

## **State and Federal Requirements for Tribes participating in the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative**

### **Executive Summary**

Eleven federally recognized Tribes are sovereign nations located within the state of Minnesota (state). In some instances, state and federal laws apply to Tribes depending on the types of agreements they have with the state and types of funding they receive.

In 2005, the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative (Initiative) was established per Minnesota Statute 256.01, subdivision 14b [Minnesota Statutes 2023, Section 256.01 \(mn.gov\)](#)

Tribes participating in the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative (Initiative) agree to follow relevant state and federal laws, regulations, policies and requirements associated with the responsibility they have agreed to assume by participating in the Initiative. Those include accepting responsibility for the transfer of statutory responsibilities from counties to the Tribes and accepting the state's delegation of authority to operate a local Title IV-E agency.

Initiative Tribes use the department's information systems (SSIS, MAXIS, MMIS and PRISM) to fulfill multiple state and federal reporting and monitoring requirements including but not limited to Title IV-B, Title IV-E, Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

According to federal policy and regulation, Tribes who enter into Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Agreements with a state agency, are required to use the state's child welfare information system and follow state statutes related to the operation of the Title IV-E program. [Social Security Act - section 472 (a)(2); Social Security Act - section 471 (a)(15)(D); 45 CFR 1356.21 (b)(3); Social Security Act - sections 472(a)(2)(B) and 479B; 45 CFR 205.100]

Currently, a bi-directional data exchange between SSIS and a Tribal information system does not exist. When an Initiative Tribe does not use the state's information systems as required it results in the Tribe and state not being able to meet state and federal reporting and monitoring requirements.

There can be federal fiscal penalties and program improvement plans when the state or the Tribe have not met required performance standards or fail to meet program requirements.

### **Introduction**

Eleven federally recognized Tribes are sovereign nations located within the state of Minnesota (state). In some instances, state and federal laws apply to Tribes depending on the types of agreements they have with the state and types of funding they receive.

For example, a state law applies when the state is required to demonstrate statewide application of program access and eligibility. One child welfare example is Northstar Care for Children (Northstar) which applies to children under state court jurisdiction and children under Minnesota Tribal court jurisdiction. Northstar is Minnesota's federal foster care, guardianship and adoption assistance programs. Another instance is when a state law is enacted to bring Minnesota into compliance with federal laws and funding requirements.

Tribes participating in the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative (Initiative) agree to follow relevant federal laws, regulations, policies and requirements associated with the responsibility they have agreed to assume when accepting the state's delegation of authority to operate a local Title IV-E agency. Examples of major amendments to the Social Security Act, Title IV-E are: 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act, 2006 Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act and 2017 Family First Prevention Services Act.

Additionally, Initiative Tribes are included in Minnesota's Title IV-B plan, Title IV-E plan, Family First 5 Year Prevention Services Plan, Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Examples of federal laws that do not apply to Tribes is the American Disabilities Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

There can be federal fiscal penalties and program improvement plans when the state has not met required performance standards or fail to meet program requirements.

To meet state and federal requirements, Initiative Tribes enter child welfare data into the state's information systems.

### **American Indian Child Welfare Initiative**

The Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services and the Minnesota Commissioner of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (department) do not have authority to waive or exempt Initiative Tribes from state and federal laws.

In 2005, the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative (Initiative) was established per Minnesota Statute 256.01, subdivision 14b [Minnesota Statutes 2023, Section 256.01 \(mn.gov\)](#)

### **Commissioner authority to require state and federal reporting and monitoring**

(h) The commissioner shall collect information on outcomes relating to child safety, permanency, and well-being of American Indian children who are served in the projects. Participating tribes must provide information to the state in a format and completeness deemed acceptable by the state to meet state and federal reporting requirements.

### **State and Tribal Child Welfare Information Systems**

Initiative Tribes need access to the department's information systems to fulfill Title IV-E responsibilities as a local Title IV-E agency.

The Social Services Information System (SSIS) is Minnesota's child welfare information system authorized for statewide collection of data required for federal and state child welfare reporting, monitoring and funding. This includes all child welfare services funded by state funds, federal Title IV-B and Title IV-E funds such as: prevention, family preservation, child protection, foster care, foster care licensing, adolescent services, guardianship and adoption.

