

CWS-CARES Legislative Update

March 2025

Executive Summary

Highlights

- Completed all development and quality assurance testing for Extended User Scenario Testing 2 (EUST 2) and began the EUST 2 with county users
- The first development sprint for EUST 3 began in March.
- Milestone 07: Case Plan finished design in the month of March.
- Milestone 20.1: Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED) completed design, build, and testing for EUST 2 related functionality in the month of March as well.

Challenges

- Milestone 20: Redetermine Eligibility & Placement/Information Change continued red into March due to a delay in Joint Review. However, as of the beginning of April, all work has been completed.
- EVM Schedule Performance Index continues a slight downward trend but remains in yellow.

Simplified Milestone Development Dashboard

The milestone chart below identifies the development progress for business requirements, design, build, vendor testing and state testing for each milestone grouped together by Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST). “Ready for User Feedback” status of 100% completion does not necessarily imply that a milestone has met all criteria for EUST inclusion. State QA still needs to complete end-to-end testing of epics which is not represented in this dashboard.

EUST 2

Milestone	Milestone Start Date	Milestone End Date	Business Requirement	Design	Build	Vendor Testing (SIT)	State Testing (QA)	Ready for User Feedback
Milestone 01: Service Provider Profile	2022-05-02	2023-01-31	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓
Milestone 02: Services	2022-05-02	2023-01-31	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓
Milestone 06: Case Management: Engagement	2022-07-18	2023-12-01	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓
Milestone 08: Placement	2022-10-10	2024-04-19	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓
Milestone 15: Court Hearing Framework	2023-01-30	2025-02-28	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓
Milestone 15.1: JNET	2023-05-30	2024-12-06	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓
Milestone 19: Request Determination	2022-11-07	2025-02-27	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓
Milestone 20: Redetermine Eligibility & Placement/Information Change	2023-06-19	2025-02-28	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	100% ✓	95% ⚠

EUST 3

Milestone	Milestone Start Date	Milestone End Date	Business Requirement	Design	Build	Vendor Testing (SIT)	State Testing (QA)	Ready for User Feedback
Milestone 6.1: Prevention Services	2023-03-27	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Milestone 07: Case Plan	2023-09-11	2025-12-30	100%	100%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Milestone 7.1: Case Management Assessment (CMA)	2024-04-15	2025-12-26	100%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Milestone 09: Case Management: Engagement & Services	2022-12-05	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Milestone 10: Case Closure	2023-02-27	2025-12-30	100%	*48%	77%	77%	77%	77%
Milestone 10.1: Structured Decision Making (SDM)	2023-04-24	2025-07-11	100%	96%	73%	60%	45%	44%
Milestone 11: Aftercare & Re-Entry	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	48%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 13: Adoption	2024-02-12	2025-12-30	100%	48%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 14: Warrants	2023-01-03	2024-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Milestone 16: Jurisdiction and Disposition	2023-11-06	2025-12-30	100%	99%	9%	9%	9%	6%
Milestone 17: Status Reviews	2024-01-02	2025-12-30	100%	99%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Milestone 18: Other Hearings	2023-05-22	2025-12-30	100%	99%	41%	41%	41%	41%
Milestone 20.1: Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED)	2023-01-30	2025-12-26	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Milestone 21: Eligibility Programs	2023-04-24	2025-12-30	100%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%
Milestone 23: Track Administrative Costs	2024-03-25	2025-12-30	100%	31%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 23.1: Service Delivery Tracking	2024-03-25	2025-12-30	100%	31%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 23.2: County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS)	2024-06-17	2025-10-31	100%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 24: Track Assistance Costs	2024-01-01	2025-12-30	100%	31%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 26: Maintain Resource Family Home	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 26.1: Facility Management System (FMS)	2024-03-25	2025-11-28	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 27: Complaints	2023-06-19	2025-12-30	100%	75%	71%	69%	64%	62%
Milestone 28: Legal Action	2024-02-26	2025-12-30	100%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 29: Federal Reports	2024-08-28	2026-01-30	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 30: State Reports	2024-09-17	2026-01-27	100%	64%	54%	53%	52%	52%
Milestone 32: Admin Console	2024-08-12	2025-10-31	100%	66%	64%	63%	63%	62%

* Milestones 10 is going through the holistic design process after some of the initial milestone-centric designs were completed and moved to the Build phase. This is why this milestone is showing less progress in Design than in Build.

EUST 2

Milestone 20 - Redetermine Eligibility & Placement/Information Change

Dev Progress Health			Size			Complexity					Time		
Green	Yellow	Red	Small	Medium	Large	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short	Average	Long

Description:

Redetermine Eligibility equips the CWS-CARES user and the Foster Care Eligibility Worker with the ability to collaborate and complete the eligibility re-determination process, using the Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED) interface between CWS-CARES and CalSAWS. The milestone allows the CWS-CARES user to notify the Foster Care Eligibility Worker via CalSAWS when a youth placed in residential facilities does not meet Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) requirements.

Current Status:

All work required for EUST 2 has been completed. This milestone experienced a two-month delay related to CalSAWS interface and setup of testing environments with the last requirement going through final testing and reviews in first week of April. This last requirement was associated with the Person Model that is slated for development in support of EUST 3.

EUST 3

Milestone 7 – Case Plan

Dev Progress Health			Size			Complexity					Time		
Green	Yellow	Red	Small	Medium	Large	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short	Average	Long

Description:

Case Plan establishes the foundation and central unifying tool in child welfare services. The milestone equips the worker to partner with the child, family, and care team to develop, monitor, and provide services and case management to assure the child's best interest is met through the provision of a safe environment. Concurrent planning is accommodated to bolster the expediency of a permanent arrangement for the child if the maintenance or reunification efforts with the family of origin fail. Automation of central safety and risk assessment findings (i.e., CANS and SDM) facilitates the monitoring of the case plan and its impact on the child's safety. Other key plans include the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), the 90-Day Transition Plan, the Plan of Safe Care, the Shared Responsibility Plan are also included.

This milestone seeks to unify all the plans into one Universal Case Plan, allowing the worker to provide more client-friendly, meaningful action items from one central document. To align with program readiness this milestone also covers Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), including both the Community and Title IV-E Pathways, originally scheduled for Prevention Services.

Current Status:

Design activities are now complete and build is being initiated. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 7.1 – Case Management Assessment (CMA)

Dev Progress Health			Size			Complexity					Time		
Green	Yellow	Red	Small	Medium	Large	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short	Average	Long

Description:

Case Management Assessment will provide information on completed Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessments, National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Survey, Child, and Family Teams (CFT) Survey, Independent Living Plan (ILP), and Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) using the Person-Centered Intelligence System (P-CIS) with our partner Opeeeka. This interface will be accessed using a Single Sign-On (SSO) method where the worker in CWS-CARES will not need to use different credentials to log in and will rather be directed from CWS-CARES into the P-CIS tool to complete the necessary assessment.

