

CWS-CARES Legislative Update

May 2025

Executive Summary

Highlights

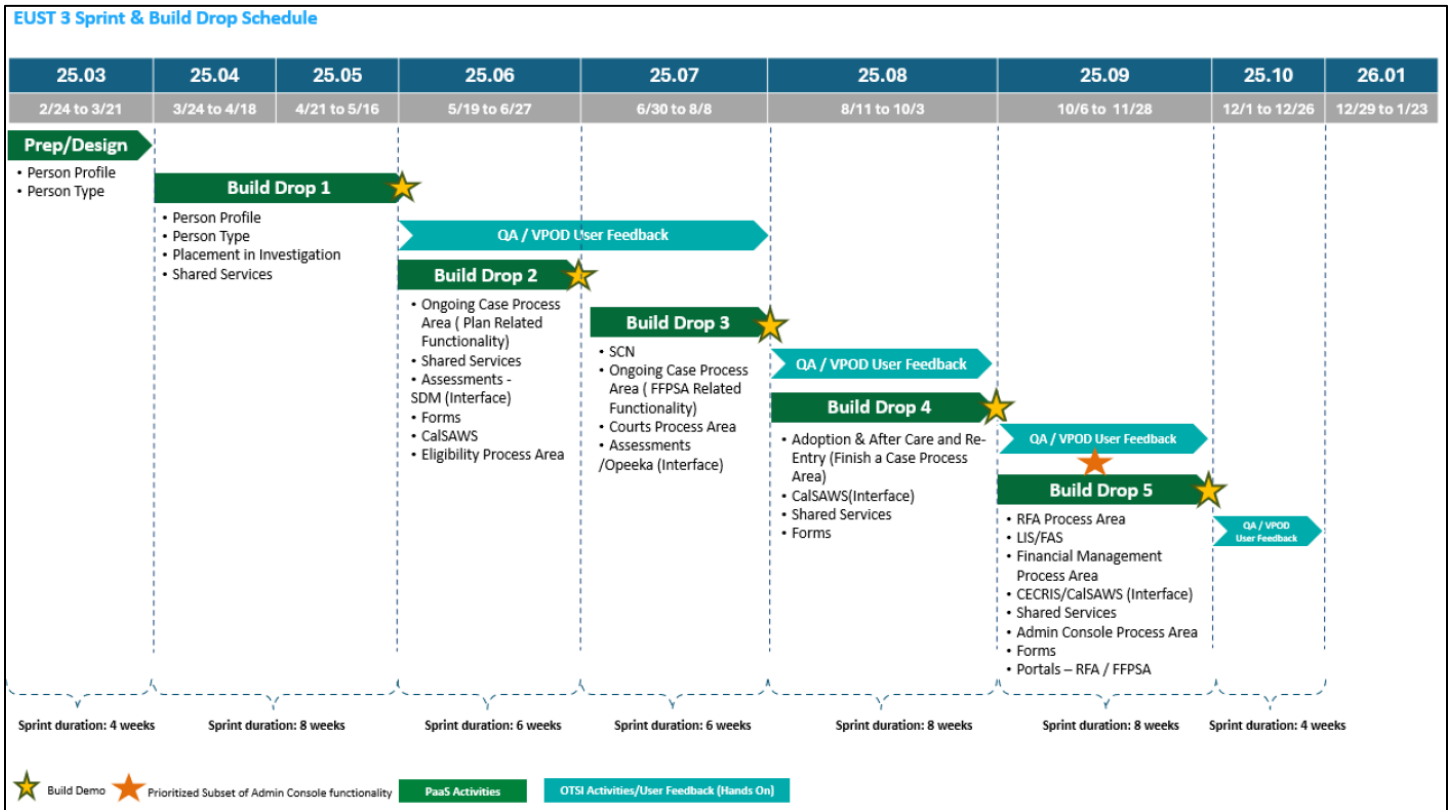
- The project submitted an As-Needed Advanced Planning Document Update (APDU) on May 23 to demonstrate the state's full compliance with the outstanding project condition and to request reinstatement of CCWIS funding retroactive to October 2023, the beginning of federal fiscal year 2024.
- Pilot County Selection: Five counties (Butte, Fresno, San Mateo, Tuolumne, and San Diego) confirmed for Pilot participation, representing key demographics and operational diversity. The project continues to meet with Los Angeles to ensure we are meeting their needs.
- Milestone 10.1: Structured Decision Making (SDM) achieved green status after design completion and finding resolutions to previous delays.
- Milestone 11: Aftercare & Re-Entry, Milestone 13: Adoption, and Milestone 27: Complaints went from red to green in May.
- Milestone 21: Eligibility Programs completed vendor testing in May.
- Milestone 28: Legal Action went from red to yellow in May.
- The Schedule Performance Index (SPI) remains yellow, and the Cost Performance Index (CPI) remains green in May.