Tribes participating in the Initiative have decided to not enter into a direct Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Agreements with United States Health and Human Services and therefore, Initiative programs receiving state and federal funds agree to use the department's information systems.

Child welfare information systems are case management systems that serve as the record hubs for all children and families receiving child welfare support. Federal funding is available to both state and Tribal Title IV-E agencies (direct Title IV-E agreement with United States Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families) to develop and maintain these automated systems.

Child welfare information technology (IT) systems are automated case management tools that support child welfare policy and practice, as well as federal reporting, auditing, and review requirements. State and tribal agencies manage their child welfare programs, including child welfare IT, with the help of federal financial participation (FFP). The Division of State Systems (DSS) approves FFP through the Advance Planning Document (APD) process. DSS also generates regulatory guidance, provides regulatory oversight, and issues technical assistance on the development and operation of these IT systems.

#### **MAXIS, MMIS and PRISM**

Access to MAXIS and MMIS allows Tribal staff to complete Title IV-E and Medical Assistance eligibility and approvals for children in foster care. Access to SSIS means the federal requirement to refer a Title IV-E children in foster care to child support is completed with interface between SSIS and PRISM.

MAXIS is the state's computer system used by state, county and Initiative workers to determine eligibility for public assistance and health care. For cash assistance and food support programs. Title IV-E staff use MAXIS to complete the child's initial eligibility based on 1996 federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program rules.

Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) is a database that stores Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) information. Data entered in MMIS enables consumers to access needed medical services, issues MA cards for children in foster care and allows Tribes to submit

MA claims at the federal encounter rate for treatment portion of children's residential treatment costs.

Providing Resources to Improve Support in Minnesota (PRISM) is a federally mandated computer system that supports Minnesota's Child Support Enforcement program in efforts to: locate missing non-custodial parents, implement automatic withholding with employers for support, enforce child support orders and centralize receipt and disbursement of child support payments as required by federal law.

Title IV-E requires a mandatory Title IV-D, child support referral for children who are Title IV-E eligible. This referral is done automatically by the system from SSIS to PRISM. If a Tribe has a federally approved Tribal Child Support Program, state PRISM staff receive the child support referral in PRISM and facilitate sharing the information with the Tribal Child Support Program. [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/public\\_html/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/policy\\_dsp.jsp?citID=170](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/public_html/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=170)

## **Federal Reporting**

In entering into state Tribal Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Agreements, Tribes have decided to agree to follow all Title IV-E requirements and apply them to all children regardless of a specific child's Title IV-E status. By agreeing to follow Title IV-E practice, policy and eligibility requirements, Tribes can access eligible federal Title IV-E reimbursement for eligible costs which is dependent upon the Tribes entering child welfare data in the state's child welfare information system.

The United States Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau has an online Child Welfare Policy Manual that provides guidance on questions states and Tribes have in implementing federal requirements. The following series of questions and answers share federal guidance to the state and Tribes participating in the Initiative.

### **ACF Children's Bureau Child Welfare Policy Manual**

#### **9.4 TRIBES/INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, Title IV-E Agreements**

**Question 3.** In order for the State to meet the title IV-B section 422 requirements, must Tribal children assisted under intergovernmental agreements be included in the State's inventory, information system and case review system?

#### **Answer**

In order for a State to meet the section 422 requirements, children under the Tribe's responsibility, but for whom the State is making title IV-E payments, must be included in the State's inventory and information system. The State must also assure that a case review system and a preventive and reunification services program are in operation and applicable to these Native American children.

The title IV-E agreement may designate whether the State or the Tribe will implement the case review system and provide the services specified above, since the State (making the title IV-E foster care maintenance payments) and the Tribe (having the responsibility for placement and care) have a shared responsibility for assuring title IV-E children receive these protections.

