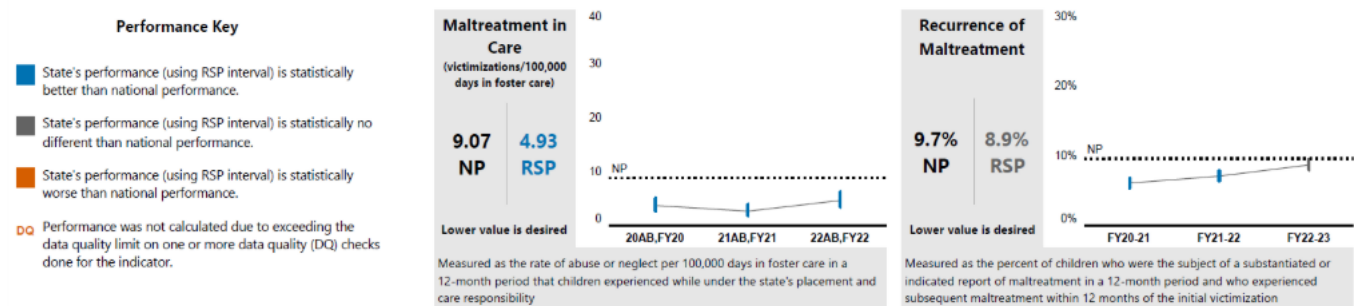
Louisiana has a four-tiered response priority system for screened-in child maltreatment reports. Louisiana statute requires that face-to-face contact with all child victims named in the report and at least one parent/caregiver be made by the assigned agency staff person within the following timeframes:

- Priority 1 - Within 24 hours of the department’s receipt of the report
- Priority 2 - Within 48 hours of the department’s receipt of the report
- Priority 3 - Within 3 calendar days of the department’s receipt of the report
- Priority 4 - Within 5 calendar days of the department’s receipt of the report

Statewide Data Indicators

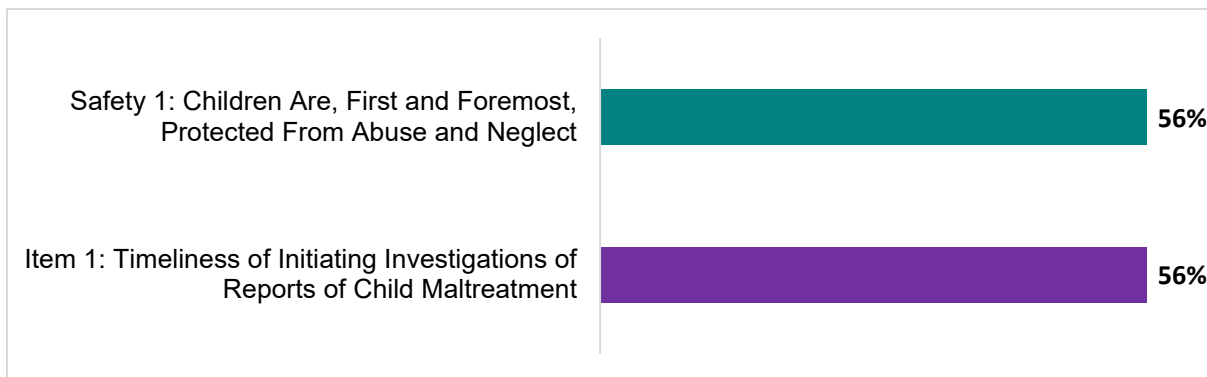
The chart below shows the state’s performance from the August 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 2. Performance on Safety Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Louisiana 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 no different 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	No Different	No Different	No Different	No Different	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.

On maltreatment in foster care, Louisiana performed statistically better than national performance in all four measurement periods. The calculation of maltreatment in care uses a ratio of the total number of days children were in care during a 12-month period as of the end of the 12-month period to the total number of substantiated or indicated reports of maltreatment (by any perpetrator) during a foster care episode. The following are notable observations for Louisiana’s maltreatment in foster care observed performance:

- Children under the age of 1 year account for 15.8% of the total days in care but 5.4% of victimizations in foster care. Children ages 1 to 5 years account for 35% of the days in care but 28.6% of the victimizations in foster care. Children ages 6 to 10 years account for 21.2% of the days in care but 28.6% of the victimizations in foster care. Children ages 11 to 16 years account for 26.1% of the days in care but 37.5% of the victimizations in foster care.
- East Baton Rouge Parish has the most days in care, with 10.5%, and reports the highest rate of victimizations, at 14.3%.
- Lafayette Parish has 7.2% of the total days in care and reports victimizations at 3.6%.
- Bossier Parish has 1.7% of days in care and reports a victimization rate of 7.1%; however, this only accounts for 4 incidents of victimization per 100,000 days in care.

Louisiana performed statistically no different than national performance on recurrence of maltreatment for the most recent four periods.