Current Status:

Progress health is red for the month of March because due to the delays experienced by Opeeeka in finalizing the design for interface components. Since then, updates to the design have been completed and the stories should be moved to Ready for Development by the end of April. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 10 - Case Closure

Dev Progress Health			Size			Complexity					Time		
Green	Yellow	Red	Small	Medium	Large	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short	Average	Long

Description:

Case Closure provides social workers with the ability to assess cases for closure, finalize and close a case, and support any other areas of practice related to the ending of a child welfare case. This ultimately equips the social worker with the best practices for family engagement in transition and aftercare planning, with the goal of helping families prepare for their exit from Child Welfare and reduce the likelihood they will need services in the future.

Current Status:

Design and build activities are in progress. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 10.1 - Structured Decision Making (SDM)

Dev Progress Health			Size			Complexity					Time		
Green	Yellow	Red	Small	Medium	Large	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short	Average	Long

Description:

This milestone is a suite of decision-support tools that promotes safety and well-being for children and adults. The SDM model combines research with best practices, offering workers a framework for consistent decision making and offering agencies a way to target in-demand resources toward those who can benefit most. The SDM Assessment Tools that will be in CWS-CARES are Hotline Assessment, Risk Assessment, Risk Re-Assessment, Substitute Care Safety Assessment, Congregate Care Safety Assessment, In-Home Safety Assessment, and Reunification Assessment.

Current Status:

Design is nearing completion while build activities continue. Expected completion date for this milestone is July 2025 and will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 11 – Aftercare and Re-Entry

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Aftercare & Re-Entry equips the worker with a platform for intentional planning for aftercare services as a family, child, or youth approaches case closure. The structured format for capturing this planning process (e.g., CFT, case plan, family preservation,) assures that those exiting child welfare case management services are doing so with services, people, and resources in place to provide ongoing support. This is inclusive of informing the family, child, or youth about re-entry should their needs in the future warrant even more support.

Current Status:

Holistic Design activities are ongoing. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 13 – Adoptions

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Adoption improves monitoring of the adoption processes and activities, including document preparation and tracking for adoption finalization. Increases compliance with State rule for Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and other adoption-related requirements. Increases visibility in the adoption process, including adoption stability, re-entry following adoption, and post-adoption services support.

Current Status:

Holistic Design activities are ongoing. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 16 – Jurisdiction and Disposition

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Jurisdiction and Disposition Hearings equips workers to complete the noticing process, prepare for disposition hearings for both detained and non-detained youth, and conduct the necessary preparations for jurisdiction hearings of all petition types. The noticing capabilities in this milestone will overlap with many of the hearing types from Warrants, Court Hearing Framework, and Other Hearings, and ensure proper documentation for hearings are received by the relevant parties. This milestone enables workers to identify parties to send a

notice to, complete a diligent search to locate the absent parent, and notice appropriate parties. The milestone also equips workers to gather and document all evidence to support the Jurisdiction hearing petition allegations, and to obtain a social history from the parents for Disposition hearings.

Current Status:

Design is nearing completion while build activities continue. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 17 – Status Reviews

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Status Reviews equips workers to prepare for a wide variety of status review hearings. This milestone supports the reporting and the documentation outputs from Family Reunification, Family Maintenance, Non-Minor Dependent, and Permanent Plan hearings. Workers will be able to capture all findings and orders from the Court, and store information regarding the court results. This milestone also enables workers to submit case plans for a variety of review hearings, evaluate case progress and conduct Safety Assessments, create and submit Permanency Plans, and create and file letters of Guardianship.

Current Status:

Design is nearing completion while build activities continue. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 18 - Other Hearings

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Other Hearings extends the Court Hearing Framework to cover additional hearing types, including:

366.26 Selection and Implementation. This type of hearing is set after reunification services are terminated or not offered to parents. The purpose of this hearing is to determine and order the Permanent Plan for the child, which may include a plan of Adoption, plan of Tribal Customary Adoption, plan of Legal Guardianship or plan of Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA).

Special or Interim Review. Examples of special/interim hearing topics include Case Plan Compliance, Placement Update, Psychotropic Medication Review, and 15-Day Review Hearing. This milestone also covers hearings related to Nonminor Dependent Re-entry into Extended Foster Care, the 241.1 Joint Assessment with Juvenile Probation, and the Adoption Finalization Hearing. While it will equip social workers to create an Adoption Court Case separate from the Juvenile Court case, it does not cover the filing of Adoption or Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) forms.

Ex Parte Court Filings and Requests for Special Orders. Ad hoc filings may include requests for psychotropic medication, surgical procedures, other invasive medical treatment, use of general anesthesia, travel orders, paternity testing, psychological evaluation orders and requests for Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children placement. This milestone also includes processing records requests and requests for discovery in preparation for court.

Current Status:

Holistic design is nearing completion while build activities continue. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 20.1 – Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED)

Dev Progress Health	Size			Complexity					Time
▼ Complete	Small	▼ Medium	Large	Low	▼ Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short ▼ Average Long

Description:

The FCED interface enables collaboration between the CWS-CARES users and the Foster Care Eligibility Worker by exchanging relevant data about a child for an Eligibility Determination Benefits Calculation (EDBC), including the request status and eligibility results, between CWS-CARES and CalSAWS.

This interface between CWS-CARES and CalSAWS/FCED will remove the need for paper-based processes that rely on the physical exchange of forms between workers. Workers will no longer need to manually enter data from one system to another via those paper forms and automate the eligibility determination process in a cost effective and efficient manner. This will also improve data accuracy, improve ability to report statistics, reduce calls to Foster Care and CWS employees for information, and reduce staff and equipment costs.

Current Status:

Development work related to EUST 2 functionality is now complete. The project continues to refine and document interface work required for EUST 3.

Milestone 21 - Eligibility Programs

Dev Progress Health	Size			Complexity					Time
Green Yellow ▼ Red	Small	▼ Medium	Large	Low	▼ Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short Average ▼ Long

Description:

Eligibility Programs extend the Eligibility Framework established in Request Determination to include other foster care programs. These programs include Kin-GAP (Kinship Guardianship), NRLG (Non-Related Legal Guardian), AAP (Adoption Assistance Programs) and EFC (Extended Foster Care).

Current Status:

Progress health is red for the month of March due to a delay in Design and state reviews for 4 out of 79 blueprints which will be resolved by the end of April. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 23 – Track Administrative Costs

Dev Progress Health	Size			Complexity					Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	Small	Medium	Large	▼ Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

This milestone covers the process of creating a directory for child welfare-related program codes. This directory will enable the tracking of costs within the system and establish a foundation for financial management tracking in CWS-CARES. With this milestone, state fiscal users will have the ability to add and update Program Codes (PCs), Allocations, and Ledger pages through the County Expense Claim (CEC)

interface in the County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS). This functionality will allow fiscal workers to summarize all available funding sources, which can then be used to better support child welfare programs by leveraging existing funding streams.

Current Status:

Holistic design activities continue to be in progress. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 23.1 – Service Delivery Tracking

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

This milestone enables county workers to draft correspondence to the service providers in CWS-CARES. Using the CWS-CARES portal, service providers can log in and conveniently update their provider profile and contract information. The milestone also serves as a platform for service providers to access individual information and family prevention services plan directly and efficiently. Additionally, service providers can utilize the portal to submit cost-tracking information for the services they have provided. The milestone allows various state and county users to generate reports that aggregate service costs by program code, services, and provider. This data will help counties track and analyze spending patterns, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions regarding resource allocation.

