



SAFETY • PERMANENCY • WELL-BEING



**Child
and Family
Services Reviews**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau





Child and Family Services Reviews: A Great Opportunity for Citizen Review Panels

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Child and Family Services Reviews



Enable the Children's Bureau to

- (1) ensure conformity with Federal child welfare requirements
- (2) determine what is actually happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services
- (3) assist States to enhance their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes

Child and Family Services Reviews



- Collaborative effort between Federal and State Governments
- Promote continuous quality improvement in child welfare systems nationally
- Evaluate State performance relative to the State Child and Family Services Plan
- Identify both the strengths and areas needing improvement in State child welfare programs

CFSR Process



The CFSRs include:

- Statewide Assessment
- Case-level onsite reviews conducted by a team of Federal and State reviewers (65 cases)
- Interviews with key State and local stakeholders
- State data from AFCARS and NCANDS

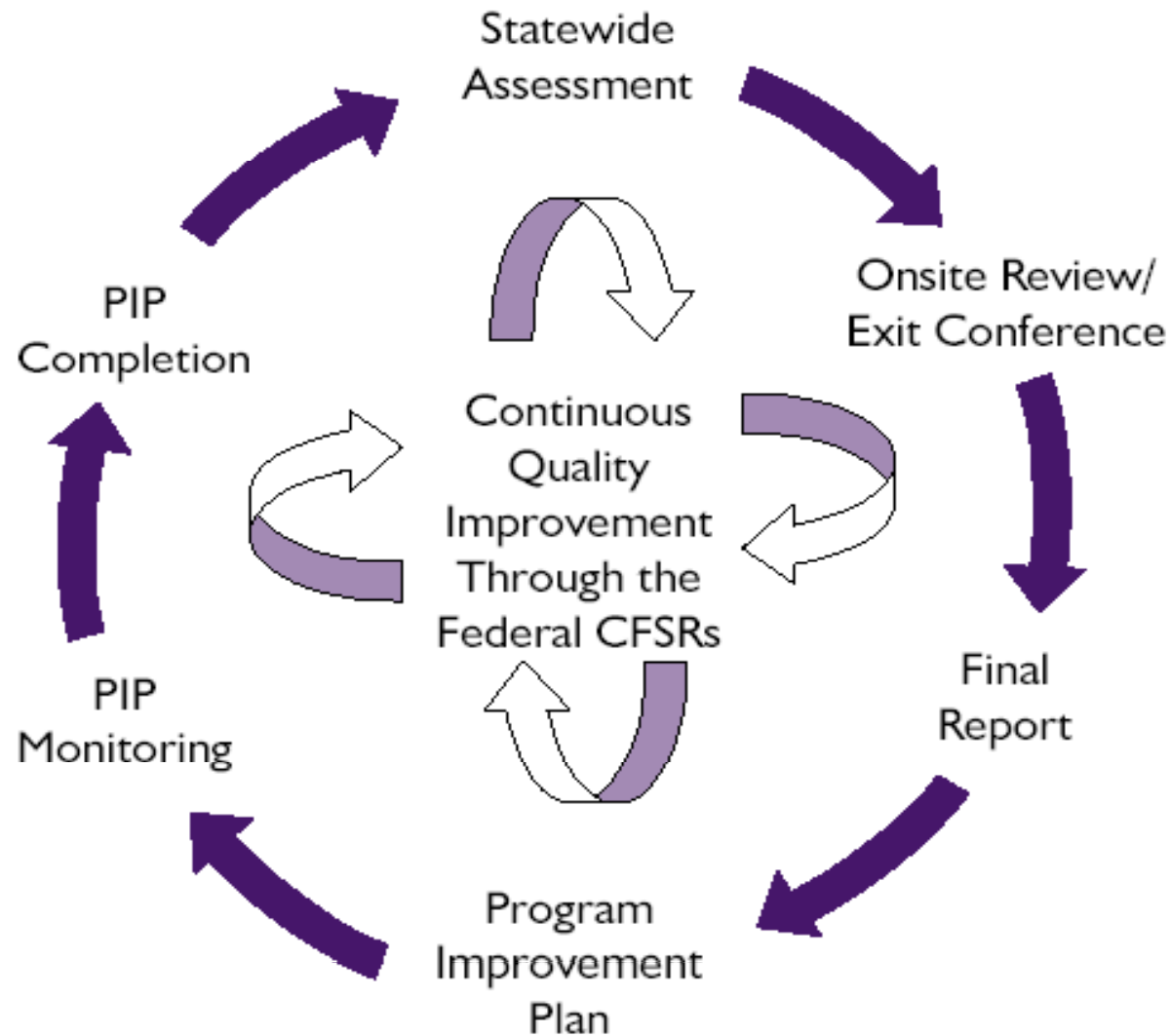
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Program Improvement Plans are developed as a result of the CFSR to promote **systemic changes** that will improve outcomes.