**Source/Date** ACYF-CB-PIQ-85-05 (4/12/85) **Legal and Related References** Social Security Act - section 472 (a)(2)

Question 5. Can Indian tribes that enter into a title IV-E agreement with a title-IV-E agency identify, in tribal code, those aggravated circumstances in which reasonable efforts are not required in accordance with section 471 (a)(15)(D)(i) of the Social Security Act?

**Answer**

When entering into a title IV-E agreement with a title IV-E agency, the tribe must adhere to the list of aggravated circumstances defined in State law. The statute at section 471 (a)(15)(D)(i) specifically requires that the aggravated circumstances in which reasonable efforts are not required be defined in State law. Moreover, other public agencies and tribes that enter into agreements with the State agency are not operating or developing their own title IV-E program separate and apart from that operated under the State plan. Rather, the agency or tribe is agreeing to operate the title IV-E program established under the State plan for a specific population of children in foster care. Therefore, the other public agency or tribe is bound by any State statute related to the operation of the title IV-E program. We expect the State child welfare agency to engage the tribes, and any other agency with which it has title IV-E agreements, in developing its list of aggravated circumstances.

**Source/Date** Preamble to the Final Rule (65 FR 4020) (1/25/00) (revised 12/2/14)  
**Legal and Related References** Social Security Act - section 471 (a)(15)(D); 45 CFR 1356.21 (b)(3)  
[Child Welfare Policy Manual](#)

**8.1G TITLE IV-E, Administrative Functions/Costs, Title IV-E Agreements**

Question 5. Is a public entity that has entered into a title IV-E agreement pursuant to section 472(a)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act) with the title IV-E agency permitted to perform the title IV-E functions of an employee of the title IV-E agency?

**Answer**

Yes. Entering into a section 472(a)(2)(B) agreement with the title IV-E agency permits another public agency to have responsibility for the placement and care of title IV-E eligible children. An agency that exercises responsibility for the placement and care of a title IV-E eligible child is fulfilling the fundamental purpose of the program and is, in effect, implementing the title IV-E plan on behalf of a specified population of children under the agreement. Thus, such public agencies are permitted to perform functions that the title IV-E agency is required to perform pursuant to 45 CFR 205.100(b), such as eligibility determinations. Public agencies that enter

into section 472(a)(2)(B) agreements are subject to all applicable Federal statutory, regulatory, and policy guidance as well as State or Tribal rules that implement Federal requirements.

**Source/Date** 06/09/04; (12/17/2019) **Legal and Related References** Social Security Act - sections 472(a)(2)(B) and 479B; 45 CFR 205.100

### **Child Welfare Outcomes Reports**

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data-research/child-welfare-outcomes>

Children's Bureau research on child welfare issues includes a series of annual Child Welfare Outcomes Reports to Congress. These reports include data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

This series of reports is required by section 203(a) of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA). ASFA amended section 479A of the Social Security Act to require an annual report that assesses state performance in operating child protection and child welfare programs under Titles IV-B and IV-E.

### **Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Children's Bureau (CB) is responsible for the implementation and management of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

### **Penalty for non-compliance**

There are 220 elements that are submitted to the federal ACF twice a year. States are expected to achieve 90% data entry accuracy on all 220 elements or fiscal penalties will be passed to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

State and Tribal Title IV-E agencies are required to report AFCARS case-level information on all children in foster care and children who have been adopted with Title IV-E agency involvement (per §479 of the Social Security Act).

The [regulations](#) were updated via the final rule published in May 2020.

### **National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)**

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data-research/ncands>

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) is an initiative of the Children's Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NCANDS was established as a voluntary, national data collection and reporting system to comply with 1988 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) amendments.

In 1996, CAPTA was amended to require all states that receive funds from the Basic State Grant program to work with the Secretary of HHS to provide specific data, to the maximum extent practicable, about children who had been maltreated. Subsequent CAPTA amendments added data elements, many of which are reported by states to NCANDS. NCANDS data are published annually in the Child Maltreatment report.

The most recent edition and other reports dating back to 1995 are available on the Children's Bureau website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/childmaltreatment>

States submit case-level data by constructing an electronic file of child-specific records for each report of alleged child abuse and neglect that received a child protection services (CPS) response. Each state's file only includes completed reports that resulted in a disposition (or finding) as an outcome of the CPS response during the reporting year. The data submission containing these case-level data is called the Child File.