Current Status:

Holistic design activities continue to be in progress. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 23.2 – County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS)

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
Green Yellow ▼ Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

This milestone will allow users to view county-specific administrative claim information from the County Expense Claim (CEC) in CECRIS in a centralized area for financial management in CWS-CARES. This information will be fed from a unidirectional data exchange with CECRIS. This information will be read-only to all CWS-CARES users. State fiscal users will have the ability to generate report(s) by program code in CWS-CARES to support accurate reporting on state and federal reports, including the Title IV-E Programs Quarterly Financial Report (CB-496).

Current Status:

The Design is shown in red as it depends on completion of all components in order to show advance in percentage complete. The team is analyzing the adjustments necessary to track those design components and show positive progress that is being made. This is a “mechanical” reporting correction that should be made by the end of April. The Design is due for completion by end of June and is on track. Expected development completion date for this milestone is October 2025 and will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 24 – Track Assistance Costs

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Assistance Costs covers the process of gathering child-specific assistance cost information from the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) including information on aid codes, supplemental rates, dates of payment, level of care, educational travel, and any specialized care increments. The purpose of gathering this child-specific assistance cost information is to aggregate the data in a format that can be used to validate the CA-800 assistance claims. This milestone aims to facilitate the process of tracking and reporting child-specific costs that are required for state and federal reporting (such as CB 496 report). By efficiently aggregating and organizing this information, it enables users to generate accurate and comprehensive reports that meet the reporting standards mandated by CWS-CARES.

Current Status:

Design activities continue to be in progress. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 26 – Maintain Resource Family Home

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
Green Yellow ▼ Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

This milestone covers the maintenance and support of the Resource Family Home. This milestone equips Resource Family Approval (RFA) workers to monitor Resource Family Homes while increasing engagement with families to help and retain qualified Resource Families. In instances where the Resource Family Home is not meeting the standards, the RFA Worker will be able to document what needs to be corrected or follow the process to close the home. The milestone equips the RFA Worker with the tools to maintain the home by contact logs, child welfare history, training updates, and utilizing automated form generation with e-signatures.

Current Status:

Progress health is red for the month of March due to a delay in feedback from the Service Managers and Product Delivery Leads for the completed Holistic Design. It is anticipated these reviews will be complete in April. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 26.1 – Facility Management System (FMS)

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
Green Yellow ▼ Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

The delivery of this interface will populate placement providers from the Licensing Information System-Facility Automation System (LIS-FAS) into the CWS-CARES provider directory. An accurate provider profile with confirmed licensure information from Community Care Licensing in the CWS-CARES provider directory will allow caseworkers to make better placement decisions. The provider directory will also organize data and track

placements and the associated costs of those placements, as well as tie outcomes to the provider. The scope of the FMS Interface for CWS-CARES V1 is limited to LIS and FAS data only.

Current Status:

There is a delay in the start of holistic design activities due to the delay in CDSS contract execution for the onboarding of the new FMS vendor, which has been pushed to mid-May 2025. This delay necessitated the activation of the contingency plan for this interface, whereby the CWS-CARES will develop data feeds to the legacy LIS and FAS systems to obtain data that otherwise would have come from the FMS. Design is in progress and on track to complete in June 2025. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 27 - Complaints

Dev Progress Health			Size			Complexity					Time		
Green	Yellow	▼ Red	▼ Small	Medium	Large	▼ Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short	Average	▼ Long

Description:

Complaints covers the process of screening a complaint and investigating a complaint against a Resource Family Home. The milestone equips the RFA Worker with the ability review the complaint, add allegations as necessary, and access RFH home information in CWS-CARES. This allows the RFA Worker to make an informed decision on the best pathway for a complaint. In instances when a complaint warrants an investigation, the milestone equips the RFA Investigator with the tools to complete a thorough and timely investigation by utilizing contact logs, complaint history, allegation updates, and automated form generation with e-signature capabilities.

Current Status:

Progress health is red for the month of March due to a delay in feedback from the Service Managers and Product Delivery Leads for the completed Holistic Design. It is anticipated these reviews will be complete in April. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 28 – Legal Action

Dev Progress Health			Size			Complexity					Time		
Green	Yellow	▼ Red	▼ Small	Medium	Large	▼ Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Short	Average	▼ Long

Description:

Legal Action covers the legal consultation to Resource Family Homes and handles the outcomes in a confidential manner. The RFA Worker will be equipped to schedule legal consult when there are administrative action requests. The RFA Worker will aid in the process of Legal Action with the Resource Family Home by providing resources and monitor the legal consults. The milestone equips the RFA Worker with the tools to provide timely legal consultation through contact logs, permission sets, child welfare history, and utilizing automated form generation with e-signatures.

Current Status:

Progress health is red for the month of March due to a delay in feedback from the Service Managers and Product Delivery Leads for the completed Holistic Design. It is anticipated these reviews will be complete in April. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 29 – Federal Reports

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Federal Reports - Extends and consolidates metric development completed in previous milestones to generate required Federal Extracts (e.g., National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)) and deliver interactive dashboard views of Federal Statewide Indicators and other required Federal reports, including those required to draw down Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) funds. CWS-CARES dashboards will support pulling multiple populations as appropriate, including entry cohorts, exit cohorts, attribute- defined cohorts and point-in-time snapshots.

Current Status:

Analysis of state report data elements and CARES functionality is complete. Report development is progressing as planned and aligned with CARES functionality to capture necessary data points. The reports remain on target for inclusion within EUST 3-R scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 30 – Federal Reports

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

State Reports - Extends and consolidates metric development completed in previous milestones to deliver interactive thematic dashboard views of both State and Federal metrics. Thematic dashboards organize process, practice (fidelity) and outcome metrics by theme, such as Prevention, Safety and Permanency.

Current Status:

Analysis of federal report data elements and CARES functionality is complete. Report development is progressing as planned and aligned with CARES functionality to capture necessary data points. The reports remain on target for inclusion within EUST 3-R scheduled for February 2026.

Milestone 32 – Admin Console

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
▼ Green Yellow Red	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Admin Console - The Administrator Console will give county and state administrators of CARES access to configuration features to meet county-specific needs and to maintain CARES for new programs and policies. These Administrative Services include identity and access management to create and update user accounts and permissions, create and update county-specific forms templates, and configure workflows for assignment and supervisor reviews and approvals.

Current Status:

Requirements are complete and blueprint designs are proceeding as planned with milestone being on target for EUST 3 starting in February 2026.