Challenges

- Milestone 26.1: Facility Management System (FMS) went from green to red in May as multiple rounds of feedback are being conducted.
- Milestone 32: Admin Console business requirements went from done back to red in May because of three new tasks were added after the plan was finalized in February 2025. These new tasks are currently undergoing review and approval.
- Milestone 23: Track Administrative Costs, Milestone 23.1: Service Delivery Tracking, Milestone 23.2: County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS), Milestone 24: Track Assistance Costs, and Milestone 26: Maintain Resource Family Home remain in red status for May due to the challenges outlined below.

Updated Build Drop Sprint Schedule

To support the delivery of functionality by feature set, the project team has revised the Sprint Schedule for the remainder of the year and realigned user stories into groups referred to as Build Drops. This restructuring is intended to better align the system development lifecycle (SDLC) with the Holistic Design approach for EUST 3. Quality Assurance (QA) testing at the user story level will commence once the complete feature set associated with each Build Drop has been delivered. Business scenario testing is planned to follow the QA phase. The testing scenarios developed for each Build Drop will also serve as inputs for EUST 3, enabling the project teams to better manage EUST preparation in smaller, more achievable increments. All functionality remains on track for EUST 3 in February 2026.



Simplified Milestone Development Dashboard

The milestone chart below illustrates the development progress across business requirements, design, build, vendor testing, and state testing, grouped by Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST) alignment. It is important to note that a "Ready for User Feedback" status of 100% marks the milestone complete, however user feedback testing will occur during the designated EUST period.

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%	31%	11%	6%	6%
Milestone 7.1: Case Management Assessment (CMA)	2024-04-15	2025-12-26	100%	100%	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%	85%	78%	78%	78%	78%
Milestone 10.1: Structured Decision Making (SDM)	2023-04-24	2025-07-11	100%	100%	100%	67%	45%	44%

Milestone	Milestone Start Date	Milestone End Date	Business Requirement	Design	Build	Vendor Testing (SIT)	State Testing (QA)	Ready for User Feedback
Milestone 11: Aftercare & Re-Entry	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	71%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 13: Adoption	2024-02-12	2025-12-30	100%	77%	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%	100%	19%	11%	10%	10%
Milestone 17: Status Reviews	2024-01-02	2025-12-30	100%	100%	11%	11%	9%	9%
Milestone 18: Other Hearings	2023-05-22	2025-12-30	100%	100%	42%	42%	42%	42%
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%	100%	100%	100%	97%	97%
Milestone 23: Track Administrative Costs	2024-03-25	2025-12-30	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 23.1: Service Delivery Tracking	2024-03-25	2025-12-30	100%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 23.2: County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS)	2024-06-17	2025-10-31	100%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 24: Track Assistance Costs	2024-01-01	2025-12-30	100%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 26: Maintain Resource Family Home	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	64%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 26.1: Facility Management System (FMS)	2024-03-25	2025-11-28	100%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Milestone 27: Complaints	2023-06-19	2025-12-30	100%	87%	71%	71%	67%	65%
Milestone 28: Legal Action	2024-02-26	2025-12-30	100%	64%	1%	1%	1%	1%
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%	66%	54%	53%	53%	53%
Milestone 32: Admin Console	2024-08-12	2025-10-31	99%	69%	62%	62%	62%	61%

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:

Build and testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 2 (June 2025) and build drop 3 (August 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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 Opeeka. 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:

Design was completed in the month of May. Build and testing activities started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 3 (August 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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, build and testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 4 (October 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Build activities completed in May while testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 2 (June 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Design, build and testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 4 (October 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Design, build and testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 4 (October 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Build and testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 3 (August 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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 activities completed in May. Build and testing activities started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 3 (August 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Build and testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 3 (August 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in February 2026.

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:

Build and testing activities completed in May and is ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 2 (June 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Progress health is red for the month of May as the project is still waiting to finish reviewing feedback from the first round of design, Cycle 1. Cycle 2 activities involving demonstrations to county constituents have commenced. Build and testing activities have not started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Progress health is red for the month of May as the project is still waiting to finish reviewing feedback from the first round of design, Cycle 1. Cycle 2 activities involving demonstrations to county constituents have commenced. Build and testing activities have not started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Progress health is red for the month of May as the project is still waiting to finish reviewing feedback from the first round of design, Cycle 1. Cycle 2 activities involving demonstrations to county constituents have commenced. Build and testing activities have not started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Progress health is red for the month of May as the project is still waiting to finish reviewing feedback from the first round of design, Cycle 1. Cycle 2 activities involving demonstrations to county constituents have commenced. Build and testing activities have not started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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 May as multiple rounds of feedback are being conducted by Product Delivery Leads (PDL) and Service Managers (SM). This milestone is part of the Resource Family Approval process area. Build and testing activities have not started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Progress health is red for the month of May as multiple rounds of feedback are being conducted by Product Delivery Leads (PDL) and Service Managers (SM). This milestone is part of the Resource Family Approval process area. Build and testing activities have not started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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:

Design, build and testing activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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 yellow for the month of May as multiple rounds of feedback are being conducted by PDLs and SMs. This milestone is part of the Resource Family Approval process area. Build and testing activities have not started and are scheduled to be ready for QA and user feedback in build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3 scheduled in 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 federal report data elements and CARES functionality is complete. Report development has not started. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3R scheduled in February 2026.

