

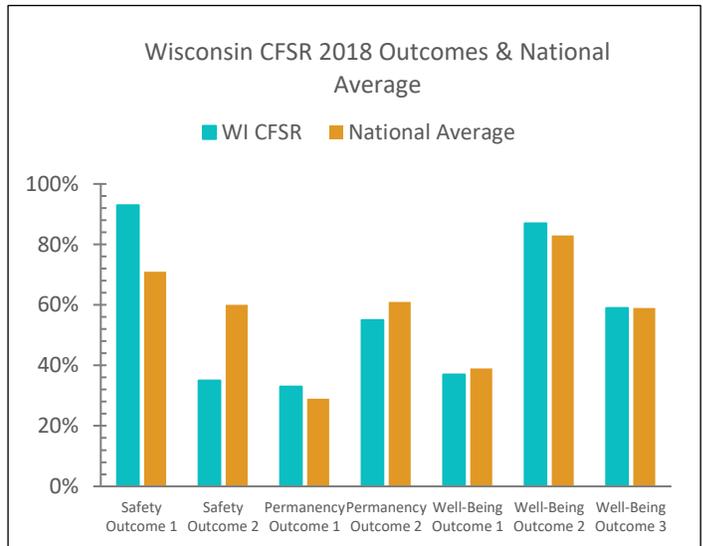
**“The CFSR was not envisioned to be a pass-fail review, but rather, a review to help states understand their strengths and weaknesses and to guide continuous quality improvement activities”**

**Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner, Children’s Bureau**

## **Understanding the Child & Family Services Review (CFSR) Report**

The Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) Children’s Bureau, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), completed a Child & Family Services Review (CFSR), which assesses key areas of Wisconsin’s child welfare policy and practice to ensure Wisconsin is meeting federal requirements found in titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. Wisconsin last participated in a CFSR in 2010.

- The federal CFSR process is meant to drive continuous quality improvement in child welfare practice.
- The federal benchmarks for both the case review and systemic factors are set high to ensure ongoing attention to achieving positive outcomes; no state meets all of the federal performance benchmarks.
- The comprehensive review includes an on-site review limited to 65 randomly selected cases in three counties. The review uses a structured review tool, and interviews of stakeholders and partners.
- The CFSR looks at the entire child welfare system, including system partners such as county agencies, court officials, and service providers.
- The CFSR report identifies strengths and areas needing improvement in the child welfare system.
- System partners and the State Legislature have been actively addressing the challenges highlighted in the report through legislation developed by the Speaker’s Task Force on Foster Care and the Governor’s Task Force on Opioid Abuse.



Wisconsin performed at or above the national average on four of the seven case review outcome measures. Wisconsin met the federal performance standard for the Agency Responsiveness systemic factor.

## **Next Steps**

In response to the CFSR, a state must develop a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) that addresses areas needing improvement. The PIP is subject to negotiation with and approval by ACF. Wisconsin’s PIP must be submitted to ACF by December 5, 2018.

To ensure that the PIP is developed in a collaborative manner that draws on a broad base of expertise, DCF established a PIP Advisory Group composed of internal and external stakeholders in January 2018. DCF expanded the PIP planning process by establishing issue-specific strategy teams, each composed of a broad range of stakeholders, to advise DCF on the development of the PIP and other strategic initiatives.

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**“Wisconsin has a strong, dedicated and competent child welfare workforce committed to strengthening the child welfare system and improving outcomes for children and families.” - DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson**

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