User Feedback

Summary

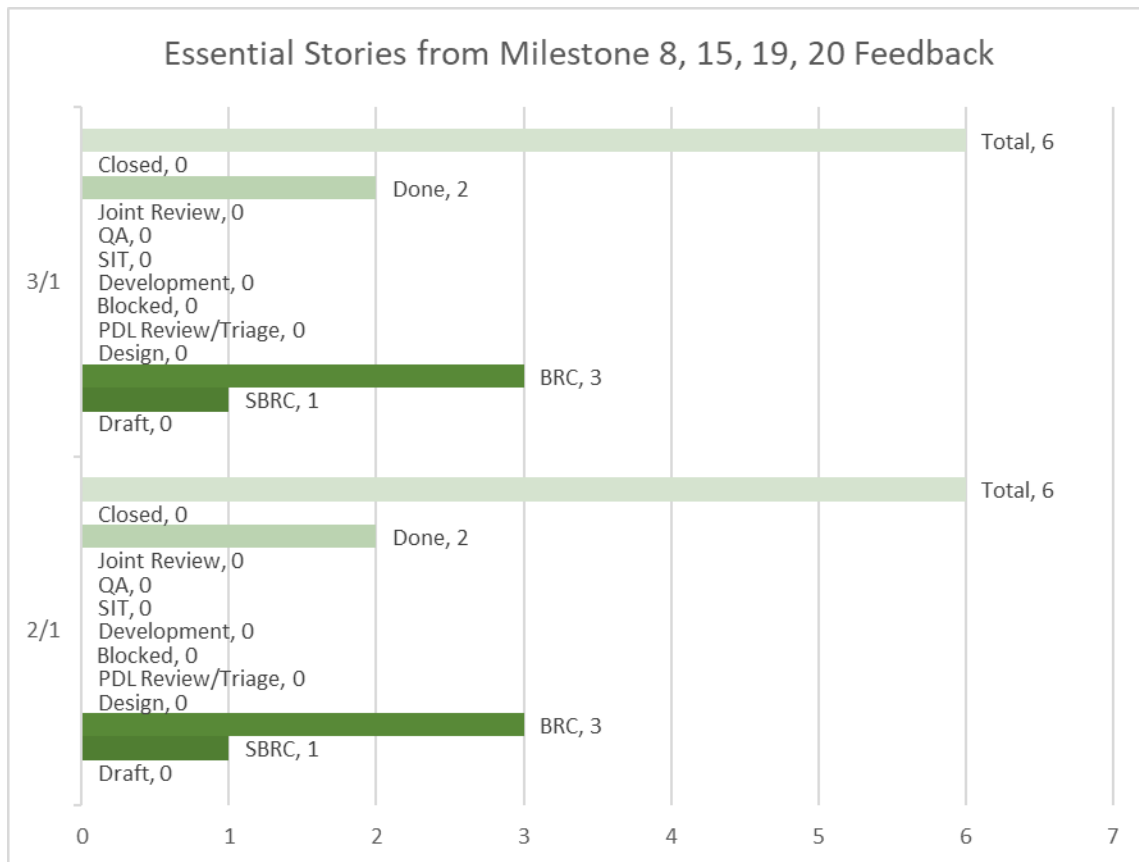
- EUST 1 was completed in March 2024 with current status provided below.
- Milestone User Feedback for Milestones 8, 15, 19, and 20 completed in January 2025 with current status provided below
- EUST 2 kicked off on March 24
- EUST 2 execution targeted to complete on April 22
- EUST 2 results will be presented in the June 2025 Legislative Update
- EUST 3 and EUST 3-R is planned to start in February 2026
- EUST 4 is planned to start in May 2026

Detailed Testing Status

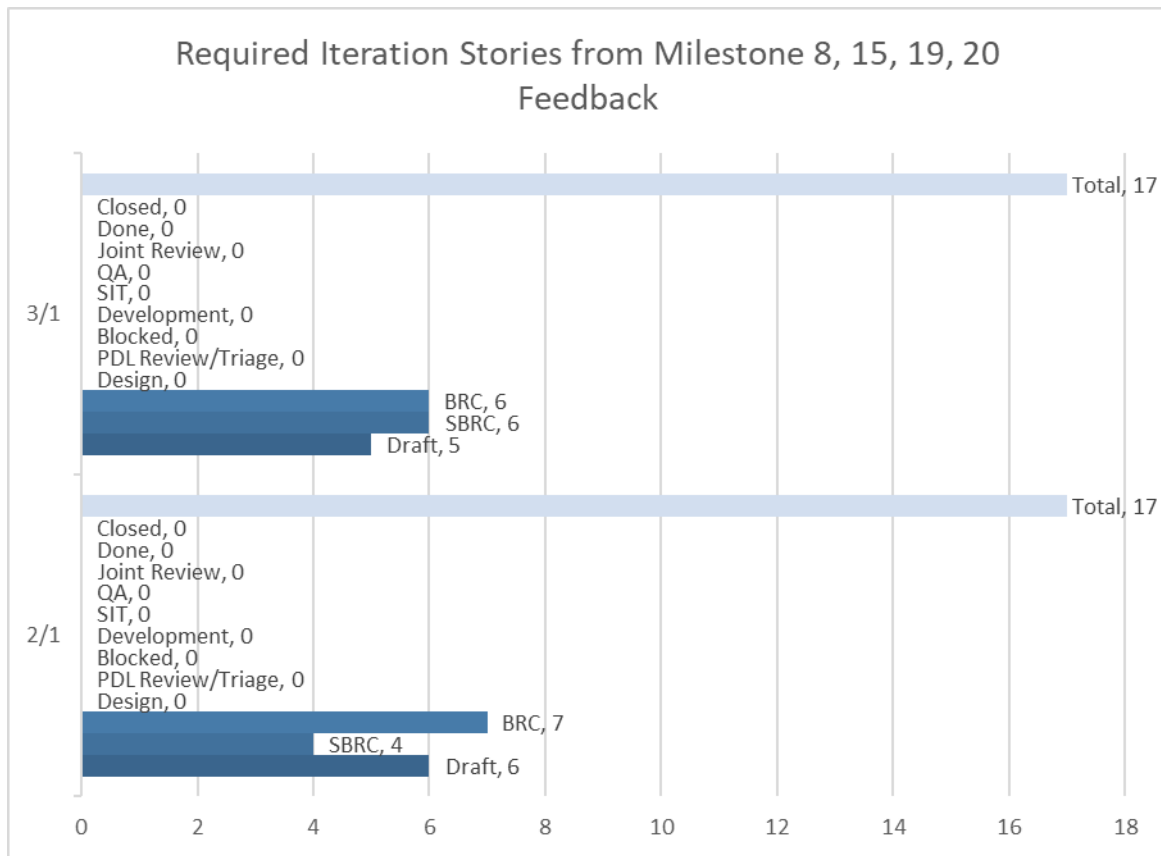
Milestone 8, 15, 19, 20 Feedback

In January 2025, the CWS-CARES project conducted a Milestone User Feedback period with internal project team members, covering Milestones 8, 15, 19, and 20. The team logged 339 raw items of feedback across five service areas: Case Management, Courts, Eligibility, Intake, and Resource Management. Of these 339 raw feedback items, 23 new stories (comprised of 6 Essential and 17 Required Iteration) were written and will be included in CWS-CARES V1. The remaining raw feedback items were categorized as the following: Design Change, Bug, Existing Story, Training, No Longer Applicable, Out of Scope, or Positive Feedback. The CWS-CARES project will continue to share updates on the status of the 23 stories produced by this feedback going forward.