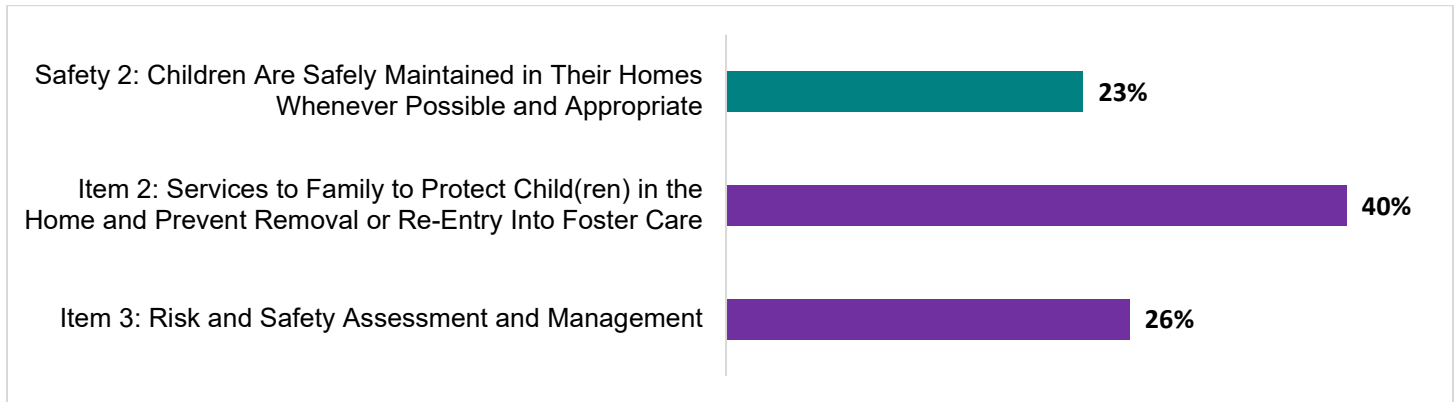
- Recurrence is consistently high across all ages for children ages 1 to 16. However, 17-year-olds have a low incidence of recurrence (0.5%) relative to youth of other ages.
- East Baton Rouge Parish and Jefferson Parish account for 12.2% and 9.7%, respectively, of initial victimizations. Additionally, East Baton Rouge Parish and Jefferson Parish account for 11.3% and 11.9% of the recurring victimizations, respectively, indicating that these two counties also have high rates of recurrence.
- Orleans Parish has an initial victimization rate of 7.5% and a recurring victimization rate of 9.8%, which is disproportionately high.

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

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



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

- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were rated as 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.

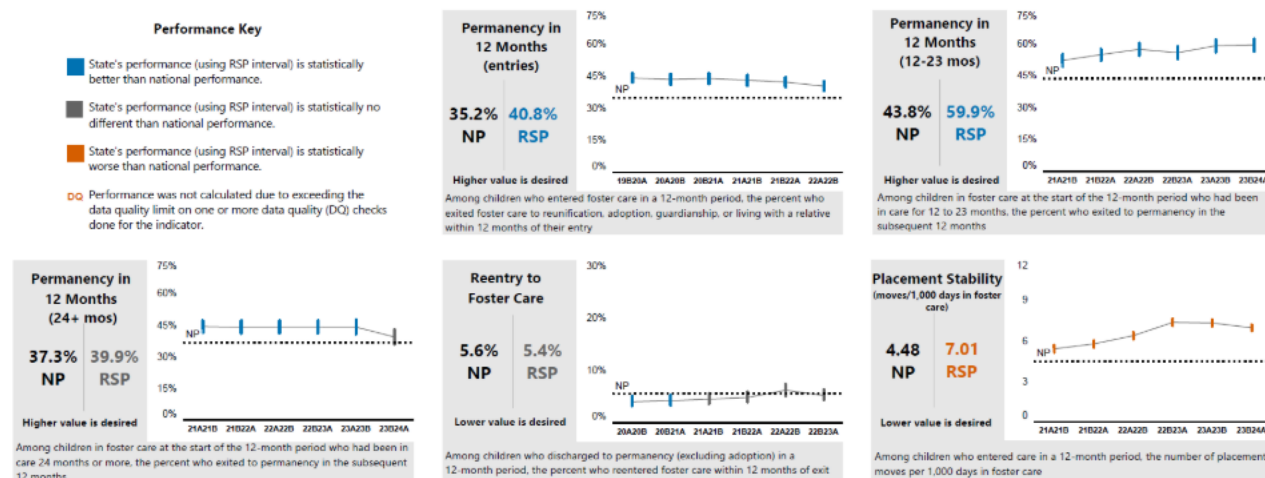
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

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

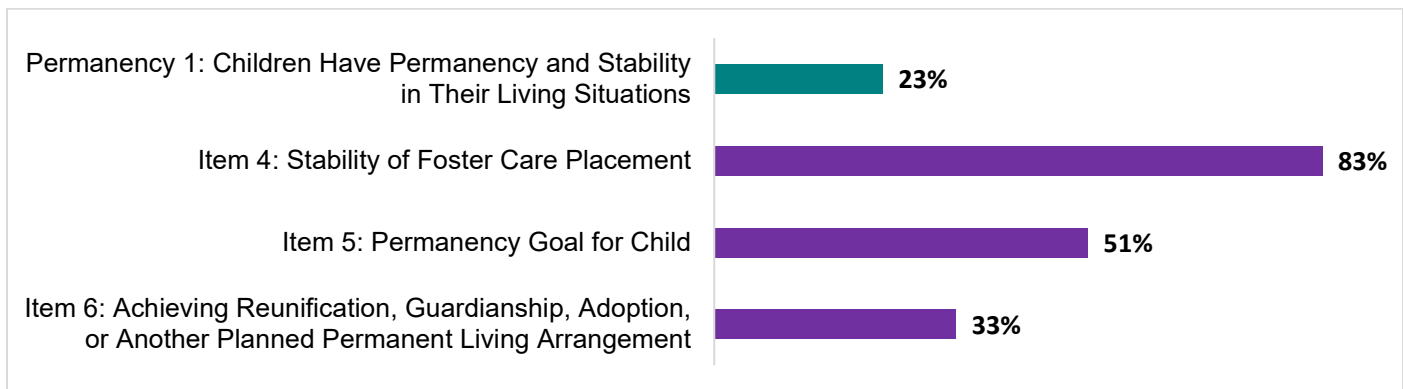
The chart below shows the state's performance from the August 2024 data profile that signaled the start of the statewide assessment process and was used to determine substantial conformity for Permanency Outcome 1.