Milestone 30 – State 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 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. This milestone will be included in the EUST 3R scheduled in 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:

The Business Requirements Complete (BRC) status is in red because three new tasks were added after the plan was finalized in February 2025. These new tasks are currently undergoing review and approval by PDLs. Features for this milestone will be partially delivered in the middle of build drop 5 (October 2025) and the remainder will be completed at the end of build drop 5 (November 2025). This milestone will be included in the EUST 3A scheduled in January 2026.

User Feedback

Summary

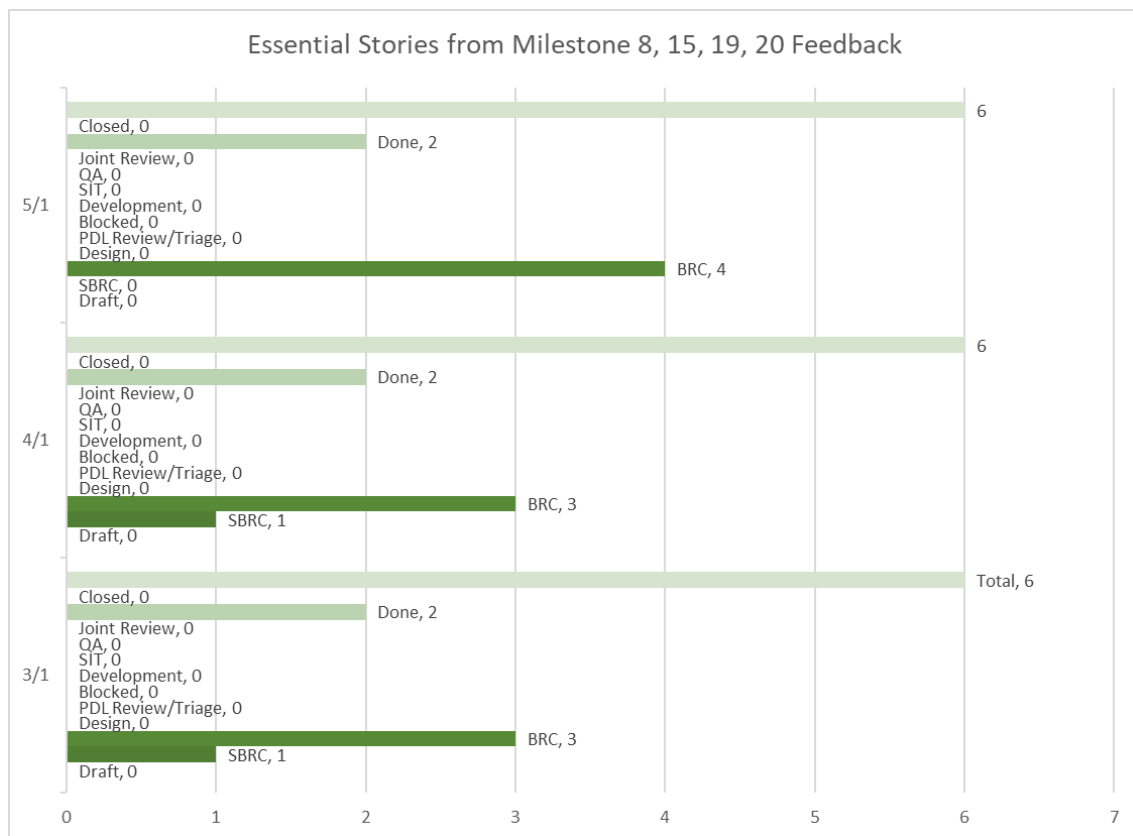
- EUST 1 was completed in March 2024 and all essential and required iteration items were resolved
- Milestone User Feedback for Milestones 8, 15, 19, and 20 was completed in January 2025 with the status provided below
- EUST 2 was completed on April 22 the results were reviewed with Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on May 5 and with the counties on May 14. A detailed discussion of the feedback is listed below.
- EUST 3 and EUST 3R is planned to start in February 2026
- EUST 4 is planned to start in May 2026

