

Integration of the Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP) and the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- **The Child and Family Services Plan -- or CFSP** – is the 5-year plan States develop through joint planning with ACF, that describes the publicly-funded State child and family services continuum (family support and family preservation services; child welfare services, including child abuse and neglect prevention, intervention, and treatment services; services to support reunification, adoption, kinship care, foster care, independent living, etc.).
- [The plan] includes goals and objectives both for improved outcomes for the safety, permanency and well-being of children and families and for service delivery system reform. The plan also specifies the services and other implementation activities that will be undertaken to carry out the goals and objectives; and includes plans for program improvement and allocation of resources. The State's CFSP must meet the requirements of title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, as well as the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State grant program.
- **Annual progress and services reports -- or APSRs** –are annual updates to the CFSP. Annually, each State must conduct an interim review of the progress made in the previous year toward accomplishing the goals and objectives in the CFSP, based on updated information. In developing the APSR, the State must involve the agencies, organizations, and individuals who are a part of the on-going CFSP-related consultation and coordination process. On the basis of this review, each State must prepare and submit to an Annual Progress and Services Report which must include –
 1. A report on the specific accomplishments and progress made in the past fiscal year toward meeting each goal and objective, including improved outcomes for children and families, and a more comprehensive, coordinated, effective child and family services continuum;
 2. Any revisions in the statement of goals and objectives, or to the training plan, if necessary, to reflect changed circumstances;...
 3. ...a description of the child protective, child welfare, family preservation, family support, and independent living services to be provided in the upcoming fiscal year highlighting any additions or changes in services or program design;
 4. Information on activities in the areas of training, technical assistance, research, evaluation, or management information systems that will be carried out in the upcoming fiscal year in support of the goals and objectives in the plan.
- Development of the CFSP provides the State the opportunity to chart a vision for the coming five years and to discuss how Federal resources will be used in support of that vision. The APSR then provides the opportunity to take stock annually of how

progress is being made against the 5-year plan and to make adjustments to the plan as needed.

- The purpose of the **Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)** is to review State child and family service programs to ensure conformity with the requirements in titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) are a Federal-State collaborative effort designed to help ensure that quality services are provided to children and families through State child welfare systems. The reviews identify strengths and areas needing improvement in State programs and systems, focusing on outcomes for children and families in the areas of safety, permanency, and child and family well-being.
- Following a review, States develop and implement **Program Improvement Plans (PIPs)**, as needed. The PIP planning and implementation process is intended to be an extension of the collaborative planning process that States use to develop the 5-year Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). State child welfare agencies involve their staff and external partners in assessing the CFSR findings and then preparing, implementing, and evaluating the PIP.
- The PIP provides an opportunity for State child welfare agencies to develop a plan of action for making both the short-term and long-term changes to their child welfare system necessary to improve outcomes for children and families. States can use the review process (statewide assessment and onsite review) to study what works and what needs improvement, and then use the PIP process to implement new strategies for making improvements.
- So – the CFSP and the CFSR processes are really two parts of a whole – not two unrelated processes with competing requirements. The CFSP lays out the State’s vision and plans for implementing its child welfare programs. The CFSR PIP then monitors the State’s compliance with the State plan requirements. Both processes call on States to set goals and objectives relating to the safety, permanency and well-being of children and families, to engage stakeholders in assessment and planning, and to use data to measure progress.
- Taken together, the CFSP and the CFSR provide two mechanisms for the State and the Federal government to assess how the State is performing, to make plans for improving performance in child welfare and to provide a framework for charting the progress the State is making.
- If a State effectively incorporates the goals and objectives looked at in the CFSR, the information derived from their CFSR Statewide Assessment and the strategies the State is adopting in its PIP into its CFSP and APSRs, there is the opportunity for these plans to be, not merely documents developed to access Federal funds, but dynamic tools that can help the State to manage and reflect on its child welfare service program as a whole and to support sustained improvement over the long term.