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



Case Review

Figure 5. Performance on Permanency Outcome 1 and Supporting Items



Louisiana 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 better 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 better 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 no different 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 worse than national performance. Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- 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	Better	Better	Better	Better	No
Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months	Better	Better	Better	Better	No

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 in care 24 months or more	No Different	Better	Better	Better	No
Reentry to foster care in 12 months	No Different	No Different	No Different	No Different	No
Placement stability	Worse	Worse	Worse	Worse	Yes

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.

Louisiana’s performance on the statewide data indicator for permanency in 12 months for children entering care is consistently better than national performance. The following are notable observations regarding Louisiana’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.

- East Baton Rouge Parish accounts for the highest child population and the highest entry rate in Louisiana, 9.6% and 10.8%, respectively.
- Caddo Parish accounts for 4.9% of the child population in Louisiana, but 9.4% of the foster care entries, a disproportionately high entry rate.
- Ouachita Parish has 3.6% of the child population in Louisiana but 6.1% of the foster care entries, a disproportionately high entry rate.
- Jefferson Parish accounts for 8.9% of the child population in Louisiana but 5.3% of the foster care entries.
- St. Tammany Parrish has 6.0% of the child population in Louisiana but 2.1% of the foster care entries, a disproportionately low entry rate.

Performance on the two statewide data indicators for later-term permanency: (1) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months, and (2) permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 or more months, is statistically better than national performance across all 3 reporting years.

- Performance for both indicators over the reporting periods is basically stable.
- Ouachita Parish had the most children in foster care for 12–23 months and had an overall drop in performance from 69.8% to 51.3%.
- East Baton Rouge Parish had the most children in foster care for 24 or more months and saw a large increase in performance, from 39.6% to 58.1%.

Louisiana’s performance on the statewide data indicator for reentry to foster care is statistically no different than national performance in all reporting periods and remains fairly stable.

- Terrebonne Parrish saw a decrease in reentry from 18.5% in FY 2022 to 2.8% in FY 2025.

- In FY 2024, Livingston Parish and Orleans Parish accounted for 12.1% and 12.1%, respectively, of the exits but 5.0 and 6.3% of the reentries.

Performance on the statewide data indicator for placement stability is statistically worse than national performance across the 3 years of reporting and remains fairly stable.

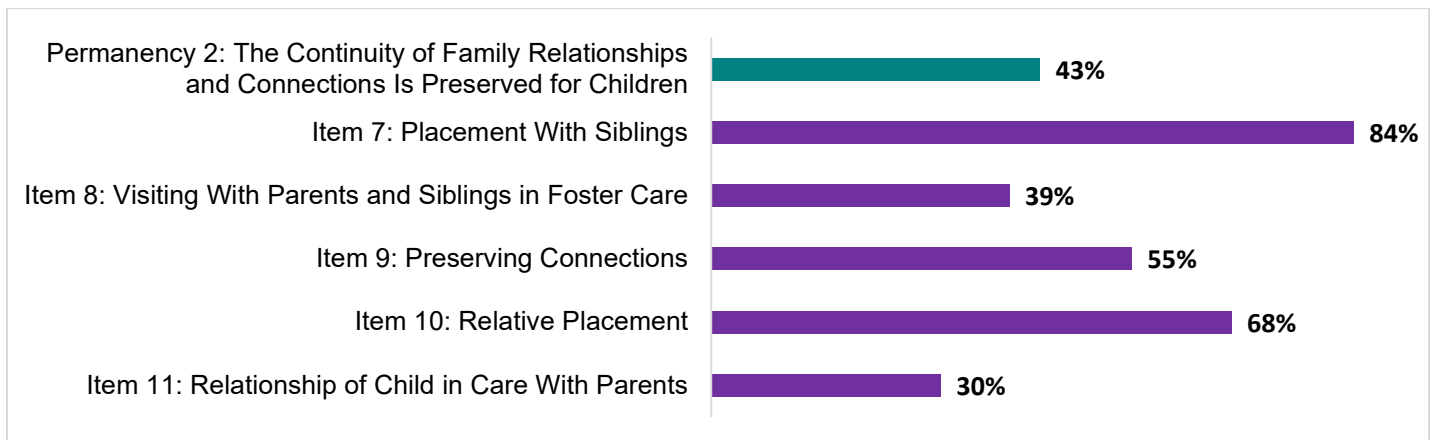
- The largest increase in placement moves per 1,000 days in care was observed for children ages 1 to 5 years (an increase of 6.35 moves per 1,000 days in care to 7.32 moves per 1,000 days in care).
- The increase is observed statewide, with 35 of the 63 parishes in the state showing an increase in placement moves per 1,000 days in care. East Baton Rouge Parish accounts for the most days in care (11.1, which is 8% of the state’s days in care); it also contributes the highest percentage of placement moves (12.5%).