Detailed Testing Status

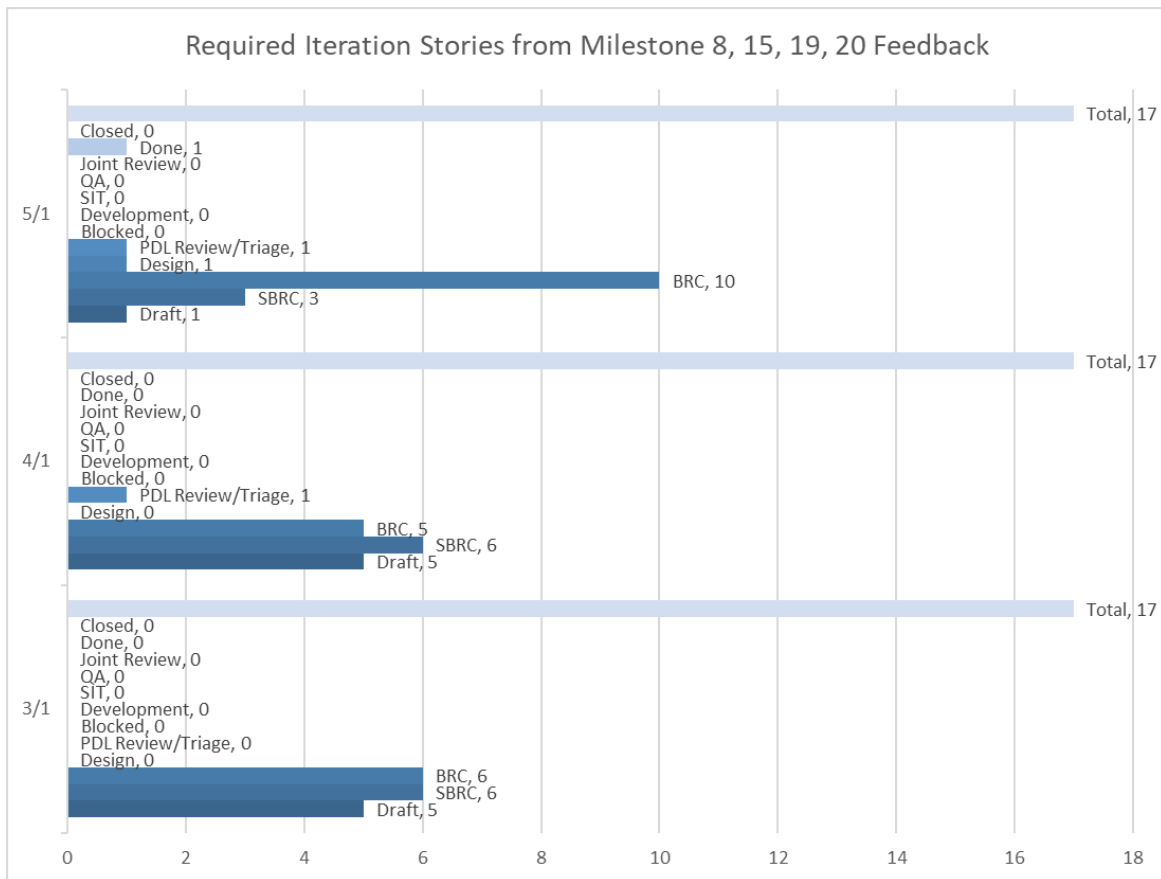
Milestone 8, 15, 19, 20 Feedback

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 mapped back to 36 of the feedback items. Of these new stories, 6 Essential and 17 Required Iteration stories were written and will be included in CWS-CARES V1. The remaining raw feedback items were categorized as one of the following: Design Change (112 Feedback Items), Defect (67 Feedback Items), Existing Story (49 Feedback Items), Training (38 Feedback Items), No Longer Applicable (34 Feedback Items), Out of Scope (2 Feedback Items), or Positive Feedback (1 Feedback Item). 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.



