

## Child and Family Services Reviews Update

Volume 16, Issue 4, October 2022

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### Round 4 Year 1 Schedule Posted

Round 4 of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) begins in FY 2022 and is scheduled to run through FY 2026. The CFSR includes the statewide assessment and onsite review phases, and is followed by the Program Improvement Plan. The [Round 4 Year 1 schedule](#) of CFSRs is now available under CFSR Logistics. The CFSR Information Portal page lists each state's CFSR review type (State-Led or CB-Led) and the date range for the onsite review.

### Diverse Agile Staff Sought for CFSRs

The Child Welfare Reviews Project (CWRP) is [now recruiting](#) for diverse agile staff, which include CFSR Reviewers, Quality Assurance Specialists, and Note-Taking Specialists. CWRP oversees a diverse national pool of agile staff who participate in the CFSRs conducted by the Children's Bureau. Upon receipt of applications, CWRP reviews and maintains information on candidates' qualifications and identifies candidates to participate in trainings. Preference will be given to individuals who are experienced in applying the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions and/or who demonstrate fluency in Spanish and/or lived experience within the child welfare system or within indigenous/Tribal social services. Qualified candidates will be required to attend an in-person 2-day training and complete online training and other ongoing trainings as needed.

### Round 4 Procedures Manual Released

The [CFSR Round 4 Procedures Manual](#) is now available on the portal. The manual provides a comprehensive overview of the processes and procedures to follow to conduct and submit a Statewide Assessment, prepare and conduct a CFSR, and plan and develop a Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Included are details on case sampling, stakeholder interviews, determinations of substantial conformity, and the PIP development, approval, and implementation process, among other topics. Detailed appendices include information on State-Led Review case review criteria, review timeframes, collaboration, statewide data indicators, logistics and planning materials, and others.

## Round 4 OMS Has Launched!

The [Round 4 Online Monitoring System](#) (OMS) has launched on the portal. It has a new look and feel and is ready for states' use. The basic navigation and layout of the OMS remains the same as in Round 3, but a number of enhancements and efficiencies have been added to help states conduct reviews and use the OMS and data more effectively. The Round 4 Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) in the OMS is available for immediate use. The Child Welfare Reviews Project is sending additional instructions and materials on using the Round 4 OMS to all states, and will work with existing OMS State Administrator(s) for each state to set up CFSTRs and CQI reviews (for the states that intend to use the Round 4 OMS for ongoing CQI purposes).

Materials available on the OMS include an updated User Manual; an updated CFSTR User Request Form for OMS State Administrators to complete and submit when adding state staff for access to the portal and the Round 4 OMS; a new FAQ on understanding CFSTR data indicator calculations; and the Multi-Item Data Analysis Tool (MIDAT), which allows users to analyze CFSTR and CQI review data.

## Round 4 Data Profiles, Visualizations Released

The Children's Bureau has released Round 4 CFSTR Data Profiles to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The profiles display Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP), observed performance, and data quality check results. Profiles are released twice a year. The Round 4 CFSTR Data Profiles have a new look and feel. They now include a new cover page that visualizes a state's RSP for the most recent 6-month period, along with a chart visualizing performance on each indicator over time. The profiles also include updated national performance values for each indicator. For detailed information on the changes to the Round 4 Statewide Data Indicators, see [Technical Bulletin #13A](#).

## New Resources Added to CFSTR Information Portal

Many new resources are now publicly available on the portal's [Round 4 Resources](#) section. Additional resources will be posted as they become available. Highlights of the latest new materials added include:

- The [OSRI Quality Assurance Guide](#) is recommended for use by reviewers and those conducting all levels of quality assurance (QA) to ensure that OSRI data are accurate, complete, and consistent. It contains information regarding general and item-specific issues to consider when reviewing a case or conducting QA on an OSRI. The guide also describes an approach to conducting QA that encourages discussions with reviewers before completion of the OSRI in addition to a final QA review of the instrument once it is completed.
- [Changes in CFSTR Statewide Data Indicator Performance Throughout Round 3](#) explores changes in performance since the start of Round 3. To do this, the analyses provided in this briefing are based on data periods corresponding to the earliest cohorts used in Round 3 to set national performance<sup>5</sup> and the most recent cohorts presented in the last data profile released before the start of Round 4, roughly bookending Round 3.
- [Talking Points: Application of the OSRI to Cases Open as Both In-Home Services and Foster Care During the Period Under Review](#) discusses how to handle the uncommon situation in which reviewers may receive a case that was opened for both in-home services and foster care during the period under review.

- [Reviewer Brief: Calculating 15 Out of 22 Months for the Purpose of Meeting TPR Requirement](#) provides instructions on how 15 out of the 22 most recent months should be calculated for children in foster care for CFSR purposes. The termination of parental rights (TPR) requirement, as outlined in the Social Security Act at § 475(5)(E), requires states to make timely decisions regarding permanency for children in foster care by having states and applicable Tribes file a TPR petition when a child has been in foster care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months, and an exception or a compelling reason does not apply.
- [Reviewer Brief: Understanding the Federal Expectations for Rating Cases](#) gives those participating in the CFSRs a brief overview of the practices that may lead to a Strength rating in a case and the expectations or special considerations that should be given to particular case circumstances in evaluating the item ratings for a case. The OSRI contains questions, applicability notes, instructions, and definitions that provide more detailed information.
- [FAQs: Understanding Statewide Data Indicator Calculations](#) explains various aspects of statewide data indicators, including how they are calculated and how national performance, observed performance, and Risk-Standardized Performance are used.
- The [Statewide Data Indicators Data Dictionary](#) provides a description of each statewide data indicator and data quality check, including the numerators, denominators, risk adjustments, exclusions, and corresponding data notes.
- [Engaging Young People With Lived Experience in the CFSRs: Key Considerations, Roles, and Recommendations](#) reports the results of a series of focus groups in which 18 young people with self-identified lived child welfare experience were asked about the best methods of recruiting, engaging, supporting, and retaining young people in all aspects of the CFSRs. This brief discusses key considerations, roles, and recommendations for states when engaging young people in the CFSRs.
- The [State Planning Package](#) includes a summary of included materials, the Local Site Coordinator Toolkit, the CFSR Logistical Support Fact Sheet, the Equipment Fact Sheet, and the CFSR (OMS) User Request Form.
- The [Quick Reference Items List](#) provides an at-a-glance compilation of all outcomes and items in the CFSR.
- The [State Legal-Judicial Specialist](#) describes an optional role on the state's CFSR team to assist and support an elevated understanding of how legal and judicial policies and practices contribute to the outcomes achieved as part of the CFSR's review of the state's child welfare system.
- An updated [June 2022 version of the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions](#) is available in nonfillable and fillable formats. The June 2022 version includes minor technical updates made since the April 2021 version was released.

Spanish translations of Round 4 CFSR materials are being posted as they become available.

## **Child Welfare Expo Emphasizes Engaging People With Lived Experience**

The [Child Welfare Virtual Expo](#) (CWVE) is an annual 1-day event sponsored by the Children's Bureau and the Capacity Building Center for States. This year's expo was held on September 28, 2022. The theme was engaging people with lived experience. Presenters included people with lived experience and expertise, child welfare agency leaders, federal staff, and national thought leaders.