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

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



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

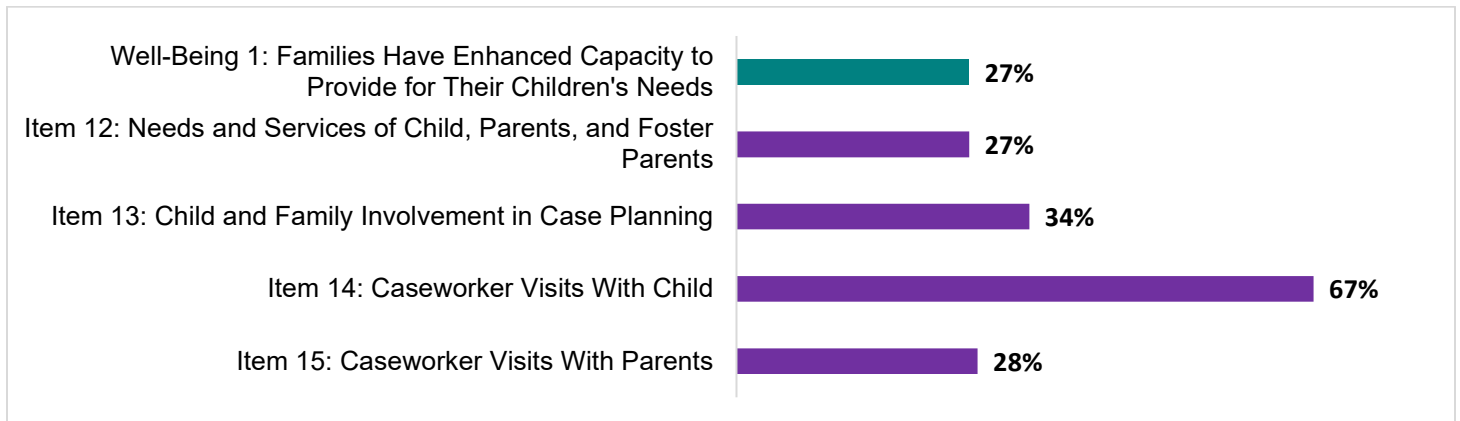
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 7.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 8.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 9.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated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

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



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

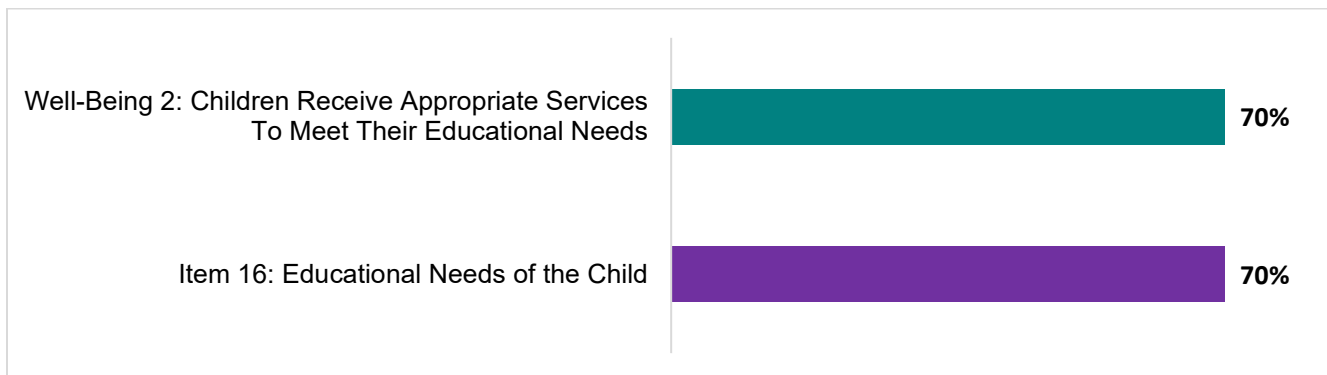
- Less than 95% of the cases reviewed were substantially achieved.
- Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 12.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12A.
 - Less than 90% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Sub-Item 12B.
 - Less than 90% of the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



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

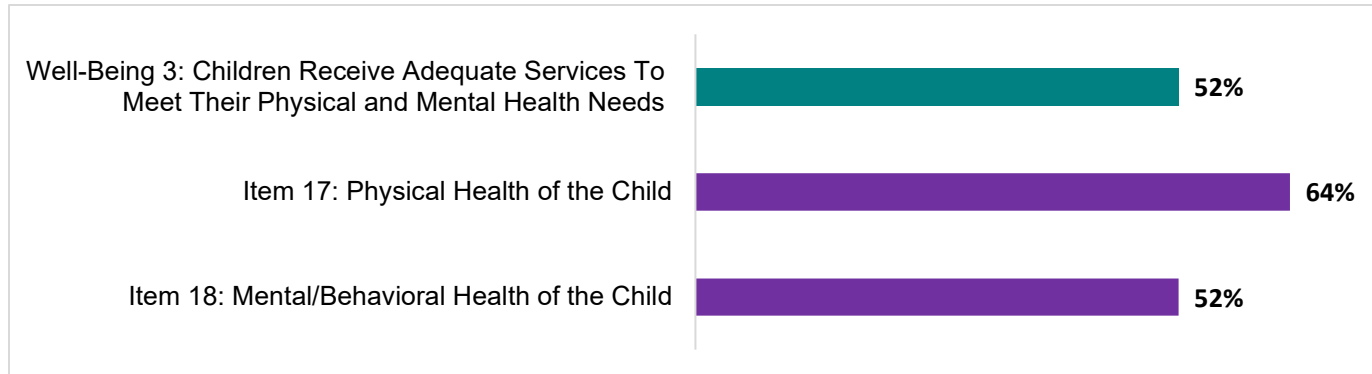
- Less than 95% of the cases were rated as a Strength on Item 16.

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



Louisiana 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

Louisiana 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided showed that DCFS has a robust system in place with their Tracking Information and Payment System (TIPS). TIPS is functioning statewide to ensure that the status, demographic characteristics, placement location, and placement goals are readily identifiable for children in foster care. This system helps them manage and track a wide range of data for children in foster care, ensuring compliance with federal requirements.