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



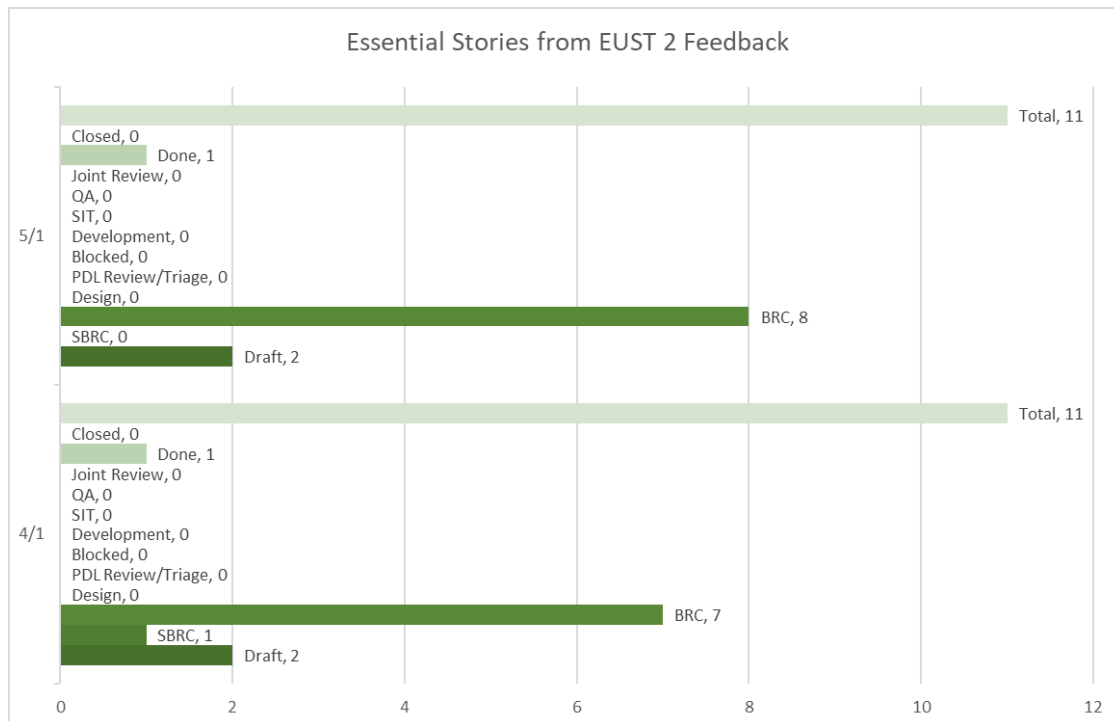
EUST 2 Feedback

EUST 2 included 198 testers with total of 977 raw feedback items that were submitted. Of those, 69 were categorized as new business requirements for CWS-CARES. The remaining feedback items reported during EUST 2 were assigned the following categories: Training/OCM (297 Feedback Items), Design Change (222 Feedback Items), Existing Story (192 Feedback Items), New Story (69 Feedback Items), Defect (56 Feedback Items), User Setup (46 Feedback Items), Feedback Planning (35 Feedback Items), Out of Scope (28 Feedback Items), No Longer Applicable (19 Feedback Items), Positive Feedback (7 Feedback Items), and External to CWS-CARES (6 Feedback Items).

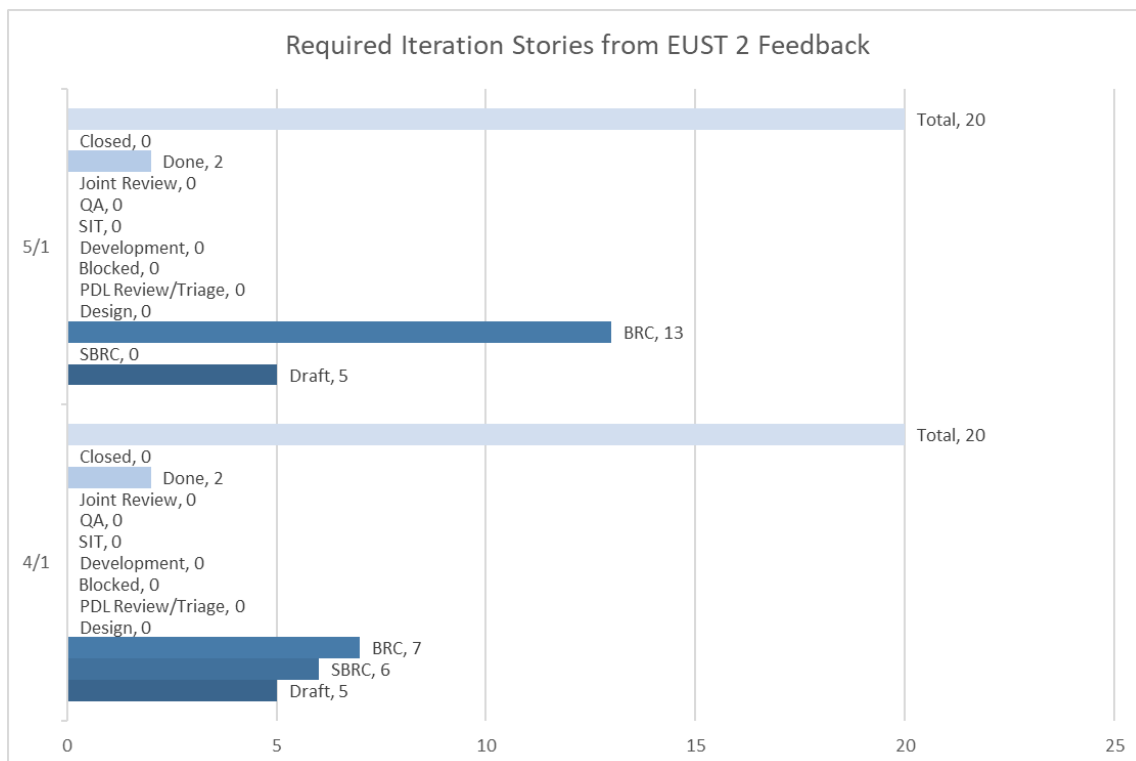
After consolidating duplicates and similar items, the outcome resulted in 31 new stories prioritized as follows:

- 11 Essential: User is blocked from executing a necessary business process and there is no possible workaround.
- 20 Required Iteration: User can execute a business process, but the workaround is overly onerous and/or complicated.

The following graphs reflect the breakdown of Essential and Required Iteration stories. Given EUST 2 was completed on April 22, data is currently available for only two (2) prior months.



