OMB Control No: 0970-0307 Expiration Date: 02/28/2026

State Court Improvement Program 2025 Annual Self-Assessment Report

This self-assessment is intended as an opportunity for Court Improvement Programs (CIPs) to review progress on CIP projects, joint program planning and improvement efforts with the child welfare agency, and the ability to integrate (Continuous Quality Improvement) CQI successfully into practice. The self-assessment process is designed to help shape and inform ongoing strategic planning and should include meaningful discussion with the multi-disciplinary task force and others as needed and candid reflection of key CIP staff. The self-assessment is primarily focused on assessing efforts undertaken to date while the strategic plan maps out efforts going forward. Questions are designed to solicit candid responses that help CIPs apply CQI and identify support that may be helpful.

I. CQI Analyses of Required Projects

It is ok to cut and paste responses from last year, updating according to where you currently are in the process, and, if you do so, highlight text to show anything that is new. Complete the descriptions for CQI stages you have progressed through or are in. Though some upcoming stages will be inapplicable, consider whether your team may have preliminary thoughts that are relevant to those questions. Please also indicate if you need assistance from your federal or Capacity Building partners in a particular phase.

Joint Project with the Child Welfare Agency:

Project title:

Provide a concise description of the joint project selected in your jurisdiction.

Identify the specific safety, permanency, or well-being outcome(s) this project is intended to address. If this effort is linked to any agency measures, e.g. CFSR measures, please note those.

Approximate date that the project began:

Which stage of the CQI process best describes the current status of project work?

How was the need for this project identified? (Phase I)
What is the theory of change for the project? (Phase II).
Have you identified a solution/intervention that you will implement? If yes, what is it? (Phase III)
If your solution/intervention includes training, please provide a title and brief description of any training(s).
What has been done to implement the project? (Phase IV)
How are you or how do you intend to monitor the progress of the project? (Phase V). Be specific in terms of what type of evaluation (e.g., fidelity or outcome, comparison group, etc.) and what results you have, if any. If you have already evaluated your effort, what do the data show, and how did you use these data to modify or expand the project? Please note if you are using any JCAMP measures in this effort. ¹
Have there been notable factors that delayed or accelerated this effort?
What assistance or support would be helpful from the Center for Legal and Judicial Innovation and Advancement (CLJIA) ² or the Children's Bureau to help move the project forward?
Hearing Quality Project:
Project title:
Provide a concise description of the hearing quality project selected in your jurisdiction.
Approximate date that the project began:

Which stage of the CQI process best describes the current status of project work?

¹ https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/courts/reform/jcamp/ ² Formerly the Capacity Building Center for Courts

How was the need for this project identified? (Phase I) What is the theory of change for the project? (Phase II) Have you identified a solution/intervention that you will implement? If yes, what is it? (Phase III) If your solution/intervention includes training, please provide a title and brief description of any training(s). What has been done to implement the project? (Phase IV) How are you or how do you intend to monitor the progress of the project? (Phase V). Be specific in terms of what type of evaluation (e.g., fidelity or outcome, comparison group, etc.) and what results you have, if any. If you have already evaluated your effort, what do the data show, and how did you use these data to modify or expand the project? Please note if you are using any JCAMP measures in this effort. Have there been notable factors that delayed or accelerated this effort? What assistance or support would be helpful from the CLJIA or the Children's Bureau to help move the project forward? **Quality Legal Representation Project:** Project title: Provide a concise description of the quality legal representation project selected in your jurisdiction. Approximate date that the project began: Which stage of the CQI process best describes the current status of project work? How was the need for this project identified? (Phase I)

What is the theory of change for the project? (Phase II)

Have you identified a solution/intervention that you will implement? If yes, what is it? (Phase III)

If your solution/intervention includes training, please provide a title and brief description of any training(s).

What has been done to implement the project? (Phase IV)

How are you or how do you intend to monitor the progress of the project? (Phase V). Be specific in terms of what type of evaluation (e.g., fidelity or outcome, comparison group, etc.) and what results you have, if any. If you have already evaluated your effort, what do the data show, and how did you use these data to modify or expand the project? Please note if you are using any JCAMP measures in this effort.

Have there been notable factors that delayed or accelerated this effort?

