

CWS-CARES Legislative Update

December 2025

Executive Summary

Highlights

- Ten (10) milestones completed vendor testing in December before releasing to the State for quality assurance testing.
- Milestone 16: Jurisdiction and Disposition completed design, build, and vendor testing in December.
- Milestones 26: Maintain Resource Family Home and 28: Legal Action completed build in December.
- Milestone 30: State Reports completed design in December.

Challenges

- Three (3) milestones have not completed build and vendor testing and are in red in December.
- Three (3) additional milestones have not completed vendor testing and remain in red in December.
- Late delivery of Build Drops 5 and 5.1 have put State quality assurance (QA) testing behind schedule. This also impacts the writing of test scenarios and project readiness for EUST 3.

Simplified Milestone Development Dashboard

The milestone chart below illustrates the CWS-CARES 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%	100%	100%	58%	58%
Milestone 7.1: Case Management Assessment (CMA)	2024-04-15	2025-12-26	100%	100%	100%	100%	19%	3%
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%	100%	100%	100%	81%	81%
Milestone 10.1: Structured Decision Making (SDM)	2023-04-24	2025-07-11	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	83%
Milestone 11: Aftercare & Re-Entry	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	3%	3%
Milestone 13: Adoption	2024-02-12	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	6%	6%

Milestone	Milestone Start Date	Milestone End Date	Business Requirement	Design	Build	Vendor Testing (SIT)	State Testing (QA)	Ready for User Feedback
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%	100%	100%	61%	61%
Milestone 17: Status Reviews	2024-01-02	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	78%	78%
Milestone 18: Other Hearings	2023-05-22	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	70%	70%
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%	100%	100%
Milestone 23: Track Administrative Costs	2024-03-25	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Milestone 23.1: Service Delivery Tracking	2024-03-25	2026-02-20	100%	100%	33%	33%	0%	0%
Milestone 23.2: County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS)	2024-06-17	2025-10-31	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Milestone 24: Track Assistance Costs	2024-01-01	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	86%	0%	0%
Milestone 26: Maintain Resource Family Home	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	97%	0%	0%
Milestone 26.1: Facility Management System (FMS)	2024-03-25	2025-11-28	100%	100%	100%	100%	14%	0%
Milestone 27: Complaints	2023-06-19	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	67%	67%
Milestone 28: Legal Action	2024-02-26	2026-01-23	100%	100%	100%	99%	0%	0%
Milestone 29: Federal Reports	2024-08-28	2026-01-30	100%	100%	72%	72%	72%	72%
Milestone 30: State Reports	2024-09-17	2026-01-27	100%	100%	57%	54%	48%	48%
Milestone 32: Admin Console	2024-08-12	2025-10-31	100%	100%	100%	100%	94%	92%

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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve, and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve, and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve, and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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 December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. 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:

Build activities continue and are scheduled to be ready for QA testing in Build Drop 5.1 and 5.2. QA testing and user feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in February 2026. This milestone will be tested during the latter part of EUST 3 in March 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 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 December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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 December due to the approval of eighteen new work items. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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, training updates, and utilizing automated form generation with e-signatures.

Current Status:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to the approval of four new work items. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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 Version 1 (V1) is limited to LIS and FAS data only.

Current Status:

Progress health remains red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. This milestone is at risk for inclusion 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:

Complaint milestone 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 to 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 remains red for the month of December due to defects identified during testing that require vendor remediation followed by State retesting. This milestone remains in QA following Build Drop 5's two-phase delivery, with partial functionality delivered on December 15 and the remaining items delivered on December 29. Testing timelines reflect the need to identify, resolve and retest issues across both deliveries. User feedback scenario writing is scheduled to be completed in January 2026. 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 red for the month of December due to the addition of one new approved work item. This milestone is now scheduled to be delivered in Build Drop 5.1 and 5.2. QA testing and user feedback scenario

writing is scheduled to be completed in February 2026. This milestone will be tested during the latter part of EUST 3 in March 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:

Progress health is red for the month of December. The federal reports needed for completed features have been developed and completed according to schedule. A Schedule Change Request submitted in December adjusted the Build, SIT and QA, extending the completion date. This milestone remains on target for inclusion within EUST 3R scheduled for March 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:

Progress health remains red for the month of December. The reports needed for completed features have been developed and completed according to schedule. A Schedule Change Request submitted in December adjusted the Build, SIT and QA, extending the completion date. This milestone is at risk for inclusion within EUST 3R scheduled for March 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:

The Admin Console will give county and state administrators of CWS-CARES access to configuration features to meet county-specific needs and to maintain CWS-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:

Progress health is red for the month of December due to delays in Build and consequently vendor testing. This milestone is at risk for inclusion in the EUST 3A scheduled in January 2026.

User Feedback / Usability Testing

EUST 2 was completed on April 22, 2025. The results were reviewed with Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on May 5 and with the counties on May 14. After consolidating duplicates and similar items, the outcome resulted in 11 new work items to be developed for EUST 3. However, due to constraints with search feature, only 10 of the 11 requirements will be ready for EUST 3.

Usability Testing Period 1 began on October 27 and was completed on November 7. The user feedback team formally kicked off Usability Testing Period #2 on December 8 and concluded this testing period on December 19. Usability Testing Period #2 covered various features of CWS-CARES V1 and provides counties with additional opportunities to use the system and provide critical feedback to the project ahead of EUST 3. After consolidating duplicates and similar items, Usability Testing Period 1 resulted in 9 new work items.