Acronyms: Business Requirements Complete (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. Overall, the team has completed conversion of 217 out of 251 source tables¹ from CWS/CMS to CWS-CARES. Data mapping is complete for 2,232 CWS/CMS data elements with 832 data elements still in progress. 948 CWS/CMS data elements are not expected to convert to CWS-CARES because they are from system specific tables or otherwise identified as not needed in the new system. Fields identified as likely not needed for CARES are still under review and confirmation.

Data Conversion (CWS/CMS Data Elements)

Mapping Complete	Mapping In Progress	Likely Not Needed
2,232 (56%)	832 (20%)	948 (24%)

Cycle 5 data conversion practices validation began in May 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, California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and state and federal reporting requirements. Cycle 5 activities are scheduled to complete by July 2025. The data conversion team also continued to convert documents from CWS/CMS. So far, all the historical (a total of 82.4 million) documents have been converted. Newly added/changed documents continue to be converted from CWS/CMS at a rate of approximately 100,000 per week.

User Adoption Summary

Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED) Introduction – California’s solution to support the Title IV-E eligibility process is known as the Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED) module. During the month of May, the CWS-CARES project, in collaboration with CWDA, continued joint planning efforts with the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) to introduce FCED to counties. Together they will hold an FCED introduction webinar for counties on June 3rd. The introduction is intended for a broad county audience. The session will provide counties with information about FCED; including who is involved or impacted, when folks can expect FCED, and why and how FCED will be utilized. The FCED module will be a robust interface of data between CWS-CARES and CalSAWS.

Pilot Status Update – During the month of May, the project finalized Pilot Plan Iteration 2A after the Board of Directors (BOD) reviewed and approved. Twelve counties volunteered for the pilot and the project recommended Pilot County selection in accordance with the Pilot selection criteria included in the plan. The CWDA confirmed the Pilot selections in advance of presenting the recommendation to the BOD for approval. Based on the analysis, the BOD and the ELT have selected the following five counties to serve as Pilot counties: Butte, Fresno, San Mateo, Tuolumne, and San Diego. These counties provide representation across critical characteristics needed to execute the Pilot, including size, geography type, region, and work environments (remote, hybrid, and onsite)—and include counties with ICWA placements, both embedded and separate eligibility workers, and a Resource Family Approval greenfield production county. All five selected counties have confirmed their interest in serving as a Pilot County. They will be responsible for completing all readiness activities, including CWS-CARES training, prior to the start of Pilot and providing feedback throughout the Pilot on behalf of all counties in preparation for the statewide go-live of CWS-CARES V1.

¹ Progress may be due to the fact that mapping is based on the target CARES data objects, therefore as long as one field is not yet mapped, the table is not complete.

The CWS-CARES project team continues to analyze a technical concern that Los Angeles County has raised regarding the pilot. LA County raised a concern that if it was not a Pilot County, the LA Automated Provider Payment System (APPS) interface from LA County to CalSAWS may be impacted. In May, the project conducted technical analysis and collaboration with LA County was initiated to determine specific impacts. In addition, the project is working to define the role of CDSS during pilot; this information will be included in the final iteration of the pilot plan.

Organizational Change Management (OCM) – During the month of May, the project conducted 6 process information sessions for each region plus Los Angeles County. Each process information session covered the Intake service area, Screening and Investigations. Process information sessions are an opportunity to show the new CWS-CARES functionality, business process maps, change impacts, terminology changes, and an associated worksheet with next steps. Overall participants have found the sessions to be very helpful. Attendees interacted positively during the sessions and appeared to be excited to learn about the changes in CWS-CARES. In follow up surveys, we learned participants found the step-by-step video demonstration and the process maps very valuable. Participants were glad the sessions were recorded, and material was provided to them as a follow-up. The next video in the CWS-CARES Video Series, CWS-CARES 101: Intake: Screening & Investigations continues to be on track to launch mid-June 2025 and will walk through a day in the life of a Hotline Worker and Emergency Response Worker. During the month of May, the video was reviewed by ELT and the Change Management (OCM) Advisory Workgroup. Also in May, the project completed the final planned iteration of the OCM plan. The plan will only be revisited and updated if there are major changes that impact the plan scope. Additionally, the OCM team finalized the OCM Engagement Survey #2 which was launched June 2, 2025.

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 May, the team provided counties with the option to incorporate representatives from the External Stakeholder Coordination Unit (ESCU) into these meetings as an opportunity to provide extra support to organizations regarding external system readiness activities. During May, the focus continued to be on forms to ensure counties understand forms readiness expectations and are involved in the Forms workgroup and MS Teams channel to access resources needed to perform forms readiness activities. Before CWS-CARES V1 go-live, all counties are expected to create their county forms; the project will create State forms needed for continued operations. Additionally, the Super User Program was introduced to counties in May and organizations were asked to identify and provide names of their Super Users. Like CWS/CMS Super Users, the project has established a CWS-CARES Super User Program to allow organizations statewide an opportunity to have early CARES access and training to provide their organization with CWS-CARES support before, during and post go-live.