The following graphs reflect the breakdown of Essential and Required Iteration stories produced by feedback received during the January 2025 Milestone User Feedback Period and will be updated to include two prior months in future reports. Work on these 6 stories was paused in March to accommodate EUST 2 activities. Upon completion of EUST 2, the project will analyze, group and link the user feedback to any of the prior user feedback stories to ensure we do not duplicate efforts. Once prioritized, the stories will be added and aligned with other planned EUST 3 work.



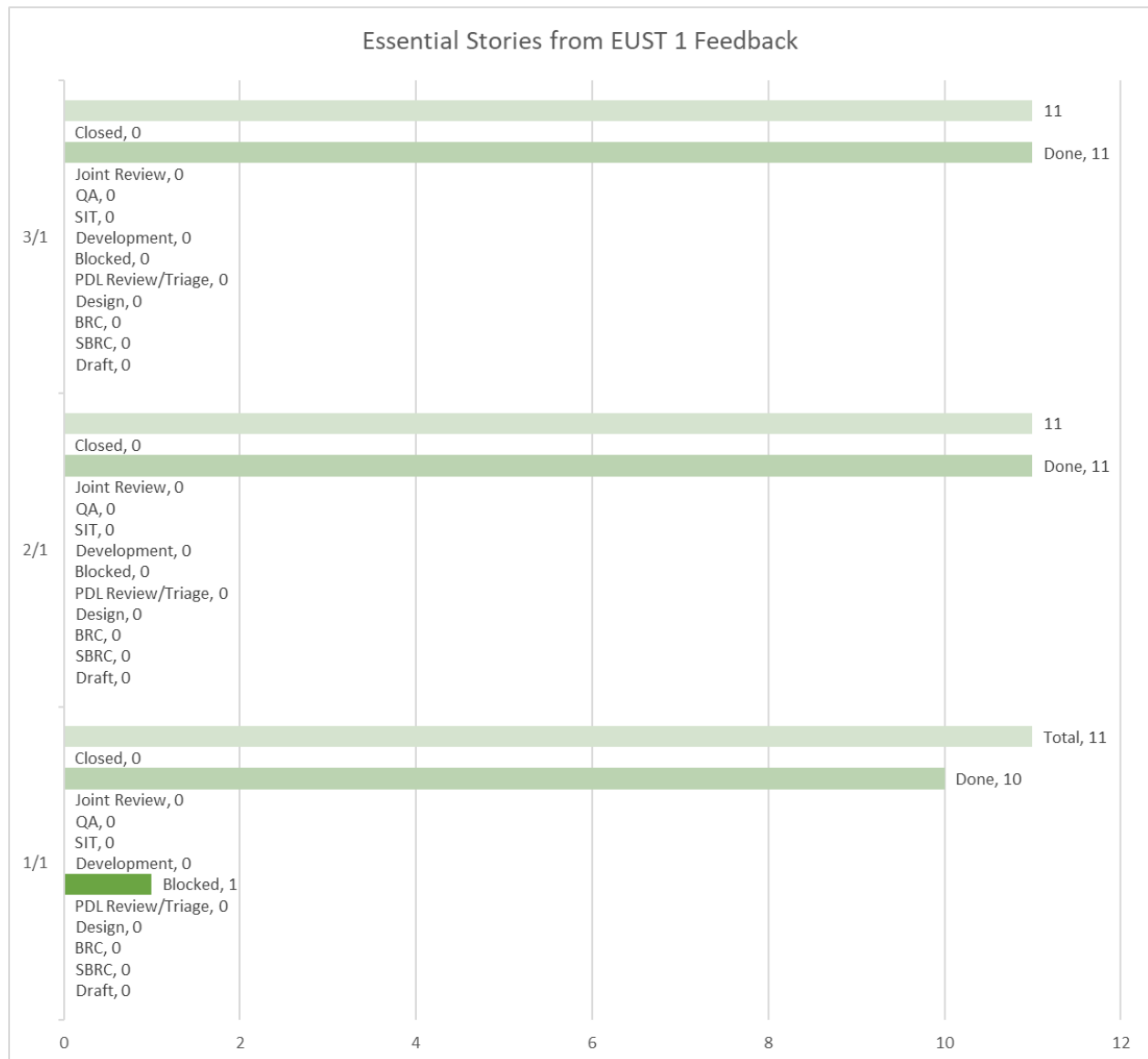
Acronyms: Business Requirements Closed (BRC); Submitted to BRC (SBRC); Product Delivery Lead (PDL); System Integration Testing (SIT); Quality Assurance (QA)



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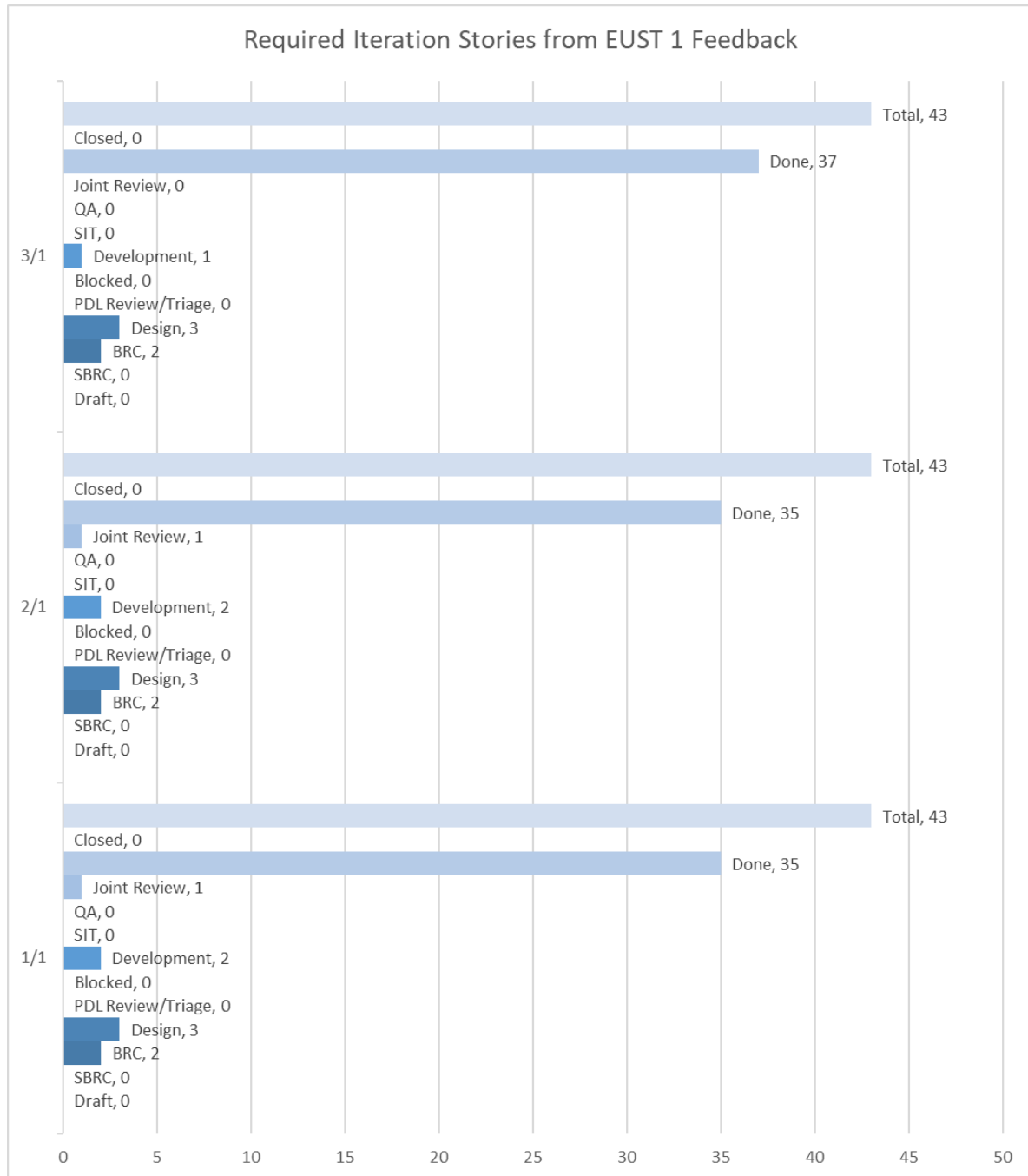
EUST 1 Feedback

