



# CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

**Wendy Rickman**  
Division Administrator  
[wrickma@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:wrickma@dhs.state.ia.us)

# Child and Family Services Reviews

## Onsite Review Instrument Outcomes: Quick Reference Items List



### Safety

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

- Item 1: How timely is the agency in initiating investigations or reports of child maltreatment?
- Item 2: How effective is the agency in preventing the recurrence of maltreatment?

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

- Item 3: How effective is the agency in providing services, when appropriate, to prevent removing children from their homes?
- Item 4: How effective is the agency in reducing the risk of harm to children, including those in foster care and those who receive services in their own homes?

### Permanency

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

- Item 5: How effective is the agency in preventing multiple entries of children into foster care?
- Item 6: How effective is the agency in providing placement stability for children in foster care (that is, minimizing placement changes for children in foster care)?
- Item 7: How effective is the agency in determining the appropriate permanency goals for children on a timely basis when they enter foster care?
- Item 8: How effective is the agency in helping children achieve, in a timely manner, permanency goals of reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives?
- Item 9: How effective is the agency in achieving timely (within 24 months or less) adoption when that is appropriate for the child?
- Item 10: How effective is the agency in establishing timely planned permanent living arrangements for children in foster care who do not have the goal of reunification, adoption, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives?

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

- Item 11: How effective is the agency in placing foster children close to their birth parents or their own communities or counties?
- Item 12: How effective is the agency in keeping brothers and sisters together in foster care?
- Item 13: How effective is the agency in planning and facilitating visiting of children in foster care with their parents? How effective is the agency in planning and facilitating visiting among siblings placed separately in foster care?
- Item 14: How effective is the agency in preserving important connections for children in foster care, such as connections to neighborhood, community, faith, family, tribe, school and friends?
- Item 15: How effective is the agency in identifying relatives who would care for children entering foster care, and using them as placement resources when appropriate?
- Item 16: How effective is the agency in promoting or helping to maintain the parent-child relationship for children in foster care, when it is appropriate to do so?

### Child and Family Well-Being

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

- Item 17: How effective is the agency generally in assessing and providing services to meet the needs of children, parents, and foster parents?
- Item 18: How effective is the agency in involving parents and children in the case planning process?
- Item 19: How effective is the agency in conducting face-to-face visits as often as needed with children in foster care and those who receive services in their own home?
- Item 20: How effective are agency workers in conducting face-to-face visits as often as needed with parents of children in foster care and parents of children receiving in-home services?

Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs

- Item 21: How effective is the agency in addressing the educational needs of children in foster care and those receiving services in their own homes?

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

- Item 22: How effective is the agency in identifying and addressing the physical health and medical needs, including dental needs, of children receiving in-home and foster care services?
- Item 23: How effective is the agency in identifying, assessing, and addressing the behavioral, emotional, and mental health needs of children receiving in-home and foster care services?

# Child and Family Services Reviews

## Systemic Factors: Quick Reference Items List



### Statewide Information System:

Item 24: How effective is the State's statewide information system in readily identifying the legal status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care?

### Case Review System:

- Item 25: How effective is the State in ensuring that each child has a timely written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parents?
- Item 26: How effective is the State in conducting the periodic review of the status of each child, no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review?
- Item 27: How effective is the State in ensuring that each child in foster care has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter?
- Item 28: How effective is the State in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR) when a child is in foster care for 15 of 22 months unless there is a compelling reason not to file, in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act?
- Item 29: How effective is the State in ensuring that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of the children in foster care receive notice of reviews or hearings held with respect to the children in their care, and have an opportunity to be heard?

### Quality Assurance System:

- Item 30: How effective has the State been in developing and implementing standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect their safety and health?
- Item 31: How effective is the State in operating an identifiable quality assurance system that evaluates the quality of services, identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provides relevant reports, and evaluates implemented program measures?

### Staff and Provider Training:

- Item 32: How effective is the State in providing and ensuring completion of adequate *initial* training for staff who provide child welfare services?
- Item 33: How effective is the State in providing and ensuring completion of adequate *ongoing* training for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties?
- Item 34: How effective is the State in providing and ensuring completion of adequate training for current or prospective foster parents, including relative caregivers, adoptive parents, and staff of State licensed or approved facilities, that addresses the knowledge needed to carry out their duties?

### Service Array and Resource Development:

- Item 35: How effective is the State's array of services in meeting the needs of the children and families it serves, including in-home and foster care cases?
- Item 36: To what extent are services accessible to families and children in all jurisdictions in the State?
- Item 37: How effectively does the State individualize, or tailor, services to meet the unique needs of children and families?

