



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

September 28, 2015

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 15-63

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FEDERAL DATA OUTCOME MEASURES

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (W&IC) 10605.2;
FEDERAL REGISTER ([79 FR 61241](#) AND [80 FR 27263](#));
ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) [I-46-07](#);
[ACIN I-62-14](#); [ACL 04-05](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to notify counties of the changes to the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) System. Specifically, this ACL provides counties with the new data outcomes that will be replacing the federal composite measures currently included in the C-CFSR. This ACL also informs counties of the process for transitioning to the new measures.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the C-CFSR as codified in W&IC 10601.2 is to significantly strengthen the accountability system used in California to monitor and assess the quality of services provided by county child welfare and probation departments on behalf of youth served by the Child Welfare system. As such, the C-CFSR operates on a philosophy of continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement, and public reporting of program outcomes. The C-CFSR is comprised of county child welfare system reviews and maximizes compliance with federal regulations for the receipt of federal Title IV-E and Title IV-B funds. Principal components of the C-CFSR

process include: 1) County Self-Assessment (CSA), 2) County System Improvement Plan (SIP), 3) County System Improvement Plan Progress Reports (SIP Progress Reports), and 4) Quarterly Monitoring and Technical Assistance provided by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

On October 10, 2014, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued a new Federal Register notice (79 FR 61241) that notified states of the final plan to replace the data outcome measures used to determine a state's substantial conformity with Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. On May 13, 2015, ACF published a correction to this Final Rule in the Federal Register (80 FR 27263). More information can be found on the Federal Register's website at <https://www.federalregister.gov>, or the Federal CFSR Portal at <https://www.cfsrportal.org>.

These federal data outcome measures are used by county child welfare and juvenile probation agencies via the C-CFSR to measure performance in ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of children involved in their respective systems. The previous 17 federal data outcome measures have been replaced, updated, or eliminated to produce a total of seven new data outcome measures. The CFSR Round 3 Data Indicators Summary Sheet, detailing the new measures, including the national standards, can be found on the CDSS website at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1356.htm>. The new measures are listed below:

Safety

- Maltreatment in foster care: *Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization per day of foster care?*
- Recurrence of maltreatment: *Of all children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during a 12-month reporting period, what percent were victims of another substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report?*

Permanency

- Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care: *Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what percent are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care?*
- Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12 to 23 months: *Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period, who had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months, what percent discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the period?*

- Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or longer: *Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12 month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) for 24 months or more, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12 month period?*
- Re-entry into foster care in 12 months: *Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period who discharged within 12 months to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship, what percent re-entered foster care within 12 months of their discharge?*
- Placement Stability: *Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves per day of foster care?*

IMPLEMENTATION

For C-CFSR and county reporting purposes, the University of California, Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website has been updated as of August 1, 2015, with the new federal data outcome measures and methodology description. **Counties will be required to report on the new outcome measures in C-CFSR documents due to CDSS after October 1, 2015.** Please see ACIN I-62-14 for county C-CFSR cycle dates and report deadlines. Assigned county Outcomes and Accountability Consultants will be available to provide technical assistance regarding the transition from the previous data outcome measures to the new measures. In addition, trainings are being developed and will be offered to counties in the near future. Furthermore, the C-CFSR Instruction Manual and related templates and instructions will be updated to reflect the new outcome measures.

The CDSS looks forward to working with you on our mutual efforts to achieve better outcomes for the children and families served by California's Child Welfare Services programs. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Stout, Chief of the Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau, at (916) 651-8099.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division