The following graphs reflect the breakdown of Essential and Required Iteration stories produced by feedback received during the EUST 1 Milestone User Feedback Period and includes two prior months. Essential stories were completed in the month of February. Starting in the April 2025 Legislative Update, the EUST 1 tables will be replaced by EUST 2.



Acronyms: Business Requirements Closed (BRC); Submitted to BRC (SBRC); Product Delivery Lead (PDL); System Integration Testing (SIT); Quality Assurance (QA)

Progress on required iteration stories continued between February and March.



Acronyms: Business Requirements Closed (BRC); Submitted to BRC (SBRC); Product Delivery Lead (PDL); System Integration Testing (SIT); Quality Assurance (QA)

Data/Document Conversion

The data conversion team continued to focus on the activities related to the active milestones listed above.

The team completed Data Conversion Cycle 4 in early March. We engaged 157 data SMEs from 45 counties, one tribe, and CDSS to review and validate how data was mapped and transformed from CWS/CMS to CWS-CARES. In addition, 63 data SMEs from 20 Core Constituent counties participated in viewing and validating converted data in the live converted environment in CWS-CARES.

Cycle 5 data conversion practices validation will begin in April 2025. In practices validation, data subject matter experts review data conversion Source to Target Mappings (STTM) for data elements and lists of values, aligning the conversion of data elements with business needs, County specific uses, CDSS, and state and federal reporting requirements. Cycle 5 activities are scheduled to complete by July 2025.

The project is proactively monitoring and managing additional documents added to CWS/CMS and the documents are extracted and converted on a weekly basis. The below shows progress of the ongoing Phase 3, bringing the total to 9,246,256 as of March 2025

Extract	Status	Total # of Doc	Planned	Extracted	Infected¹	Deleted by Worker or Corrupted²
Phase 1	Completed (6/15/23)	68,827,906	68,827,906	68,793,343	2,455	34,563
Phase 2	Completed (6/27/23)	3,342,252	3,342,252	3,330,762	0	11,490
Phase 3	Ongoing (3/26/25)	Continuous until Go-Live	9,309,179	9,246,256	0	62,923

User Adoption Summary

Pilot Status Update – During the month of March, the implementation team continued regular internal Pilot Workgroup meetings to gather input on Pilot development. The implementation team disseminated Pilot Plan Iteration 2A to the CWS-CARES Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and CWDS Board of Directors (BOD), and incorporated revisions. Pilot Plan Iteration 2A is on track to submit to BOD in April. In addition, they finalized the Pilot Selection Criteria and Process and prepared materials to send to the County Welfare Directors' Association (CWDA) to initiate the Pilot volunteer solicitation process. In March, the team developed a Pilot Communications Plan with recommended key messages, target audiences, delivery channels and a schedule. The implementation team reviewed the Pilot Communications Plan with Strategic Communications team, internal Pilot Workgroup, and ELT for review and feedback. Once finalized, the team will execute the plan and begin sharing information about key Pilot activities and milestones. The Pilot Plan Iteration 2A is scheduled for approval by mid-May and the Pilot Selection process is scheduled for completion by end of May. Counties and CWDA will receive formal notification of Pilot Selection at the beginning of June.

¹ The infected files column identifies the number of documents that the conversion process identified as having a virus. These were not converted into CWS-CARES. The project has identified the associated counties and is working on a communication.

² The deleted by worker/corrupted files column identifies the number of documents that the worker a) deleted from CWS/CMS during the conversion phases or b) tried to upload to CWS/CMS, but there was an issue, and the CWS/CMS mainframe was unable to save the file in its entirety.

Organizational Change Management (OCM) – In early March, the OCM team launched the *CWS-CARES 101* video, which expands on the benefits of CWS-CARES from the previous two videos in the series. The next video in the series, *Get to Know CWS-CARES: Intake: Screening & Investigations*, is planned to launch in June 2025 and will walk through a day in the life of a Hotline Worker and Emergency Response Worker. Additionally, the OCM team scheduled the regional Intake: Screening & Investigations Process Information Sessions for May 2025. The team discussed these sessions and the CWS-CARES 101 video during the monthly OCM Advisory Workgroup meeting on March 19. The team also prepared to deliver foundational OCM Training to CDSS that is scheduled for April 2.

County Child Welfare Engagement – The implementation team continues to conduct monthly meetings with each county to discuss upcoming Go-Live readiness activities. During the month of March, the team focused on educating counties about the Super User Program and the upcoming Process Information Sessions. The Super User Program is an optional program for counties aimed at enhancing end-user readiness to adopt CWS-CARES, providing early CWS-CARES training, and ultimately establishing a county-based CWS-CARES-V1 support framework to enable a positive end-user experience with CWS-CARES.

CDSS Engagement - Implementation engagement efforts continued into the month of March. During regular meetings, the team partnered with CDSS Divisions to work on the following implementation readiness tools: Organization and System-Use Assessments, Training Logistics Planning Sessions, and Communications Plans. As of March, each of the nine Organization and System-Use Assessments were completed, eight of nine Training Logistics Planning Sessions were completed, and one of nine Communications Plans were completed.

Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements with CDSS - The implementation team participated in the monthly CDSS Title IV-E Agreement working meetings for the Karuk and Yurok Tribes on March 19 and 26, respectively. The implementation team used its agenda time to address any follow-up questions from the Implementation Kick-Off Meetings that were held in February with both Tribes' implementation teams and to advise on next steps, including the Organization Assessment. Additionally, the Implementation Lead for the Karuk and Yurok Tribes established a regular meeting cadence with the Implementation Coordinators from each Tribe. The team continues to support both Tribes as appropriate and maintain alignment with CDSS regarding implementation engagement with the Tribes.