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

Louisiana 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided did not demonstrate that each child has a written case plan that was jointly developed with the child's parents. The state has policies and practices in place to support case plans being jointly developed with their parents; however, the various mechanisms used to assess this item do not demonstrate that the item is routinely functioning statewide.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that each child had a periodic review that was held every 6 months from a child's entry into foster care.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided does not demonstrate that for each child a permanency hearing occurs no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and at least every 12 months thereafter. Although the state has laws that require timely permanency hearings, Louisiana does not use a process to ensure that 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided does not demonstrate that TPR petitions are routinely filed timely in accordance with federal requirements. Louisiana has a process in place to identify cases approaching the timeline for TPR filing, but that system does not track exceptions to filing or monitor whether petitions were filed timely.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- The data and information provided did not demonstrate that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are receiving notification of periodic reviews and permanency hearings that includes their right to be heard. Louisiana statute requires that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers receive these notifications. But DCFS captures information about this solely through notes in narrative format and therefore data to demonstrate functioning of this item is limited.

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

Louisiana 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Strength for Item 25 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided shows that Louisiana’s quality assurance (QA) system is functioning statewide in each of the state’s judicial districts and counties. The Louisiana QA system uses an array of ongoing and separate case review processes with unique performance monitoring aims; county and statewide performance reports to evaluate the quality of services in achieving positive outcomes for children and families; and a process whereby QA data inform program improvement plans implemented and monitored by county managers in partnership with staff and DCFS leadership.

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

Louisiana 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided showed that Louisiana has a relatively new initial staff training program. The program is statewide but not fully functioning in all regions due to high turnover and miscommunication between trainers, supervisors, and administration. Measures of evaluation include knowledge assessment scores, evaluation data, tracking of completion, and staff surveys. The foundation of the model is meant to ensure that staff receive training and on-the-job training. However, the information reported so far shows that the initial required training had difficulty in ensuring that it provides new case management staff with the knowledge and skills needed to assume 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided did not address how ongoing training received by staff addresses the skills and knowledge needed to carry out their supervisory and case management duties because feedback was not collected systematically for all courses. High caseloads due to worker turnover and vacancies hinder or prevent staff from completing the ongoing training opportunities for case management staff and supervisors.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information provided did not identify that the training effectively equips licensed caregivers and residential staff with necessary skills and knowledge. Tracking and ensuring compliance with training requirements for licensed facility staff is problematic, and despite quarterly audits, deficiencies in staff training compliance persist, necessitating corrective actions. Louisiana described the pre-service training for foster parents, which covers a wide range of topics, with additional training for caregivers of children with complex needs and those on psychotropic medications. Training topics often become redundant after the first year, leading caregivers to repeat courses to fulfill annual training requirements. The state mandates training for staff at residential care facilities, but it is unclear how well agency-specific training requirements are being met throughout the state.

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

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

Item 29: Array of Services

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 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of *Area Needing Improvement* for Item 29 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information provided indicates that access to services is not yet consistent across all jurisdictions. Stakeholders noted waitlists and gaps in services, as well as a shortage of licensed foster homes, therapeutic foster care, and appropriate residential treatment options. These limitations sometimes result in temporary placements or children staying overnight in agency offices under staff supervision.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of *Area Needing Improvement* for Item 30 based on information from the Statewide Assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and stakeholder feedback indicate that the system does not yet consistently provide individualized services to meet the complex and unique needs of children and families. While translation services and virtual/online options are available, these services are not consistently tailored to children’s developmental or linguistic needs. Further strengthening the ability to match services, placement resources, and specialized supports to each child and family will help improve outcomes across the state.

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	Strength
Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Strength

Louisiana 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Strength for Item 31 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided showed that a wide range of partners and stakeholders are consulted in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the CFSP/APSR. These include a variety of regional partners, including Tribal representatives, youth, parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, relative caregivers/kinship, legal/judicial partners, service providers, and other community-based services for children and families. Consultation and engagement include community forums and listening sessions, advisory groups, oversight committees, focus groups, and targeted meetings with collaborative groups, and information from these sessions was used as a foundational element in development of the state’s CFSP and providing input to inform annual updates through the APSR.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided specific examples to demonstrate how the state coordinates services or benefits with other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population. Louisiana described regular, ongoing communication with other state agencies administering federally funded/assisted programs and services to increase communication, understanding, and coordination strategies across service systems. Collaborating agencies or programs include the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Children’s Cabinet, Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Head Start Collaboration, Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Behavioral Health, Children’s Justice Act Task Force, Louisiana Court Improvement Program, Children’s Advocacy Resource Effort Committee, Department of Education, Special Education Advisory Panel, Success Through Attendance Recovery (STAR) Task Force, Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, and many others.

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

Louisiana 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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Strength for Item 33 based on information from Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided showed that Louisiana's standards are applied equally across licensed foster family homes and childcare institutions. The state described the process for issuing and renewing licenses. Louisiana demonstrated that tracking processes were in place to monitor that standards are applied equally, assessment processes and required documentation are clear, and the licensing documentation is reviewed annually. The standards and process are applied equally to each provider and institution type. The state has an established process for issuing and documenting waivers and exceptions for both licensed and kinship homes. Louisiana has minimum standards written in statute/policy and has a centralized licensing agency to ensure that all applications are held to the same standards.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Information provided showed that state policy outlines criminal background check regulations and standards for the various types of foster and adoptive placements. The state provided data to demonstrate which criminal background check requirements are met for the various types of foster and adoptive placements. Louisiana provided documentation that ensures compliance with federal requirements for criminal background check clearances related to licensing foster and adoptive homes. Each child-placing agency must request a background check for each current or prospective foster/adoptive parent (any household member over the age of 18). Furthermore, Louisiana has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care adoptive placements for children.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Strength for Item 35 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided described how the state uses relevant foster/adoptive parent and child demographic data to drive and target diligent recruitment efforts.