The Child File is supplemented by agency-level aggregate statistics in a separate data submission called the Agency File. The Agency File contains data that are not reportable at the child-specific level and are often gathered from agencies external to CPS. States are asked to submit both the Child File and the Agency File each year.

Upon receipt of data from each state, a technical validation review is conducted to assess the internal consistency of the data and to identify probable causes for missing data. In some instances, the reviews concluded that corrections were necessary, and the state was requested to resubmit its data. Once a state's case-level data are finalized, counts are computed and shared with the state. The Agency File data also are subjected to various logic and consistency checks.

#### **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/reporting-systems/nytd>

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169) establishes the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), now known as the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee Program), in amendment to section 477 of the Social Security Act. The Chafee Program provides states with flexible funding to carry out programs that assist youth in making the transition from foster care to a healthy and self-sufficient adulthood. The law also requires ACF to develop a data collection system to track the independent living services States provide to youth and develop outcome measures that may be used to assess States' performance in operating their independent living programs.

#### **Penalty for non-compliance**

The law also requires ACF to impose a penalty of between one and five percent of the state's annual allotment on any state that fails to comply with the reporting requirements.

To meet the law's mandate, ACF published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on July 14, 2006, and a final rule on February 26, 2008. The regulation establishes the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) and requires that states engage in two data collection activities. First, states are to collect information on each youth who receives independent living services paid for or provided by the state agency that administers the Chafee Program. Second, states are to collect demographic and outcome information on certain youth in foster care whom the state will follow over time to collect additional outcome information. This information will allow ACF to track which independent living services States provide and assess the collective outcomes of youth.

Pursuant to the regulation, states begin collecting data for NYTD on October 1, 2010, and reports data to ACF semiannually. The first submission of data to ACF occurred on May 15, 2011.

#### **Annual Report of State Child Welfare Expenditures**

Each year, states are required to submit to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) information on their planned and actual expenditures for several child welfare programs. HHS then synthesizes the information from the state reports and provides national totals of planned spending by service category for the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services program and planned and actual spending by service category for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program.

#### **Title IV-E Data**

The Children's Bureau posts an annual summary of financial expenditure and caseload data for Title IV-E programs reported on Form CB-496 by states and Tribes operating Title IV-E foster care, adoption assistance, guardianship assistance, prevention services, and kinship navigator programs. Data reflect information reported by states and Tribes on Form CB-496. Information is available beginning with fiscal year 2019.

#### **Chafee Foster Care Independence Program**

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/grant-funding/john-h-chafee-foster-care-independence-program>

#### **Title IV-E Prevention Program**

The Title IV-E prevention program data reporting collects information for each child who receives Title IV-E prevention services and is used to calculate annual Title IV-E prevention services measures in accordance with the statute.

## **State Reporting**

State reports are associated with meeting federal reporting requirements, required by the Minnesota Legislature and/or information required for state's information systems.

### **Example of state report for federal reporting**

DHS bulletin #22-68-10 National Youth in Transition Database

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionS=selectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=BULLETINS\\_2022#b68](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionS=electionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=BULLETINS_2022#b68)

### **Required by Minnesota Legislature**

The Minnesota Legislature directive in [Minn. Stat., section 257.0725](#) requires the Minnesota Department of Human Services (department), Children and Family Services Administration, Child Safety and Permanency Division to prepare annual report on children involved in maltreatment reports, out of home placements, and the work happening across Minnesota to ensure and promote safety, permanency, and well-being of children.

The maltreatment report include data on children in reports that are received and reviewed by local social service agencies, the characteristics of children in these reports, the assessment or investigation process that follows, and the outcomes.

The out-of-home care report provides information on children experience out-of-home care, where children are removed from their home of origin and placed in care of the responsible social service agency. The data contained in the report includes demographic information on children in out-of-home care, information on children who entered out-of-home care, information on the experience children have while in care, and information about children who exited out-of-home care during the year.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services produces these annual reports to track and understand child welfare trends in the state. Historically, the report has included data on American Indian/Alaska Native children using information from the Social Service Information System (SSIS), Minnesota's child welfare database. For information about performance on all state and federal performance measures, see the [Minnesota Child Welfare Data Dashboard](#).