Juvenile Probation - The implementation team is collaborating with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) to facilitate the creation of Probation Organization Implementation Teams. As of March, the implementation team received the names of the assigned County Implementation Coordinators from 57 of 58 counties. In addition, CWS-CARES Implementation Leads have scheduled 38 Probation Kick-Off Meetings and completed 18 Kick-Off Meetings. Additionally, the implementation team supported ELT in providing a CWS-CARES Project update and implementation overview during the Probation Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting held on March 20.

Sandbox – The project continues to plan for a Sandbox Environment to be used by Organizations in preparation for CWS-CARES V1 end-user readiness activities and hands-on exposure to the CWS-CARES system. On March 19, the OCM team sent a survey to all county Single Points of Contact (SPOCs), Implementation Coordinators, and OCM Coordinators to request input on intended Sandbox usage in the counties to enable effective and accurate planning for the support of the Sandbox. The team completed analysis of the responses received from 34 counties and 4 CDSS divisions and factored in similar usage for the 24 counties who did not respond. This will help determine the anticipated usage for each month when Sandbox will be active and available to counties. Following the analysis, the team is working to reflect these inputs through the Sandbox support structure and finalize the Sandbox Engagement Strategy.

Training – In March, the training team delivered 25 live virtual training classes for 181 Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST) 2 testers. Training surveys showed that 98% of the participants agreed that learning objectives were clearly defined and achieved. The training team continues to build the on-demand learning programs and lessons for end-to-end system functionality within CWS-CARES. The team continued to meet in March with the Training Advisory Workgroup to review training materials and the CWS-CARES Training Approach. To gain direct county leadership input on the Training Approach, a survey was sent to County Directors, Child Welfare Directors, CWS-CARES Implementation Coordinators, CWS-CARES Training Coordinators, and CWS-CARES

Single Points of Contact (SPOCS). The purpose of this survey is to solicit feedback from Organizations on their preferences related to in-person and virtual end-user training modalities. This information will be used to inform statewide end-user training planning.

ACF Monthly Reporting on User Engagement & Adoption – The Strategic Communications Team submitted the sixteenth (16th) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) monthly report on user engagement and adoption for the March meeting. This month's ACF report included a summary of the Milestone User Feedback conducted from January 6 to January 17. Milestone User Feedback allows internal Product Delivery Leads, Service Managers, and County Consultants to test specific functionalities for select milestones before Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST) 2. The CWS-CARES Project Team incorporated the feedback from Milestone User Feedback to enhance the EUST 2, from is running from March 24 to April 18, 2025.

External Communications & Engagement – The Strategic Communications Team published the last manually generated CWS-CARES Meeting Calendar that included March, April, and May 2025 meetings. This calendar captures recurring meetings hosted and facilitated by CWS-CARES Project staff and include the CARES Implementation Meeting, CWS-CARES workgroup meetings, and Core Constituent demonstrations and service area meetings. This calendar was replaced by the [CWDS Online Meeting and Event Calendar](#). This is a new CWDS webpage for Core Constituents that launched on March 28. The new online, near real-time calendar includes meeting/event name, date, and time, and is accessible through the public facing CWDS website. The CWS-CARES Project Team expects this online calendar to further increase engagement and user feedback.

The Strategic Communications Team also supported the distribution and results analysis for Core Constituent Survey #4. The Core Constituent Surveys are sent quarterly to capture participant sentiment, identify areas for improvement in Core Constituent Meetings, and mitigation steps.

The Strategic Communications Team published a new issue of the [CARES Compass](#), a bimonthly 2-page summary of upcoming CWS-CARES communications, and brief project highlights, and the [CARES Explorer](#), a full-length 11 page newsletter of informational items and specific topics with more detailed project information for external audiences. In addition, the team enhanced the [CWS-CARES Public Library](#), a searchable repository of project information with four key categories: Product Features, Service Areas and Milestones, Teams and Roles, and Data and Interfaces.

The team also shared a summary with Core Constituents of how their feedback has shaped project improvements through the [Core Constituent Orientation Guide](#). Finally, the Strategic Communications Team distributed the second annual Communications Effectiveness Survey between March 10 – March 21, this survey gathers information about the effectiveness of CWS-CARES project communications and identify opportunities for improvement.

Other Completed Work Products – The Strategic Communications Team completed the following work products and activities: the CWS-CARES Library Communication and Deployment Plan, supported communications for EUST 2 user outreach, Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED), External Systems, and added branding and content consistency for a Person-Centered Intelligence Solution (P-CIS) flyer.

Budget and Expenditures

2023-24 CWS-CARES Report Summary

OTSI Spending Authority Budget Item	2023/24 Budget ¹	2023/24 Expenditures ²
Personal Services	\$12,737,690	\$10,907,261
Other Operating Expenses & Equipment (OE&E)	\$17,175,146	\$11,940,969
Data Center Services	\$3,287,333	\$2,355,399
Contract Services	\$120,997,254	\$97,569,488
Enterprise Services	\$6,054,638	\$5,333,714
OTSI Spending Authority Total	\$160,252,061	\$128,106,831

CDSS Local Assistance Budget Item	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Expenditures
CDSS Salary & Benefits ³	\$1,360,000	\$1,188,959
CDSS OE&E (Includes Travel and Training) ³	\$405,250	\$510
Contract Services ^{3,5}	\$981,000	\$983,698
County Regional Training Academy ³	\$306,251	\$0
Core Constituent Participation Costs ⁴	\$23,000,000	\$5,211,227
CDSS Local Assistance Total	\$26,052,501	\$7,384,394

Project Totals	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Expenditures
CWS-CARES Project Total	\$186,304,562	\$135,491,225

¹ 2023/24 budget aligns with the SPR 6, with employee compensation adjustments, and is inclusive of CWS-CARES only costs. CARES-Live costs are not included.

² Actual expenditures through June 2024 FI\$Cal reports and approved invoices through March 28, 2025.

³ CDSS Local Assistance expenditures through June 2024. CDSS Salary & Benefits and OE&E expenditures through June 2024.

⁴ CDSS Fiscal Monitoring Unit confirmed four quarters of expenditures for Core Constituent Participation, and four quarters of expenditures for Tribal Core Constituents.

⁵ CDSS Local Assistance Contract Services is over budget due to an increase in IPOC cost rates.

Budget and Expenditures

2024-25 CWS-CARES Report Summary

OTSI Spending Authority Budget Item	2024/25 Budget ¹	2024/25 Expenditures
Personal Services ²	\$14,237,657	\$6,877,275
Other Operating Expenses & Equipment (OE&E) ²	\$19,223,537	\$14,308,856
Data Center Services ²	\$3,349,028	\$1,480,831
Contract Services ²	\$133,673,182	\$54,662,301
Enterprise Services ²	\$6,069,496	\$2,978,989
OTSI Spending Authority Total	\$176,552,900	\$80,308,252

CDSS Local Assistance Budget Item	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Expenditures
CDSS Salary & Benefits ³	\$1,520,000	\$767,377
CDSS OE&E (Includes Travel and Training) ³	\$462,000	\$333
Contract Services ³	\$981,000	\$525,339
County Regional Training Academy ³	\$306,251	\$0
Core Constituent Participation Costs ⁴	\$30,822,770	\$3,154,084
CDSS Local Assistance Total	\$34,092,021	\$4,447,133

Project Totals	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Expenditures
CWS-CARES Project Total	\$210,644,921	\$84,755,385

¹ 2024/25 budget aligns with SPR 6 plus BL 24-27 and BL 24-28 and is inclusive of CWS-CARES only costs. CARES-Live costs are not included.