CDSS Engagement - The implementation team facilitated regular monthly meetings with each of the nine teams for CDSS Divisions and Branches. Key topics for May included: continued development of forms inventories, identification of Subject Matter Experts for the Case Management process information sessions, Super User program, introduction to the OCM survey, and overview of the newest implementation roadmap. In addition, the CDSS implementation leads continue to coordinate with the training team to launch Training Plan efforts with CDSS Divisions in August.

Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements with CDSS - The implementation team initiated its monthly CWS-CARES readiness meetings in May, meeting with each of the Tribes — May 14 for Yurok and May 16 for Karuk. During the meeting, the assigned Implementation Lead (IL) reviewed the CWS-CARES video series, the implementation roadmap, the implementation portal, and the Super User program. The implementation team also continues to attend meetings with the Tribes, CDSS, and other partners to offer support where needed from an implementation perspective and to continue to understand unique tribal needs.

Juvenile Probation - The implementation team successfully conducted 58 kick-off meetings and 52 orientation sessions. A total of 56 assessments have been scheduled, with 7 completed to date.

The team met with Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) to review the OCM training and walked through the implementation roadmap, emphasizing key probation-related activities planned over the next six months, including upcoming process information sessions. Additionally, the team held a discussion on the identification and role of Super Users. It was mutually agreed to establish biweekly meetings with CPOC to support the increasing pace of implementation efforts with Probation.

Sandbox – Throughout the month of May, the project continued 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. The project continued to discuss resources required to provide a Sandbox support structure. The project secured resources to provide support to Sandbox end-users. These project resources will account for tier 2 and tier 3 Sandbox support. County resources will provide the first level of support, tier 1. If tier 1 is unable to resolve the issue or address the question, the issue/question is escalated to project tier 2 support resources for resolution. Complex or technical issues may need to be escalated to tier 3 for resolution vendor staff resources. Additionally, the OCM team continued to partner with the Security/DevOps/Okta teams to plan for Sandbox user setup and with the training team to prepare for Sandbox training. Also in May, the team received feedback regarding utilizing named user accounts or mock user accounts for Sandbox users. These inputs, along with pros and cons will be presented to ELT in June for a formal project decision.

Training – In May, the training team continued to develop training material for EUST 3 and plan for CWS-CARES V1 training delivery prior to go-live. The team completed EUST 2 Feedback subcategories analysis for items dispositioned as Training and/or OCM. The training and OCM teams are utilizing this feedback to plan for EUST 3. In May, the training team completed compilation of Training Approach preferences for all counties. Inputs from Probation and the CDSS regarding training preferences and logistic planning for training delivery continued. Additionally in May, a formal project decision was secured regarding the CWS-CARES V1 Instructor Led Training delivery approach and the LA County training approach. The training team continued development of the final planned iteration of the Training Plan.

ACF Monthly Reporting on User Engagement & Adoption – The project submitted the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) April 2025 monthly report on user engagement and adoption. This month's ACF report included a summary of the Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST) 2, which included 198 staff from 25 counties. Held from March 24 to April 18, the testing focused on business scenarios and feedback related to key CWS-CARES functions including Case Management, Resource Management, Eligibility, and Courts. Overall, the CWS-CARES Project held 54 hours of feedback processing and review sessions, prioritized an average of 45 feedback items daily, and held 15 Office Hour/Support sessions totaling 40 hours. This month's report also included plans for upcoming Process Information Sessions for county child welfare and juvenile probation departments, CDSS subdivisions, and California Tribes with Title IV-E agreements. The CWS-CARES Implementation Team will conduct the first sessions, focused on intake (Screening and Investigations), in May 2025. Additional sessions covering other service areas will continue through 2025 and early 2026.

External Communications & Engagement – The Strategic Communications Team finalized the content for the first version of the CWS-CARES Progress & Engagement Summary, a new communication tool designed to provide stakeholders with a clear, concise, and consistent overview of our collaborative efforts and achievements. The purpose of this summary is to keep stakeholders informed about the key activities, to foster transparency and mutual understanding in areas like county participation in prototype and build reviews, forms, reports, data conversion, external systems, interfaces, implementation, OCM, and training. This will be a monthly update shared in various meetings that contain project updates beginning in June 2025.

The team also finalized and published the [May edition of the CARES Compass](#), a bimonthly 2-page summary of upcoming CWS-CARES communications, and brief project highlights. The team also added resources to 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. One new resource is a guide on [how participants use the Microsoft Teams Webinar Q&A feature](#). The Q&A feature in Microsoft Teams is used by the project for large webinars like the Stakeholder Briefing.

The Strategic Communications Team also supported the planning and logistics for the Introduction to Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED) for Counties scheduled for June 3. The team also continued to plan for Stakeholder Briefing #3 scheduled for June 25, with 311 registrants as of May 30. The Strategic Communications Team closed its first internal CWS-CARES Project merchandise store and conducted lessons learned to inform planning for future public pop-up shops which will be open to everyone including 58 California counties, state partners, and public agencies. The online public store is slated to open three to four times before the October 2026 go-live.