The annual reports to the Minnesota Legislature can be found here:

<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/services/child-protection/resources/>

### **Social Service Information System (SSIS)**

There are numerous federal requirements that must be met for the state's child welfare information system (SSIS) to meet the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) regulations.

## **Federal Monitoring**

Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families: Monitoring  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/training-technical-assistance/monitoring>

To help states achieve positive outcomes for children and families, the Children's Bureau monitors state child welfare services through the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) assessment reviews, the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) reviews, the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) assessment reviews, and the title IV-E foster care eligibility reviews.

#### **Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews**

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/monitoring/title-ive-reviews/state-reports-pips>

The regulatory reviews of the title IV-E foster care program determine whether children in foster care meet the federal eligibility requirements for foster care maintenance payments. During these reviews, the Children's Bureau examines child and provider case records, as well as payment documentation, to validate the accuracy of a state's reimbursement claims for foster care payments. Each eligibility review details the strengths and weaknesses of the state's program and identifies technical assistance that may be needed for program improvement.

- [Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews Schedules](#)
- [Title IV-E State Reports and PIPs](#)

#### **Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) Reviews**

The Division of State Systems (DSS) conducts CCWIS reviews to assess title IV-E agency compliance with the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) regulations. The new CCWIS reviews process is in development. DSS is currently creating tools for title IV-E agencies to use to assess their child welfare information systems. As tools become available, they will be posted to the CCWIS Reviews web page. Data from child welfare information systems is used to support the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), and the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process.

#### **Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs);**

The CFSRs, which are periodic reviews of state child welfare systems, enable the Children's Bureau to achieve the following:

- Ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements
- Determine what is actually happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services
- Assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes

The [CFSR factsheet](#) explains the history, purpose, and process of the CFSRs.

After a CFSR is completed, states develop a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address areas in their child welfare services that need improvement. The PIP instructions and matrix document provides guidance to states about developing their PIPs.

#### **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Reviews**

A National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a federal reporting system designed to collect information on young people transitioning out of foster care who are served by state agencies that administer the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood. The purpose of the NYTD Review is to comprehensively evaluate states' policies and practices related to collecting and reporting timely, reliable, and accurate data on young people in transition. The NYTD Review also is an opportunity to explore how states use NYTD data to evaluate the quality of services provided to young people in transition as part of a continuous quality improvement framework.

- [NYTD Reviews Final State Reports](#)

#### **Federal Single Audit**

When an entity is receiving federal funds, a single audit may be required depending on the amount of federal funds received within one year.

Notice of increase for the single audit from \$750,000 to \$1 million effective October 1, 2024.

[Federal Register: Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance](#)

Link to the Single Audit Act and Uniform Guidance original rules and the Compliance Supplement that auditors use as the steps to perform the audits.

Single Audit Act

[Single Audit Act Amendments \(1996\) | Grants.gov](#)

Uniform Guidance (replaced OMB A-133)

[eCFR :: 2 CFR Part 200 -- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#)

OMB Compliance supplement for 2024

[Current Compliance Supplement | OMB | The White House](#)

#### **State Monitoring**

##### **Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Review**

The Initiative Tribes are participating in the state's compliance review of AFCARS 2. This will be a continuous partnership between DCYF-SSIS and agencies to ensure minimum errors to ensure compliance. This review will be completed through educational and training efforts by DCYF-SSIS, including supporting the development of and training for local agency SSIS mentors on tools to correct errors. Additionally, individualized communications with coordinators/mentors at each agency will be completed at least quarterly for the foreseeable future and agency-specific technical assistance will be available.