² Actual expenditures through December 2024 FI\$Cal reports and approved invoices through March 28, 2025.

³ CDSS Local Assistance expenditures through January 2025. CDSS Salary & Benefits and OE&E expenditures through January 2025.

⁴ CDSS Fiscal Monitoring Unit confirmed two quarters of expenditures for Core Constituent Participation.

CCWIS vs. Non-CCWIS Status

Of the seven Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Annual APDU approval conditions required by ACF prior to Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) funding being reinstated retroactively for the CWS-CARES project, five conditions have been resolved and two remain in active status. On March 12, ACF agreed that the condition to reconcile project expenditure claims had been met. This approval condition required the State to reconcile project expenditures to ensure proper claiming of CCWIS and non-CCWIS costs. For the two remaining conditions, the project will respond to the outstanding questions for Itemized Accounting of CARES-Live Costs in the upcoming APDU and the Monitor Project Schedule condition is pending ACF's virtual project monitoring review scheduled for May 16-23. ACF will decide on CCWIS funding reinstatement within 60 days after the virtual review or approximately mid-July 2025.

Earned Value Management

CWS-CARES uses Earned Value Management (EVM), in compliance with SPR 6, to measure project progress and forecast project completion in terms of budget and schedule. Each month, a Schedule Performance Index (SPI) and a Cost Performance Index (CPI) is calculated using data sets provided by the project. An SPI of 1.0 indicates that the project is on schedule per the plan. Similarly, a CPI of 1.0 indicates that the project is on budget related to the work performed.

SPI for the month of March continues in yellow due to the challenges listed above with Milestone 20: Redetermine Eligibility & Placement/Information Change, Milestone 21: Eligibility Programs, Milestone 7.1: Case Management Assessment (CMA), Milestone 26: Maintain Resource Family Home, Milestone 27: Complaints, Milestone 28: Legal Action, Milestone 23.2: CECRIS and Milestone 26.1: Facility Management System (FMS).

Metric	3/15/2025	2/15/2025	1/15/2025	Description
Planned V1 Percent Complete	55%	53%	50%	Planned percent complete as of this date.
Actual V1 Percent Complete	53%	51%	49%	Actual percent complete as of this date.
Schedule Performance Index (SPI)	0.968	0.973	0.975	Schedule performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Cost Performance Index (CPI)	1.255	1.233	1.224	Cost performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Estimated to Complete (ETC, V1)	\$348,453,206	\$368,381,509	\$388,628,292	Estimated cost to complete the project.
Estimated at Completion (EAC, V1)	\$743,679,317	\$756,830,872	\$762,424,133	Estimated cost at completion of the project.
Forecast V1 Completion	12/22/2026	12/13/2026	12/10/2026	Date V1 is forecasted to complete.
Forecast V2 Completion	7/9/2028	6/27/2028	6/24/2028	Date V2 is forecasted to complete.
Earned Cost (EC)	\$495,912,601	\$478,939,650	\$457,491,521	Budget for work actual completed to date.
Actual Cost (AC)	\$395,226,111	\$388,449,363	\$373,795,842	Actual cost for work completed to date.

Legend

> 0.99	0.95 – 0.99	< 0.95
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Vendor Contracts

There were no contracts or contract amendments were executed during the month of March 2025.

The following contracts or contract amendments were submitted to the ACF during the month of March 2025.

Contract	Purpose	Contract Cost	Term	Notes
	Independent Advisor Services	\$1,014,840.00	4/14/25 - 4/13/27	Re-procurement of Independent Advisor Services.

High Priority Risks

For the March 2025 reporting period, zero (0) high priority risks were opened, closed, or continuing. The PMO continues to actively mitigate the project's remaining medium and low priority risks in the bi-weekly risks and issues forum.

New High Priority Risks

There are zero (0) new high priority risks for the month of March.

Continuing High Priority Risks

There are zero (0) continuing high priority risks for the month of March.

Closed High Priority Risks

There are zero (0) closed high priority risks for the month of March.

High Priority Issues

For the March 2025 reporting period, no new high priority issues were opened or closed. One high priority issue is continuing. The PMO continues to actively resolve the project's high, medium, and low issues in the bi-weekly risks and issues forum.

New High Priority Issues

There are zero (0) new high priority issues for the month of March.

Continuing High Priority Issues

There is one (1) continuing high priority issue for the month of March.

Issue	Impact	Status
Identification of New Requirements/Scenarios Associated with Eligibility-RI-275 <u>Description:</u> During business and technical workshop sessions with CalSAWS, new scenarios were identified. This has resulted in	Delays owing to the newly identified scenarios will impact various aspects of CARES development inclusive of context setting/research, BRC, design, Build/SIT, QA, and end to end testing. The impacts could collectively impact overall Milestone timelines, impact the	<u>Progress as of March 31, 2025:</u> The team plans to use the change control process (that was mutually agreed upon with CalSAWS) to incorporate the additional 30 - 40 new requirements (still in the SBRC preliminary phase) and resolve the schedule impact.

significant product scope increase and requires prioritization in order to maintain project schedule.	downstream milestones and if unmitigated, have the risk of impacting overall V1 Timeline.	The current resolution date is 5/30/25.
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Closed High Priority Issues

There are zero (0) closed high priority issues for the month of March.

Appendix

EUST Schedule

Below is a list of all milestones, their respective scheduled EUST session and the duration of each phase.

EUST	Milestones		Duration
EUST 2	01 – Provider Profile 02 – Services 06 – Case Management: Engagement 08 – Placement 15 – Court Hearing Framework 15.1 – Interface – JNET 19 – Request Determination 20 – Redetermine Eligibility & Placement/Information Change 20.1 – Interface – FCED (partial)		4 weeks Mar – Apr 2025
EUST 3	06.1 – Prevention Services 07 – Case Plan 07.1 – Interface – CMA 09 – Case Management: Engagement & Services 10 – Case Closure 10.1 – Interface - SDM 11 – Aftercare & Re-entry 13 – Adoption 14 – Warrants 16 – Jurisdiction and Disposition Hearing 17 – Status Reviews	18 – Other Hearings 20.1 – Interface – FCED (remaining) 21 – Eligibility Programs 23 – Track Administrative Costs 23.1 – Service Delivery Tracking 23.2 – Interface – CECRIS 24 – Track Assistance Costs 26 – Maintain Resource Family Home 26.1 – Interface – FMS (LIS-FAS data) 27 – Complaints 28 – Legal Action 32 – Admin Services Console	6 weeks Feb – Mar 2026
EUST 3 – Reports/Admin	29 – Federal Reports 30 – State Reports 31 – Ad hoc Reports		6 weeks Mar – Apr 2026
EUST 4	End-to-End Validation of all Product and Interface Milestones		4 weeks May – Jun 2026