

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Final Report: Kansas Child and Family Services Review
March 2008

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the State of Kansas. The CFSR is the Federal Government's program for assessing the performance of State child welfare agencies with regard to achieving positive outcomes for children and families. It is authorized by the Social Security Amendments of 1994 requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for reviews of State child and family services programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The CFSR is implemented by the Children's Bureau (CB) of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Kansas CFSR was conducted the week of June 11, 2007. The period under review was from April 1, 2006, to June 11, 2007. The findings were derived from the following documents and data collection procedures:

- The Statewide Assessment, prepared by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)
- The State Data Profile, prepared by CB, which provides State child welfare data for fiscal year (FY) 2003, FY 2004, and FY 2005
- Reviews of 64 cases at three sites throughout the State, including 31 cases in Sedgewick County, 16 cases in Lyon County, and 17 cases in Douglas County¹
- Interviews or focus groups (conducted at all three sites and at the State level) with stakeholders, including but not limited to children, parents, foster parents, all levels of child welfare agency personnel, collaborating agency personnel, service providers, court personnel, and attorneys

Background Information

The CFSR assesses State performance on 23 items relevant to seven outcomes and 22 items pertaining to seven systemic factors. In the Systemic Factors section of the report, each item incorporated in each systemic factor is rated as either a Strength or an Area Needing Improvement based on whether State performance on the item meets Federal policy requirements. Information relevant to each item comes from the Statewide Assessment and the stakeholder interviews conducted during the week of the onsite CFSR. The overall rating for the systemic factors is based on the ratings for the individual items incorporated in the systemic factor. For any given systemic factor a State is rated as being either "in substantial conformity" with that factor (i.e., a score of 3 or 4) or "not in substantial conformity" with that factor (a score of 1 or 2).

¹ Although the CFSR usually involves a review of 65 cases, during the Onsite Review, one case in Lyon County was eliminated because it did not meet the requirements of the sample.