**Title IV-E Reviews Continuous Monitoring Process**

The Initiative Tribes participate in a Title IV-E Continuous Monitoring Process (CMP). States are required to monitor and conduct periodic evaluations of activities carried out under Title IV-E, as mandated by [§472\(a\)\(7\) of the Act](#). The CMP focuses on various facets of Title IV-E compliance with the requirements related to individual children in out-of-home placement. These areas include eligibility determinations, timely court actions, and the safety requirements for placements in both family foster and residential foster settings. Facilitation of the CMP process also serves as a way for state and Tribal staff to work together to determine what, if any, the needs of the Tribe are and how state staff may provide technical assistance that is specifically tailored for the Tribe.

**Title IV-E Tribally Licensed Homes Review**

The Initiative Tribes participate in a Title IV-E review of Tribally licensed foster homes annually. Each year, the licenses for family foster homes in which children in out-of-home placement reside are reviewed for compliance with the Title IV-E federal safety requirements, mandated for both state licensed and Tribally licensed homes, with a primary focus on criminal background studies for perspective foster parent(s).

**Grant contracting**

Department of Administration, Minnesota Management and Budget and the department's contracting requirements apply to state grants with Tribes such as: Initiative, ICWA, prevention, Parent Support Outreach Program, Family Alternative Response, adoption/permanency, kinship navigator, children's mental health screening and others. Monitoring and oversight activities include annual fiscal reconciliation, on-site grant review, approval of budget and program reports, performance measures and on-going and frequent review of grant contract responsibilities.

**Human Services Performance Management System**

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_191395](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_191395)

**State child mortality near fatality reviews**

Minnesota Statute 256.01. subd. 14b, (g)

(g) Participating tribes may establish a local child mortality review panel. In establishing a local child mortality review panel, the tribe agrees to conduct local child mortality reviews for child deaths or near-fatalities occurring on the reservation under subdivision 12. Tribes with established child mortality review panels shall have access to nonpublic data and shall protect nonpublic data under subdivision 12, paragraphs (c) to (e). The tribe shall provide written notice to the commissioner and affected counties when a local child mortality review panel has been established and shall provide data upon request of the commissioner for purposes of

sharing nonpublic data with members of the state child mortality review panel in connection to an individual case.

**State Child and Family Services Reviews**

As requested by Initiative staff as part of the overall Initiative quality assurance program.

[Minnesota APSR FY2024 \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov/apsr)

**Fiscal audits on grant contracts conducted by DHS Internal Audits**

As requested by Initiative staff as part of the overall Initiative quality assurance program.

The department is responsible for ensuring the following federal fiscal regulations are followed.

PART 200—UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2 subtitle-A/ chapter-II/ part-200>

Title 45 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations §§ 200.303 and 200.332.

§ 200.303 Internal controls.

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2 subtitle-A/ chapter-II/ part-200/ subpart-D/ section-200.303>

§ 200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities.

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2 subtitle-A/ chapter-II/ part-200/ subpart-D/ subject-group-ECFR031321e29ac5bbd/ section-200.332>

45 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 75

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45 subtitle-A/ subchapter-A/ part-75>

**State continuous quality improvement activities**

As state and federal laws are modified or newly enacted, there may be additional reviews related to child welfare practice and fiscal operations.

**Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Extended Placement Reviews**

State staff conduct regular reviews of state compliance with meeting FFPSA residential requirements such as the extended placement review approval process for children placed in qualified residential treatment programs (Q RTP's).

**Northstar Care for Children Quality Assurance Reviews**

State staff conduct periodic reviews of cases for children who receive Northstar foster care, kinship and adoption assistance benefits to ensure the amount made to a licensed or approved relative or kinship foster family home is the same as the amount that would have been made if the child was placed in a licensed or approved non-relative foster family home.



### **Continuous Quality Improvement**

From 2021 to 2024, department staff, in collaboration with the federal Center for States, have developed and piloted various components of a new CQI system, including a data dashboard and systemic learning reviews for county and Tribal child welfare practice.

This was a comprehensive redesign process anchored by a mission statement and core values emphasizing system accountability, non-judgmental understanding, and diverse perspectives.

The CQI team leads projects aimed at understanding and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations, including LGBTQ+ children in foster care and African American youth re-entering out-of-home placement. Community outreach efforts are integral, ensuring that voices of those with lived experiences inform the CQI process and future planning.