



Fast Facts – Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

What is the Child and Family Services Review?

The CFSR is a federal and state collaboration to review the state child welfare system. It provides opportunities to examine the functioning of the child welfare system and identify places where work could be focused to make improvements.

Does every state participate in a CFSR?

Yes, every state participates in a CFSR over the course of a four-year period that started in 2023.

When does Minnesota's review happen?

Minnesota's review starts in 2024, which is year two of all the state CFSRs.

What should I expect?

The review involves three distinct parts: a statewide assessment in July, an onsite review in October that goes through March 2025, and then a final report and Program Improvement Plan (PIP) phase that will span from approximately July 2025 – October 2027.

To learn more about the process, see the [Handout – Child and Family Services Review \(CFSR\) Process](#).

Is it normal to have to develop a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) following the final report?

Yes. It's a general expectation that states will have to develop and implement a PIP in some area(s) following their final report. The PIP provides an opportunity for the state child welfare agency, the legal and judicial systems, and other partners to use information from the statewide assessment and the onsite review to develop, implement, and monitor a state-specific plan to strengthen the functioning of systems and improve outcomes for the children and families served.

Has Minnesota participated in this review before? Are there differences this round?

Minnesota participated in CFSR reviews in 2007, 2010, and 2016. This will be Minnesota's fourth CFSR.

Unlike previous reviews which were federal led, this review will likely be state led, meaning that state reviewers will look at a variety of cases over a six-month period. There is also greater emphasis this round on legal and judicial engagement at all stages of the CFSR process and an elevated focus on how the CFSR can be used to advance equity and inclusion.

Who is involved in the CFSR in Minnesota and what does this mean for me?

The Children's Bureau encourages the involvement of a wide range of individuals in the review process. In addition to legal and judicial representatives, those with lived experience provide different and important perspectives that can contribute to the development and implementation of an equity and inclusion framework that can reduce disparities and promote system and outcome improvements for all children and families served in the child welfare system.

What is the Court’s role in this?

Review of the child welfare system includes studying the practices within legal and judicial systems and how those practices impact outcomes that children and families experience, for example:

- The timeliness of hearings that affect the permanency goals of reunification, guardianship, and adoption.
- The appropriateness of permanency goals to the circumstances of a case.
- The effectiveness of notification to foster care parents and other caregivers of permanency hearings and opportunities to be heard in court proceedings about the children in their care.
- The effectiveness and availability of the array of services made available to children and families.
- The use of data by legal and judicial partners to examine child welfare outcomes.

Where can I get more information?

More resources are coming soon. If you have questions in the meantime, you can email Children’s Justice Initiative (CJI) staff at CJI@courts.state.mn.us.