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.

- Louisiana received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the Statewide Assessment.
- Data and information provided outlined the internal process and procedures to ensure effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources; however, the state did not provide evidence of the effectiveness of these resources. The state did not provide data to demonstrate the use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoption or permanent placement within or outside of the state. The data provided showed that Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children home study requests received by the state are not consistently completed timely. Louisiana identified barriers/challenges with using cross-jurisdictional resources that have delayed placement for children.

APPENDIX A

Summary of Louisiana 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	56% Substantially Achieved
Item 1: Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	56% 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	4.93	3.7–6.5	222A–22B, FY22–23
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.7%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	8.9%	FY22–23	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	23% Substantially Achieved
Item 2: Services to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	40% Strength
Item 3: Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	26% 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	23% Substantially Achieved
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	83% Strength
Item 5: Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	51% Strength
Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	33% 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%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	40.8%	38.9%–42.8%	22A–24A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12–23 months	43.8%	Better Than National Performance	Higher	59.9%	57.0%–62.7%	23B–24A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	37.3%	No Different Than National Performance	Higher	39.9%	36.4%–43.4%	22B–24A
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	5.6%	No Different Than National Performance	Lower	5.4%	4.5%–6.5%	22B–24A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.48	Worse Than National Performance	Lower	7.0	6.78–7.2	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	43% Substantially Achieved
Item 7: Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	84% Strength
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	39% Strength
Item 9: Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	55% Strength
Item 10: Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	30% 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	27% Substantially Achieved

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	27% Strength
Sub-Item 12A: Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	59% Strength
Sub-Item 12B: Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	25% Strength
Sub-Item 12C: Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	61% Strength
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	34% Strength
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	67% Strength
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	28% 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	70% Substantially Achieved
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	70% 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	52% Substantially Achieved
Item 17: Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	64% Strength
Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	52% 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	Substantial Conformity
Item 19: Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment	Strength

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Case Review System	Statewide Assessment	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 20: Written Case Plan	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21: Periodic Reviews	Statewide Assessment	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 and Stakeholder Interviews	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	Substantial Conformity
Item 31: State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Statewide Assessment	Strength
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	Substantial Conformity
Item 33: Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment	Strength
Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment	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 Louisiana 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 [state] CFSR ([CB-Led/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.cfsportal.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.	62.5% (20 of 32)
(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.	53.13% (17 of 32)
(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.	6.67% (1 of 15)
Item 1 Strength Ratings	56.25% (18 of 32)

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	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.	13.33% (2 of 15)	50% (13 of 26)	36.59% (15 of 41)
(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.	26.67% (4 of 15)	Not Applicable	26.67% (4 of 15)
(Questions 2A and 2B) Agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services and the child was removed without providing appropriate services.	26.67% (4 of 15)	Not Applicable	26.67% (4 of 15)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(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.	33.33% (5 of 15)	50% (13 of 26)	43.9% (18 of 41)
Item 2 Strength Ratings	40% (6 of 15)	50% (13 of 26)	46.34% (19 of 41)

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— 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% (26 of 26)	98.48% (65 of 66)
(Question 3A1) There were no maltreatment allegations that were not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.	100% (40 of 40)	100% (26 of 26)	100% (66 of 66)
(Question 3A) The agency conducted an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	45.45% (5 of 11)	58.33% (7 of 12)	52.17% (12 of 23)
(Question 3B) The agency conducted ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns.	15% (6 of 40)	46.15% (12 of 26)	27.27% (18 of 66)
(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% (4 of 6)	0% (0 of 9)	26.67% (4 of 15)
(Question 3D) There were no safety concerns pertaining to children in the family home that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency.	75% (12 of 16)	37.5% (3 of 8)	62.5% (15 of 24)
(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.	97.06% (33 of 34)	Not Applicable	97.06% (33 of 34)
(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	95% (38 of 40)
Item 3 Strength Ratings	15% (6 of 40)	42.31% (11 of 26)	25.76% (17 of 66)

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.	41.67% (5 of 12)	41.67% (5 of 12)
(Question 4C) The child's current or most recent placement setting is stable.	100% (40 of 40)	100% (40 of 40)
Item 4 Strength Ratings	82.5% (33 of 40)	82.5% (33 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.	92.31% (36 of 39)	92.31% (36 of 39)
(Question 5B) Permanency goals in effect during the period under review were established in a timely manner.	79.49% (31 of 39)	79.49% (31 of 39)
(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.	71.79% (28 of 39)	71.79% (28 of 39)
(Question 5D) Child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months.	56.41% (22 of 39)	56.41% (22 of 39)
(Questions 5E) Child meets other Adoption and Safe Families Act criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR).	0% (0 of 17)	0% (0 of 17)
(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.	61.9% (13 of 21)	61.9% (13 of 21)
Item 5 Strength Ratings	51.28% (20 of 39)	51.28% (20 of 39)

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.	33.33% (3 of 9)	33.33% (3 of 9)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve guardianship in a timely manner.	30% (3 of 10)	30% (3 of 10)
(Questions 6A4 and 6B) The agency and court made concerted efforts to achieve adoption in a timely manner.	10% (1 of 10)	10% (1 of 10)
(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.	44.44% (4 of 9)	44.44% (4 of 9)
Item 6 Strength Ratings	32.5% (13 of 40)	32.5% (13 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.	34.38% (11 of 32)	34.38% (11 of 32)
(Question 7B) When all siblings were not placed together, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from siblings in placement.	76.19% (16 of 21)	76.19% (16 of 21)
Item 7 Strength Ratings	84.38% (27 of 32)	84.38% (27 of 32)