What assistance or support would be helpful from the CLJIA or the Children's Bureau to help move the project forward?

II. Projects, Activities, and Training.

For questions 1-13, provide a *concise* description of work completed or underway to date in FY 2025 (October 2024-June 2025) in the topical subcategories below where applicable.

1. Training Overall

Did you have any significant training efforts not related to a particular project (those are now integrated under 2 to 14 below)? If yes, please describe.

On average, how many training events do you hold per year?

What is your best prediction for the number of attorneys, judges, or other legal system community members that will participate in training annually?

	The Family First Prevention Services Act amended tattorneys on the congregate care provisions of the A			pility criterion for the training of judges and
	(1) IN GENERAL.— In order to be eligible to receiving judges, attorneys, and other legal personnel in child children in foster care who are placed in settings the	l welfare cases on F	ederal child welfare	1 ,
	Have you been involved in planning with the agency If yes, please describe how the CIP has been involved		Family First? □ Yes	s 🗆 No
	Have you developed/been developing your Family F If yes, please describe what you have done.	First judicial training	g plan? □ Yes □] No
2.	P. Data Projects . Data projects include any work with reports, fostering court improvement data, case mand Do you have a data project/activity? ☐ Yes		` •	•
		Project Sub-	CQI Stage (if	
	roject Title and Description add narrative here)	category	applicable)	
Iu	ad narrative nerej			
	(a) Do you have data reports that you consistently v			

³ https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/courts/reform/jcamp/

or develop a training related to this topic? ☐ Yes ☐ No	target audience?	persons attended?	(e.g., conference, w	ebinar)	intended traini outcomes?	5			
3. Legal Representation. Legal representation projects include any efforts you have made to improve the quality of legal representation for parents, children and youth, the agency, or others. List projects here if you have any in addition to the required project.Do you have (an additional) legal representation project/activity? □Yes □No									
Project Title and	d Description		Project Sub- category	_	tage (if cable)				
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic?	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?	What type of training (e.g., conference, w	9	What were the intended training outcomes?	ning did you do? ? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes			
4. Hearing Quality. Hearing quality projects include any efforts you have made to improve the quality of child welfare hearings, including court observation/assessment projects, process improvements, specialty/pilot court projects, projects related to court orders or title IV-E determinations, mediation, or appeals. List projects here if you have any in addition to the required project. Do you have (an additional) hearing quality project/activity? □Yes □No									
Project Title an	d Description		Project Sub- category	_	tage (if cable)				

What type of training is it?

What were the

What type of training evaluation

Did you hold

Who was the

How many

					cable)	
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic? ☐ Yes ☐ No	develop a target audience? persons ning related attended?			What type of training is it? e.g., conference, webinar)		What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes □ S □ L □ B □ O □ N/A
continuances APPLA and o	or appeals, working	on improveme	ent in specific outcom	es such as □No	•	de general timeliness, focus on a, guardianship, adoption or a focus on
Project Title and	Description		category	арј	olicable)	
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?	What type of trainin (e.g., conference, w	_	What were the intended training outcomes?	What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes □ S □ L □ B □ O □ N/A

6. Engagement & Participation of Parties. Engagement and participation of parties includes any efforts centered around youth, parent, foster family or caregiver, or relative engagement, limited English proficiency, or other efforts to increase presence and engagement at the hearing.

Do you have	e an engagement or p	articipation of	partie	s project/activity?	□Yes	s □No		
Project Title an			CQI Stage (if applicable)					
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic?	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?	l .	at type of training ., conference, web		intended	vere the I training omes?	What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes
☐ Yes ☐ No								
education, e	01 0	opment, health	, traur	na, social network	0	U		youth. Projects could focus on other well-being related topics.
Project Title an	d Description			Project Sub- category	1 -	I Stage (if plicable)		
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic?	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?	l .	What type of training is it? (e.g., conference, webinar)		What were the intended training outcomes?		What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes
☐ Yes ☐ No								\square S \square L \square B \square O \square N/A

systems aro	und race, LGBTQIA2	2S+, poverty, r	ation	al origin or immig	ration st	atus, religion,		mproving equity in child welfare ith disabilities, geographic or
	•							
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic? □ Yes □ No	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?		What type of training is it? e.g., conference, webinar)		What we intended outcor	training	What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes □ S □ L □ B □ O □ N/A
agreements,	data collection and a e any projects/activiti	ınalysis includi	ing of	ICWA practice.	ration? [poration, state and tribal court
	•							

