



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Administration on Children, Youth & Families | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/acyf

November 22, 2024

Eric Miller
Director
Indiana Department of Child Services
302 W. Washington St., E306
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Director Miller:

This letter acknowledges the receipt and approval of Indiana's Department of Child Services Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan. Indiana is required to develop a program improvement plan per 45 CFR 1355.35(a) to address the outcomes and systemic factors that were identified as not having achieved substantial conformity in the final report following the state's review during April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023.

The CFSR Final Report was issued on January 2, 2024, and Indiana submitted an initial PIP to the Children's Bureau on March 29, 2024. After the Children's Bureau and Indiana engaged in additional discussions, negotiations, and revisions to the PIP, the state submitted a final version of the PIP to us on October 29, 2024.

In accordance with 45 CFR 1355.36, an estimated minimum potential withholding of \$2,013,019 for federal fiscal year 2023 is applicable to this level of non-conformity. However, we are suspending the withholding of funds associated with this penalty during the PIP implementation period and, if necessary, through the subsequent 18-month post-PIP evaluation period. If it is determined that Indiana has successfully completed its Program Improvement Plan and rectified the areas of nonconformity during that time, we will rescind the withholding of federal funds associated with those respective areas.

The final Indiana PIP, inclusive of the measurement plan is approved effective as of January 1, 2025. Consistent with 45 CFR 1355.35(d)(4), the state and the Children's Bureau have agreed to Indiana submitting a progress update 30 days after the end of each quarter. These reports will support the monitoring and evaluation of the program improvement plan completion per 45 CFR 1355.35(e)(2). Consistent with CFSR Technical Bulletin #13A, we encourage the state to monitor its performance on statewide data indicators to provide additional context for the state's continuing work. The state must also keep us informed of progress and challenges around the implementation and achievement of the program improvement plan strategies, key activities, and improvement goals through routine calls and onsite meetings between us during the program improvement period.

Thank you for your commitment to improving Indiana's child welfare system. Enclosed is a copy of the approved CFSR PIP, PIP Measurement Plan, and the PIP Agreement Form. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Cindy Lowder, Regional Program Manager, at (312) 886-4918 or by e-mail cindy.lowder@acf.hhs.gov. You and your staff may also contact Charlene Blackmore, Child Welfare Program Specialist, at (312) 886-4938 or by e-mail charlene.blackmore@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Jones Gaston', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW
Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

Enclosures: Indiana PIP
Indiana Measurement Plan
PIP Agreement Form

cc: Harmony Gist, Deputy Director, Strategic Solutions and Agency Transformation;
Indianapolis, IN
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