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.	10.71% (3 of 28)	10.71% (3 of 28)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was once a week.	10.71% (3 of 28)	10.71% (3 of 28)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	25% (7 of 28)	25% (7 of 28)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	10.71% (3 of 28)	10.71% (3 of 28)
(Question 8A1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and mother was less than once a month.	28.57% (8 of 28)	28.57% (8 of 28)
(Question 8A1) Child never had visits with mother.	14.29% (4 of 28)	14.29% (4 of 28)
(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.	50% (14 of 28)	50% (14 of 28)
(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.	66.67% (16 of 24)	66.67% (16 of 24)
(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.	46.43% (13 of 28)	46.43% (13 of 28)

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.	23.53% (4 of 17)	23.53% (4 of 17)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was once a week.	5.88% (1 of 17)	5.88% (1 of 17)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	17.65% (3 of 17)	17.65% (3 of 17)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	5.88% (1 of 17)	5.88% (1 of 17)
(Question 8B1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and father was less than once a month.	23.53% (4 of 17)	23.53% (4 of 17)
(Question 8B1) Child never had visits with father.	23.53% (4 of 17)	23.53% (4 of 17)
(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.	52.94% (9 of 17)	52.94% (9 of 17)
(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.	76.92% (10 of 13)	76.92% (10 of 13)
(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.	41.18% (7 of 17)	41.18% (7 of 17)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was more than once a week.	9.52% (2 of 21)	9.52% (2 of 21)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was once a week.	14.29% (3 of 21)	14.29% (3 of 21)
(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.	28.57% (6 of 21)	28.57% (6 of 21)
(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.	4.76% (1 of 21)	4.76% (1 of 21)
(Question 8E1) The usual frequency of visits between the child and siblings in foster care was less than once a month.	28.57% (6 of 21)	28.57% (6 of 21)
(Question 8E1) Child never had visits with siblings in foster care.	14.29% (3 of 21)	14.29% (3 of 21)
(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.	61.9% (13 of 21)	61.9% (13 of 21)
(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.	89.47% (17 of 19)	89.47% (17 of 19)
(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.	61.9% (13 of 21)	61.9% (13 of 21)
Item 8 Strength Ratings	39.39% (13 of 33)	39.39% (13 of 33)

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).	55% (22 of 40)	55% (22 of 40)
Item 9 Strength Ratings	55% (22 of 40)	55% (22 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.	47.5% (19 of 40)	47.5% (19 of 40)
(Question 10A2) The child's current or most recent placement with a relative was appropriate to the child's needs.	100% (19 of 19)	100% (19 of 19)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Identify maternal relatives.	100% (12 of 12)	100% (12 of 12)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Locate maternal relatives.	91.67% (11 of 12)	91.67% (11 of 12)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Inform maternal relatives.	83.33% (10 of 12)	83.33% (10 of 12)
(Question 10B) Cases in which concerns existed due to a lack of concerted efforts to Evaluate maternal relatives.	58.33% (7 of 12)	58.33% (7 of 12)
(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.	80% (8 of 10)	80% (8 of 10)
Item 10 Strength Ratings	67.5% (27 of 40)	67.5% (27 of 40)

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.	33.33% (9 of 27)	33.33% (9 of 27)
(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.	31.25% (5 of 16)	31.25% (5 of 16)
Item 11 Strength Ratings	29.63% (8 of 27)	29.63% (8 of 27)

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	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
Item 12 Strength Ratings	15% (6 of 40)	46.15% (12 of 26)	27.27% (18 of 66)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— 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.	62.5% (25 of 40)	57.69% (15 of 26)	60.61% (40 of 66)
(Question 12A2) Appropriate services were provided to meet the children's needs.	46.43% (13 of 28)	47.37% (9 of 19)	46.81% (22 of 47)
Sub-Item 12A Strength Ratings	60% (24 of 40)	57.69% (15 of 26)	59.09% (39 of 66)

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

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— 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	14.29% (5 of 35)	56% (14 of 25)	31.67% (19 of 60)
(Question 12B3) Appropriate services were provided to meet the mother's needs.	14.29% (5 of 35)	52% (13 of 25)	30% (18 of 60)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— 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.	11.43% (4 of 35)	52% (13 of 25)	28.33% (17 of 60)
(Question 12B2) The agency conducted formal or informal initial and/or ongoing comprehensive assessments that accurately assessed the father's needs.	13.04% (3 of 23)	21.43% (3 of 14)	16.22% (6 of 37)
(Question 12B4) Appropriate services were provided to meet the father's needs.	9.09% (2 of 22)	23.08% (3 of 13)	14.29% (5 of 35)
(Questions 12B2 and 12B4) Concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of fathers.	13.04% (3 of 23)	21.43% (3 of 14)	16.22% (6 of 37)
Sub-Item 12B Strength Ratings	8.57% (3 of 35)	46.15% (12 of 26)	24.59% (15 of 61)

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.	71.05% (27 of 38)	71.05% (27 of 38)
(Question 12C2) The agency provided appropriate services to foster and pre-adoptive parents related to caring for children in their care.	48.28% (14 of 29)	48.28% (14 of 29)
Sub-Item 12C Strength Ratings	60.53% (23 of 38)	60.53% (23 of 38)

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— 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.	63.64% (14 of 22)	75% (9 of 12)	67.65% (23 of 34)
(Question 13B) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the mother in the case planning process.	12.5% (4 of 32)	60% (15 of 25)	33.33% (19 of 57)
(Question 13C) The agency made concerted efforts to actively involve the father in the case planning process.	16.67% (3 of 18)	28.57% (4 of 14)	21.88% (7 of 32)
Item 13 Strength Ratings	23.68% (9 of 38)	50% (13 of 26)	34.38% (22 of 64)

Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— 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)	7.69% (2 of 26)	3.03% (2 of 66)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was once a week.	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 26)	0% (0 of 66)
(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.	10% (4 of 40)	61.54% (16 of 26)	30.3% (20 of 66)
(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.	90% (36 of 40)	23.08% (6 of 26)	63.64% (42 of 66)
(Question 14A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and child(ren) was less than once a month.	0% (0 of 40)	7.69% (2 of 26)	3.03% (2 of 66)
(Question 14A1) Caseworker never had visits with child(ren).	0% (0 of 40)	0% (0 of 26)	0% (0 of 66)
(Question 14A) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the child (ren) was sufficient.	90% (36 of 40)	80.77% (21 of 26)	86.36% (57 of 66)
(Question 14B) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the child(ren) was sufficient.	67.5% (27 of 40)	69.23% (18 of 26)	68.18% (45 of 66)
Item 14 Strength Ratings	65% (26 of 40)	69.23% (18 of 26)	66.67% (44 of 66)

Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— 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 32)	4% (1 of 25)	1.75% (1 of 57)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was once a week.	0% (0 of 32)	4% (1 of 25)	1.75% (1 of 57)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	12.5% (4 of 32)	60% (15 of 25)	33.33% (19 of 57)
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	15.63% (5 of 32)	28% (7 of 25)	21.05% (12 of 57)

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 15A1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and mother was less than once a month.	56.25% (18 of 32)	4% (1 of 25)	33.33% (19 of 57)
(Question 15A1) Caseworker never had visits with mother.	15.63% (5 of 32)	0% (0 of 25)	8.77% (5 of 57)
(Question 15A2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	25% (8 of 32)	76% (19 of 25)	47.37% (27 of 57)
(Question 15C) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the mother was sufficient.	20% (5 of 25)	52% (13 of 25)	36% (18 of 50)
(Questions 15A2 and 15C) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the mother were sufficient.	12.5% (4 of 32)	52% (13 of 25)	29.82% (17 of 57)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was more than once a week.	0% (0 of 18)	7.14% (1 of 14)	3.13% (1 of 32)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was once a week.	0%(0 of 18)	0% (0 of 14)	0% (0 of 32)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a week but at least twice a month.	22.22% (4 of 18)	14.29% (2 of 14)	18.75% (6 of 32)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than twice a month but at least once a month.	11.11% (2 of 18)	14.29% (2 of 14)	12.5% (4 of 32)
(Question 15B1) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and father was less than once a month.	61.11% (11 of 18)	50% (7 of 14)	56.25% (18 of 32)
(Question 15B1) Caseworker never had visits with father.	5.56% (1 of 18)	14.29% (2 of 14)	9.38% (3 of 32)
(Question 15B2) The typical pattern of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	27.78% (5 of 18)	35.71% (5 of 14)	31.25% (10 of 32)
(Question 15D) The quality of visits between the caseworker and the father was sufficient.	23.53% (4 of 17)	25% (3 of 12)	24.14% (7 of 29)
(Question 15B2 and 15D) Both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with the father were sufficient.	16.67% (3 of 18)	21.43% (3 of 14)	18.75% (6 of 32)
Item 15 Strength Ratings	14.71% (5 of 34)	46.15% (12 of 26)	28.33% (17 of 60)

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	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 16A) The agency made concerted efforts to accurately assess the children's educational needs.	74.29% (26 of 35)	0% (0 of 2)	70.27% (26 of 37)
(Question 16B) The agency made concerted efforts to address the children's educational needs through appropriate services.	69.57% (16 of 23)	0% (0 of 2)	64% (16 of 25)
Item 16 Strength Ratings	74.29% (26 of 35)	0% (0 of 2)	70.27% (26 of 37)

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	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 17A1) The agency accurately assessed the children's physical health care needs.	75% (30 of 40)	63.16% (12 of 19)	71.19% (42 of 59)
(Question 17B1) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the physical health issues of the target child in foster care.	85.71% (6 of 7)	Not Applicable	85.71% (6 of 7)
(Question 17B2) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified physical health needs.	72.41% (21 of 29)	56.25% (9 of 16)	66.67% (30 of 45)
(Question 17A2) The agency accurately assessed the children's dental health care needs.	71.79% (28 of 39)	33.33% (1 of 3)	69.05% (29 of 42)
(Question 17B3) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified dental health needs.	62.96% (17 of 27)	50% (1 of 2)	62.07% (18 of 29)
Item 17 Strength Ratings	67.5% (27 of 40)	57.89% (11 of 19)	64.41% (38 of 59)

Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

Practice Description	Foster Care— Performance of Applicable Cases	In-Home Services— Performance of Applicable Cases	All Case Types— Performance of Applicable Cases
(Question 18A) The agency accurately assessed the children's mental/behavioral health needs.	53.85% (14 of 26)	66.67% (2 of 3)	55.17% (16 of 29)
(Question 18B) The agency provided appropriate oversight of prescription medications for the mental/behavioral health issues of the target child in foster care.	55.56% (5 of 9)	Not Applicable	55.56% (5 of 9)
(Question 18C) The agency ensured that appropriate services were provided to the children to address all identified mental/behavioral health needs.	42.86% (9 of 21)	50% (1 of 2)	43.48% (10 of 23)
Item 18 Strength Ratings	50% (13 of 26)	66.67% (2 of 3)	51.72% (15 of 29)