Did you hold or develop a	Who was the target audience?	How many persons	What type of training is it? (e.g., conference, webinar)	What were the intended training	What type of training evaluation did you do?
training related		attended?		outcomes?	S=Satisfaction, L=Learning,
to this topic?					B=Behavior, O=Outcomes
□ Yes □ No					\square S \square L \square B \square O \square N/A

10. Preventing Sex Trafficking. These projects could include work around domestic child sex trafficking, a focus on runaway youth,							
collaboration with other agencies around this topic, data collection and analysis, data sharing,	or other efforts to fully implement these						
sections of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act into practice.							
Do you have any projects/activities focused on preventing sex trafficking/runaways? \Box Yes	□No						

Project Title and Description	Project Sub- category	CQI Stage (if applicable)

Did you hold	Who was the	How many	What type of training is it?	What were the	What type of training evaluation
or develop a	target audience?	persons	(e.g., conference, webinar)	intended training	did you do?
training related		attended?		outcomes?	S=Satisfaction, L=Learning,
to this topic?					B=Behavior, O=Outcomes
☐ Yes ☐ No					\square S \square L \square B \square O \square N/A

11	. Normalcy/Reasonable and Prudent Parent. These projects could include any work around normalcy or the reasonable and prudent parent
	standard or practices, collaboration with other agencies around this topic, data collection and analysis, data sharing, or other efforts to fully
	implement these sections of the Preventing Sex and Strengthening Families Act into practice.
	Do you have any projects/activities focused on normalcy/reasonable prudent parenting? \(\subseteq \text{Ves} \subseteq \text{No}\)

Do you have any projects/activities focused on normalcy/reasonable prudent parenting?

Yes

No

Project Title and Description			1 5		I Stage (if plicable)			
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?	1	at type of training ., conference, wel		What w intended outco	training	What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes □ S □ L □ B □ O □ N/A
from occurr	Prevention projects ing in the first place) e any projects/activiti	, secondary, an	ıd terti	ary prevention.	maltreat]No	ment includi	ng primary _l	prevention (preventing maltreatment
Project Title an	d Description			Project Sub- category	1	I Stage (if plicable)		
Did you hold or develop a training related to this topic?	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?	1	at type of training ., conference, wel		What w intended outco	training	What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes
☐ Yes ☐ No								\Box S \Box L \Box B \Box O \Box N/A

Who was the						
target audience?	How many persons attended?	What type of training (e.g., conference, we		What wel intended ti outcom	raining	What type of training evaluatio did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning, B=Behavior, O=Outcomes □ S □ L □ B □ O □ N/A
yber-attacks. Please coordinating with ot najor disruptions.	describe effort	r otherwise ensuring a	upport fo	r remote heari s are in place Stage (if	ngs or leg	gal representation, developing guid
)]	yber-attacks. Please coordinating with of	yber-attacks. Please describe effort coordinating with other agencies, o najor disruptions.	yber-attacks. Please describe efforts around technology stoordinating with other agencies, or otherwise ensuring a najor disruptions. Project Sub-	yber-attacks. Please describe efforts around technology support fo coordinating with other agencies, or otherwise ensuring approache najor disruptions. Project Sub- CQI	yber-attacks. Please describe efforts around technology support for remote heari coordinating with other agencies, or otherwise ensuring approaches are in place hajor disruptions. Project Sub- CQI Stage (if	Project Sub- CQI Stage (if

Did you hold or develop a training related	Who was the target audience?	How many persons attended?	What type of training is it? (e.g., conference, webinar)	What were the intended training outcomes?	What type of training evaluation did you do? S=Satisfaction, L=Learning,
to this topic?		uttended:		outcomes:	B=Behavior, O=Outcomes
☐ Yes ☐ No					\square S \square L \square B \square O \square N/A

15.	Other.	Please	list any	projects	you	have	that	do 1	not	fit ir	n any	of the	categories	above.
------------	--------	--------	----------	----------	-----	------	------	------	-----	--------	-------	--------	------------	--------

