

Comparison of Binti and CARES V1 – Resource Family Approval (RFA)

Overview:

The purpose of this analysis is to compare the features of the [Binti Licensing and Approval software](#) against the CWS-CARES V1 Resource Family Application module (current and planned).

Category	Binti	CWS-CARES V1	Notes
Application Submission	Online self-submission, family portal, configurable forms.	Applicants will be able to access an online RFA Portal to submit their application and required forms. CWS-CARES will allow RFA Workers to manually enter paper RFA Applications into the system.	While CARES will not have configurable e-forms, it will generate forms to ensure that users can document required information.
Application Tracking	Real-time dashboards, filters, alerts, inactivity tracking.	CARES will have dashboards for Application Tracking to highlight key points in the application process to provide the RFA Worker, county, and state greater insight into the application process. CARES will allow an RFA Worker to track the progress that an Applicant is making on their application via the online RFA Portal. Case workers assigned to a child or non-minor dependent will be notified via an alert when the application is complete and the outcome of the application.	See attached list of Reports/Dashboards.
Family Portal	Families can upload documents, view training, and get notifications in multiple languages.	Resource Families will be able to submit documents via the online RFA Portal. Online RFA Portal Users with the appropriate browser translation	

		settings configured will be able to see the RFA Portal in their Native Language.	
Background Checks	Add and track checks per individual; configurable requirements.	An RFA Worker will be able to document the Background Check Results and Findings for Applicants, Resource Parents, and Other Adults. An RFA Worker will be able to track and document exemptions and investigations.	
Complaints	Minimal functionality today.	Users will be able to screen and document complaints. Users will be able to assign a complaint to an RFA Investigator. The RFA Investigator will have the ability to document their contacts, findings, and complete the RFA 9099/9099C form. CARES will allow the RFA Investigator to send their findings to their supervisor for review and approval. Cross Report to other agencies will be captured.	CARES will allow for the tracking and documentation of RSO Investigations. CARES will allow the upload of the statewide report for RSO Address Investigations. CARES will generate RSO Investigation Records for Counties. Counties will be able to assign their RSO address matches out to their RSO Workers. The RSO Worker will be able to document their investigation findings and then send it to their supervisor for review and approval. CDSS RFA Oversight Staff will be able to view all Resource Family Homes, Complaints, and RSO Address Match Investigations.

Training	Track hours, courses, proof of completion, configurable tracks.	CARES will track the number of training hours that Applicants and Resource Family Homes complete. RFA Staff will be able to document training completion dates. Resource Families and Applicants will be able to submit the proof of training completion through the online RFA Portal. County Administrators will have the ability to configure how many training hours are required.	
Placement Matching	Separate module already available, integrated with RFA.	Case Workers will have the ability to conduct Placement Provider searches to match with homes or facilities within the county that best fit the needs of a child or non-minor dependent. CARES will align the specializations of a home or facility with the identified needs of a child or non-minor dependent.	
Reporting	Standard + custom reports, recruitment metrics, family maps, CSV downloads.	RFA Workers and Supervisors will be able to view reports to provide insight throughout the home's approval lifecycle (beginning of application to closure of home) and all activities and events throughout. RFA Workers will be able to conduct CSV downloads.	See attached list of Reports/Dashboards.

Integration & Data	Standalone, county-specific contracts, siloed data. APIs available.	CARES will be California's single statewide child welfare information system. As the statewide child welfare information system, CARES will provide portability and inter-county transfer functionality. The CARES project has developed Data Conversion strategies for all county systems (including Binti) to prevent users from having to log into multiple systems for information.	
User Experience	Designed for social workers & caregivers. Automated reminders, multilingual, AI tools.	CARES is designed for Child Welfare Workers with process automation, reminders, and ability to generate documents. The online RFA portal is designed for Resource Families and Applicants and will support continual communication between families and RFA Staff. Online RFA portal users, with appropriate browser translation settings configured, will be able to see the online RFA portal in their Native Language.	
Governance & Compliance	COTS waiver possible but duplicative. Risks with portability & compliance.	Required for CCWIS compliance. Statewide data + audit alignment.	CARES will provide RFA Pre-Approval and Post-Approval functionality that is commensurate with the Written Directives for the State of California.
Cost & Funding	\$6–8M annual licensing. Only 30% FFP eligible.	Eligible for 50% enhanced FFP. Avoids licensing costs.	RFA Functionality in CARES will be at zero costs to counties.

Adoption Risks	Familiar, high user satisfaction. County resistance.	The CARES project has invested in subject matter experts and external stakeholder engagement to ensure high user satisfaction and will ensure training is provided to users.	
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