- Agency culture, values and beliefs that underlie the work
- Collaboration with stakeholders – effective partnerships
- Institutionalizing changes that improve day to day practice

CFSR Process



Source: Supporting Improvements in Child Welfare Systems Through the CFSRs: A Resource for State Legislators

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The CFSRs analyze strengths and areas needing improvement with respect to seven outcomes and seven systemic factors.

The *outcomes*, which concern safety, permanency, and well-being, include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The *systemic factors* include:

Statewide Information System

Case Review System

Quality Assurance System

Staff and Provider Training

Service Array

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

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National Standards:

- Recurrence of Maltreatment
- Maltreatment in Foster Care
- Timeliness and permanency of reunification
- Timeliness of Adoptions
- Placement stability
- Achieving Permanency for children in foster care for long periods of time

CFSR Update



- Initial review of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico completed between 2001-2004
- All entered into Program Improvement Plans (PIPs) to correct some areas of their programs, and all had clearly identifiable strengths in their programs upon which to build improvement strategies
- The second round of CFSRs began in March 2007 and will continue through September 2010. So far in the second round, 42 states have been reviewed: 14 states in fiscal year (FY) 2007, 18 states in FY 2008 and 10 states in FY 2009

CFSR Findings



- Compiled results of the reviews from 2001-2008 have been posted on the Children's Bureau website <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/results/index.htm>
- The following reports are also available via the Children's Bureau Website (by State): Statewide Assessments, CFSR Final Reports, Program Improvement Plans (PIPs), and Individual Key Findings Reports

Collaboration through the CFSR



Why is collaboration necessary?

- From their inception, the CFSRs were intended as a vehicle for promoting change through collaboration
- Purpose of CFSRs is to evaluate the entire child and family service system and not solely the child welfare agency
- The CFSRs require a collaborative process that focuses on identifying shared goals and activities and establishing a purpose, framework, and plan

Collaboration through the CFSR



Overarching Principles of CFSR Collaboration

- The safety, permanency, and well-being of children is a shared responsibility, and child welfare agencies should make every effort to reach out to other partners in the State who can help to achieve positive outcomes
- Child welfare agencies do not serve children and families in isolation; must partner with organizations that directly serve children, youth, and families and those whose actions impact family and community life
- Family-centered and community-based practices are integral to improving outcomes for children and families
- Real collaboration has a purpose and a goal - it takes time and effort to promote meaningful collaboration

Collaboration through the CFSR



CFSR Collaborative Partners

- The CFSR process defines key partners that should be engaged in the CFSR Statewide Assessment, onsite review, and PIP (includes CFSP/APSR partners):

Youth and Families

Foster and Adoptive Families

professional and advocacy organizations

State and community-based service agencies

citizen review panels

Children's Justice Act task forces

federally assisted programs

State and local governments

PSSF partners

CBCAP lead agencies

Courts

Tribes

Internal Agency Staff

Collaboration through the CFSR



Opportunities for Involvement

- **Statewide Assessment Team** - accurately evaluate and communicate strengths and areas needing improvement; analyze data and trends; prepare for PIP
- **Onsite Review Team** - serve as State representative (knowledge of agency policies, procedures and processes as well as child welfare practice)
- **PIP Team** (Development and Implementation) - review and analyze review findings, identify strategies for improvement, participate in systemic change initiatives, communicate State efforts



*Thank you for your service
to children and families!*



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