Do you have any other projects/activities? \square Yes \square No

Project Title and Description	Project Sub- category	CQI Stage (if applicable)

Did you hold	Who was the	How many	What type of training is it?	What were the	What type of training evaluation
or develop a	target audience?	persons	(e.g., conference, webinar)	intended training	did you do?
training related		attended?		outcomes?	S=Satisfaction, L=Learning,
to this topic?					B=Behavior, O=Outcomes
☐ Yes ☐ No					\square S \square L \square B \square O \square N/A

16. Other Notable Activities. Are there any other activities the CIP has been engaged in not included above that you believe would be important to share with partners including those in the state, partner tribes, the Children's Bureau, or the Center for Legal and Judicial Innovation and Advancement?

17. Materials. From any of the work described above, do you have any documents or other materials that feel would be helpful to share with the
national CIP community? For example, research, innovative approaches, compelling outcome data, etc. Please link here or note and include
your submission. If these relate to your three required projects, please indicate that here.

III. CIP Collaboration in Child Welfare Planning and Improvement Efforts

	1.	Please describe how the CIP was involved with the state's CFSP due June 30, 2025.
		Does the CFSP include any of the following: ☐ the CIP/Agency Joint Project ☐ the Hearing Quality Project ☐ the Legal Representation Project ☐ other judicial strategies ☐ other attorney strategies
	2.	If <i>yes</i> , please describe. Please describe how the CIP was or will be involved in the most recent/upcoming title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review in your state.
A)	in this section collaboration	hat will be participating in round 4 of the CFSR and PIP in your state this reporting year are required to complete the question. However, working to organize meaningful engagement of a broad array of the legal and judicial community and to support with other system partners is useful for other major CIP projects as well, so others may wish to consider these with your ne PI on page 10 for further explanation.
	1. Regardin	g engaging the legal and judicial community with a broad representation of perspectives in CFSR/PIP processes:

- i) What barriers do you foresee in engaging the community at an appropriate breadth and depth?
- ii) What do you believe will facilitate engaging the community at an appropriate breadth and depth?
- **2.** Are there other leadership structures for the legal and judicial community and how can those facilitate the processes around the CFSR/PIP?
- **3.** How will legal and judicial community involvement in the CFSR/PIP be managed? e.g. CIP is the lead, via the Multi-Disciplinary Task force, a sub-committee established by the child welfare agency, etc.
- **4.** What court, judicial, or attorney data could be integrated into the CFSR/PIP process?
- **5.** How might participation vary in stages of the process?
- **6.** What feedback loops will be needed to keep the participants informed?
- **7.** What supports do you need from the Children's Bureau or the Centers for Innovation and Advancement for participating in the CFSR/PIP?
- B) Collaboration with the Child Welfare Agency in General
 - 1. What strategies or processes are in place in your state that you feel are particularly effective in supporting joint child welfare program planning and improvement?
 - 2. What barriers exist in your state that make effective joint child welfare program planning and improvement challenging?
 - 3. Regarding collaboration on training with the child welfare agency...
 - **a.** Regarding training needs across the child welfare system, what is your process to work with the agency to consider how to maximize the impact of complementary resources and ensure there is no undue duplication of efforts?
 - **b.** Does the state child welfare agency currently offer professional partner training to judges, attorneys, and court personnel as part of its Title IV-E Training Plan?

If yes, please provide a brief description of what is provided and how.

If no, have you met with child welfare agency leadership to discuss and explore utilizing professional partner training for judges, attorneys and court personnel?

- 4. Please provide updates around Title IV-E supported legal representation (e.g. agency, parents, children, kin, other civil legal representation, Indian Child Welfare Act), if applicable.
- C) Other Collaborative Activities

Please briefly describe (or cross reference if noted elsewhere) any significant collaborative activities with other child serving partners (e.g. employment, education, housing, mental health substance misuse providers).

D) To facilitate collaborations, partnerships and technical assistance, please indicate where your Self-Assessment will be published or a provide a point of contact to request a copy.