Other Completed Work Products – The Strategic Communications Team completed the following work products and activities: Version 2 scope and Core Constituent Participation (CCP) messaging as approved by leadership; determined initial data elements for monthly Executive Dashboard updates, focusing on communication and stakeholder engagement; developed layout and articles for the CARES Explorer – June 2025 issue; supported communications and outreach planning for External Systems; finalized draft materials for the Tribal Advisory Council meeting on June 13; completed CWS/CMS Oversight Committee monthly updates, communication slides for Progress Reviews, and developed content for October 2025 CWDA Conference proposal.

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	\$8,803,000
Other Operating Expenses & Equipment (OE&E) ²	\$19,223,537	\$14,747,517
Data Center Services ²	\$3,349,028	\$1,933,022
Contract Services ²	\$133,673,182	\$74,858,784
Enterprise Services ²	\$6,069,496	\$4,161,248
OTSI Spending Authority Total	\$176,552,900	\$104,503,571

CDSS Local Assistance Budget Item	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Expenditures
CDSS Salary & Benefits ³	\$1,520,000	\$998,830
CDSS OE&E (Includes Travel and Training) ³	\$462,000	\$480
Contract Services ³	\$981,000	\$663,657
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	\$4,817,051

Project Totals	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Expenditures
CWS-CARES Project Total	\$210,644,921	\$109,320,622

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 March 2025 FISCAL reports and approved invoices through June 2, 2025.

³ CDSS Local Assistance expenditures through March 2025. CDSS Salary & Benefits and OE&E expenditures through March 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. For the two remaining conditions, the project submitted an As-Needed APDU on May 1, 2025, responding to the outstanding questions for itemized accounting of CARES-Live costs and requesting closure of this condition. The remaining condition, Monitor Project Schedule, was to be addressed in ACF's planned virtual project monitoring review scheduled for May 16 through the 23. Based on ACF postponing the project monitoring review due to ACF reorganization activities, the project submitted an As-Needed APDU on May 23 to demonstrate the state's full compliance with the outstanding project condition and to request reinstatement of CCWIS funding retroactive to October 2023, the beginning of FFY 2024. Historically, ACF responds to submissions within 60 days of receipt.

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.

While the overall SPI has improved slightly from 0.959 to 0.963 since the last reporting period, it remains below the target threshold of 1.0 indicating that the project is still behind schedule. Several critical CWS-CARES V1 milestones are still in the early stages of build and testing. Many of these milestones, including Facility Management System, Service Delivery Tracking and Track Assistance Costs, show minimal progress in build activities (under 20%) and vendor or state testing (ranging from 0% to 45%).

Metric	5/15/2025	4/15/2025	3/15/2025	Description
Planned V1 Percent Complete	60%	57%	55%	Planned percent complete as of this date.
Actual V1 Percent Complete	57%	55%	53%	Actual percent complete as of this date.
Schedule Performance Index (SPI)	0.963	0.959	0.968	Schedule performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Cost Performance Index (CPI)	1.310	1.220	1.255	Cost performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Estimated to Complete (ETC, V1)	\$303,553,858	\$344,383,843	\$348,453,206	Estimated cost to complete the project.
Estimated at Completion (EAC, V1)	\$712,394,364	\$764,785,387	\$743,679,317	Estimated cost at completion of the project.
Forecast V1 Completion	12/30/2026	1/6/2027	12/22/2026	Date V1 is forecasted to complete.
Forecast V2 Completion	7/19/2028	7/29/2028	7/9/2028	Date V2 is forecasted to complete.
Earned Cost (EC)	\$535,523,656	\$512,943,982	\$495,912,601	Budget for work actual completed to date.
Actual Cost (AC)	\$408,840,505	\$420,401,544	\$395,226,111	Actual cost for work completed to date.

Legend

> 0.99	0.95 – 0.99	< 0.95
--------	-------------	--------

Vendor Contracts

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

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

Contract	Purpose	Contract Cost	Term	Notes
Taborda	Salesforce Subscriptions	\$31,778,469	8/7/25 - 8/6/26	New Salesforce Subscriptions for the CWS-CARES project

High Priority Risks

For the May 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 May.

Continuing High Priority Risks

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

Closed High Priority Risks

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

High Priority Issues

For the May 2025 reporting period, zero **(0)** high priority issues were opened, closed, or continuing. The PMO continues to actively mitigate and resolve the project's 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 May.

Continuing High Priority Issues

There are zero **(0)** continuing high priority issue for the month of May.

Closed High Priority Issues

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

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 3A	32 – Admin Services Console		2 weeks 1/19/26 – 1/30/26
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	6 weeks 2/2/26 – 3/11/26
EUST 3R	29 – Federal Reports 30 – State Reports 31 – Ad hoc Reports		6 weeks 2/23/26 – 4/3/26
EUST 4	End-to-End Validation of all Product and Interface Milestones		4 weeks 5/11/26 – 6/5/26