### Agency Responsiveness to the Community:

- Item 38: How effectively does the State engage in ongoing consultation with tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child-and-family-serving agencies in order to include these stakeholders' major concerns in its State plan?
- Item 39: How effectively does the agency develop, in consultation with the individuals or organizations identified in item 38, annual reports of progress and services delivered pursuant to the State's Child and Family Services Plan?
- Item 40: How effectively does the State coordinate its services or benefits with the services or benefits of other Federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population?

### Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention:

- Item 41: How effectively has the State implemented licensing or approval standards for foster family homes and child care institutions that ensure the safety and health of children in foster care?
- Item 42: How effective is the State in applying its foster care standards to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-E or IV-B funds?
- Item 43: How effective is the State in conducting criminal background clearances on prospective foster and adoptive parents before licensing or approving them to care for children?
- Item 44: How effectively has the State implemented a process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children needing foster and adoptive homes?
- Item 45: How effectively does the State seek out and use families who live in other jurisdictions (for example, out of State) to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children?

CFSR Summary (Second round) – Results from Iowa’s CFSR (as presented in Final Report) and Average State Results (32 States)

Item	Iowa Statewide %	Average State Performance	Range
S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect	77.8%	72%	
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	85%	77%	
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	89%	87%	
S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate	63.1%	68%	
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	77%	78%	
Item 4: Initial and on-going risk assessment and safety management	65%	70%	
P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations	37.5%	40%	
Item 5: Foster care re-entries within 12 months of a prior foster care episode	80%	92%	

CFSR Summary (Second round) – Results from Iowa’s CFSR (as presented in Final Report) and Average State Results (32 States)

Item	Iowa Statewide %	Average State Performance	Range
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement (Stable at the time of the onsite review and any changes in placement were in the best interest of the child and consistent with achieving the permanency goal)	62.5%	72%	
Item 7: Permanency goal for child (Appropriate goals were established in a timely manner)	64%	64%	43-93%
Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives (Concerted efforts were made, or are being made, to achieve the goal in a timely manner)	64%	67%	
Item 9: Adoption (Concerted efforts were made, or are being made, to achieve a finalized adoption in a timely manner)	59%	37%	18-64%
Item 10: APPLA (Concerted efforts to ensure the child is prepared for the transition to independent living and that the child is in a “permanent” living arrangement where there is a commitment by all parties that the child remain in that placement until the age of majority)	50%	67%	

CFSR Summary (Second round) – Results from Iowa’s CFSR (as presented in Final Report) and Average State Results (32 States)

Item	Iowa Statewide %	Average State Performance	Range
P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children	75%	67%	
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement Close enough to the parent(s) to facilitate face to face contact while the child is in FC)	96%	97%	
Item 12: Placement with siblings (Siblings in foster care are placed together unless a separation was necessary to meet the needs of one of the siblings)	83%	89%	
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care (Concerted efforts to ensure visitation is of sufficient frequency and quality to promote continuity with siblings in case and parents)	66%	66%	
Item 14: Preserving connections (Concerted efforts made to maintain connections to neighborhood, community, faith, extended family, tribe, school, friends)	82%	82%	
Item 15: Relative placement (Concerted efforts to place child with relatives when appropriate)	76%	71%	

**CFSR Summary (Second round) – Results from Iowa’s CFSR (as presented in Final Report) and Average State Results (32 States)**

Item	Iowa Statewide %	Average State Performance	Range
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents (Promote, support, and/or maintain positive relationships between the child and his/her mother and father through activities other than arranging for visitation)	67%	58%	

CFSR Summary (Second round) – Results from Iowa’s CFSR (as presented in Final Report) and Average State Results (32 States)

Item	Iowa Statewide %	Average State Performance	Range
WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs	40%	45%	
Item 17: Needs of child, parents, and foster parents are assessed and services provided to achieve case goals and adequately address the issues relevant to the agency’s involvement with the family.	45%	50%	26-69%
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning on an ongoing basis	49%	52%	27-75%
Item 19: Caseworker visits with child (Frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the child(ren) in the case are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals)	65%	73%	26-89%
Item 20: Caseworker visits with parents (Frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the parent(s) of the children are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the children and promote achievement of case goals)	43%	43%	20-70%



**CFSR Summary (Second round) – Results from Iowa’s CFSR (as presented in Final Report) and Average State Results (32 States)**

Item	Iowa Statewide %	Average State Performance	Range
WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs	93%	87%	
Item 21: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	93%	87%	
WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs	88.1%	76%	
Item 22: Physical health needs of the child are addressed, including dental health needs	94%	86%	
Item 23: Mental/behavioral health needs of the child(ren) are addressed	91%	76%	