IV. CQI Current Capacity Assessment

1.	Has your abili	ty to integrate	CQI into pract	ice changed this y	year? If yes,	what do you attribute	the change to?
----	----------------	-----------------	----------------	--------------------	---------------	-----------------------	----------------

2.	Which of the following CLJIA (or former CBCC) Events/Services have you/your staff engaged in this past year?
	☐ Attorney Academy
	☐ Judicial Academy
	☐ CIPShare 2.0
	□ CQI Consult (<i>Topic</i> :)
	☐ CQI Workshop
	☐ Liberating Structures Immersion Workshops
	☐ Evidence Building CIP Projects
	☐ Constituency Group - Data/Evaluation
	☐ Constituency Group - Family First Prevention Services Act

	□ Constituency Group - ICWA
	☐ Constituency Group - Legal Representation
	□ Constituency Group - New Directors
	□ Constituency Group - Regional CIP Calls
	□ Constituency Group – Race Equity
	□ Constituency Group – State Tribal Partnerships
	□ Constituency Group - Other
	□ CIP All Call – What % of All Calls does your CIP participate in?%
3.	Do you have any of the following resources to help you integrate CQI into practice?
	☐ CIP staff with data expertise
	☐ CIP staff with evaluation expertise
	☐ CIP staff with CQI expertise
	☐ CIP staff with lived expertise
	a University partnership
	a statewide court case management system
	☐ Contracts with external individuals or organizations to assist with CQI efforts
	☐ Other resources:
	a. Do you <u>record</u> your child welfare court hearings? □ Yes □ No If yes, are they □ audio □ video
	b. Can you remotely access your court case management system? <i>For example, Odyssey systems often allow remote access to case files.</i> □ Yes □ No
	c. What court case management software does your state use? If multiple, please indicate the most common:
	d. Have you employed any new technology or applications to strengthen your work?
	e. Do any of these systems include an electronic filing system?

- **4**. Considering the phases of change management and how you integrate these into practice, are there phases of the process (e.g., Phase I-need assessment, Phase II-theory of change) that you struggle with integrating more than others?
- 5. Is there a topic or practice area that you would find useful from the Center for Legal and Judicial Innovation and Advancement? Be as specific as possible (e.g., data analysis, how to evaluate trainings, more information on research about quality legal representation, how to facilitate group meetings, etc.)

DEFINITIONS

Definitions of Evidence

Evidence-based practice – evidence-based practices are practice that have been empirically tested in a rigorous way (involving random assignment to groups), have demonstrated effectiveness related to specific outcomes, have been replicated in practice at least one, and have findings published in peer reviewed journal articles.

Empirically-supported- less rigorous than evidence-based practices are empirically-supported practices. To be empirically supported, a program must have been evaluated in some way and have demonstrated some relationship to a positive outcome. This may not meet the rigor of evidence-base, but still has some support for effectiveness.

Best-practices – best practices are often those widely accepted as good practice. They may or may not have empirical support as to effectiveness, but are often derived from teams of experts.

Definitions for CQI Phases

Identifying and Assessing Needs – This phase is the earliest phase in the process, where you are identifying a need to be addressed. The assessing needs phase includes identifying the need, determining if there is available data demonstrating that this a problem, forming teams to address the issue.

Develop theory of change—This phase focuses on the theorizing the causes of a problem. In this phase you would identify what you think might be causing the problem and develop a "theory of change". The theory of change is essentially how you think your activities (or intervention) will improve outcomes.

Develop/select solution—This phase includes developing or selecting a solution. In this phase, you might be exploring potential best-practices or evidence-based practices that you may want to implement as a solution to the identified need. You might also be developing a specific training, program, or practice that you want to implement.

Implementation – the implementation phase of work is when an intervention is being piloted or tested. This includes adapting programs or practices to meet your needs, and developing implementation supports.

Evaluation/assessment – the evaluation and assessment phase includes any efforts to collect data about the fidelity (process measures: was it implemented as planned?) or effectiveness (outcome measures: is the intervention making a difference?) of the project. The evaluation assessment phase also includes post-evaluation efforts to apply findings, such as making changes to the program/practice and using the data to inform next steps.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-13), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number. The OMB control number for this collection is 0970-0307 and it expires 02/28/2026. The estimated time to complete the Self-Assessment is 40 hours