Data / Document Conversion

The data conversion team completed mapping of 251 out of 251 source tables from CWS/CMS to CWS-CARES. Data mapping is complete for 3,058 CWS/CMS data elements with 0 data elements still in progress. 955 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 CWS-CARES are still under review and confirmation. Full data loads have completed for 120 out of 144 (estimated) CWS-CARES objects.

Data Conversion (CWS/CMS Data Elements)

Mapping Complete	Mapping In Progress	Likely Not Needed
3,058 (76%)	0 (0%)	955 (24%)

Cycle 6 data conversion practices validation completed December 8, 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 6 data validation began on December 11 and will be completed in January 2026. In data validation core constituent counties validate converted CWS-CARES production data against CWS/CWS.

The data conversion team also continued to convert documents from CWS/CMS. So far, all the historical (a total of 85.6 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

External Communications & Engagement – In late December, CWS-CARES Project leadership distributed an email describing a strategic adjustment for CWS-CARES readiness. The email explained that Production Pilot and Process Simulation/EUST 4 will be replaced with an expanded Production Simulation strategy. All organizations are expected to participate in testing and validation in the proposed Production Simulation environment. Also in December, the implementation team emailed organization-specific monthly readiness reports to directors highlighting overdue and upcoming readiness tasks.

Training – The CWS-CARES training team has been focused on preparing for instructor-led delivery of training in support of EUST 3 and includes courses focused on the administrative console, general system functionality, RFA, and CWS-CARES Reports. The administrative console and general functionality courses are scheduled to launch in January and RFA and Reports trainings will be launched in February.

Enhanced Sandbox – The Sandbox environment was available to counties until December 19. Since then, it has been unavailable due to deploying code for new functionality. The refreshed Sandbox environment will be available at a near future date to be determined.

Organizational Change Management (OCM) – In December, the implementation team finished conducting the five remaining Process Information Sessions for Court Processing functionality areas: (1) Warrants and Jurisdiction & Disposition Hearings (2) Status Review and Other Hearings and a last session for Juvenile Probation Departments.

Process Information Sessions are an opportunity to show the new CWS-CARES functionality, as-is and to-be business process maps, change impacts, terminology changes, and an associated worksheet with next steps for organizations to tailor business process information based on organization-specific practice.

County Child Welfare Engagement – In December, the implementation team continued to meet with county child welfare departments to discuss and support progress toward completion of key readiness activities including forms and reports development, business process tailoring, and data clean-up. As of December 19, there were a total of 33 overdue Go-Live Readiness Checklist tasks across 16 counties and 5 overdue External Systems Tasks (2 related to Data Conversion). Due to delays from the project, forms and reports development remains to be areas of significant risk to organizational readiness as only 6 of 2,345 forms have been completed and 2 of 2,130 of Business Objects to Tableau Reports have been completed.

CDSS Engagement – To help support forward progress on readiness task completion, the implementation team developed and disseminated detailed written guidance on all upcoming readiness tasks in the implementation, OCM, and training disciplines. Key tasks listed included:

- Identify appropriate staff to participate in OCM-Led process information session for CDSS,
- Review Change Impact Assessment for Case Management - Ongoing Case Work and Case Management - Finish a Case,
- identify staff with expertise in Resource Management, Financial Management, Admin and Reports, develop the CWS-CARES V1 Organization Training Plan and complete the Organization Training Curriculum Assignment.

During monthly meetings, the Implementation Teams reviewed progress and updated tasks as reported by the organization with summary of progress reported in the status reports provided to Division/Branch's 9-Month Readiness Checkpoint. Lastly, the Implementation Team delivered two debrief sessions on ongoing case management for all CDSS Organizations.

Tribes with California Title IV-E Agreements - The Karuk Tribal leadership change is complete, and the project is coordinating with the tribe the resumption of implementation readiness activities based on their staffing availability.

Juvenile Probation – The OCM team conducted a CWS-CARES Process Information Session for Probation on December 16, focused on case management, placement, assessments, and case data entry. In coordination with Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), the Implementation Team developed an email communication to Probation Chiefs, scheduled for distribution in January, outlining the 9-Month Critical Readiness Path status update. The Implementation Team continues to work closely with Probation Departments to advance and complete Go-Live Readiness activities.

External Communications & Engagement –The Strategic Communications team collaborated with project teams to distribute the CWS-CARES Weekly Digest on December 8, 15, and 29, 2025 to child welfare leadership and CWS-CARES Points of Contact. This month's updates included [CWS-CARES Progress & Engagement Summary – November 2025](#), a reminder that the Core Constituent Demonstrations are now available to view on the new [Product Demonstrations Page](#) on the CWDS Website; an announcement that registration for Stakeholder Briefing #5 is now available and the session agenda was shared; a recap of the previous communication sent by the Implementation team on the CWS-CARES 9-Month County Readiness Checkpoint Meetings, an announcement that the [CWS-CARES Explorer Volume 2, Issue 4 – December 2025](#) is published, and a notification that the December [Progress and Engagement Summary](#) is now available on the CWDS website.

The Strategic Communications Team collaborated with project staff to produce the December CWS-CARES Progress & Engagement Summary. This communication tool gives stakeholders a clear, concise overview of our shared progress and accomplishments. The summary highlights key activities and fosters transparency in areas like prototype reviews, forms, reports, data conversion, and training. The November summary highlighted the 14 communications distributed and the five demonstrations conducted in Case Management, Administrative Services, and CWS-CARES Person Model within the last reporting month.

ACF Monthly Reporting on User Engagement & Adoption – The Strategic Communications Team submitted the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) December 2025 monthly report on user engagement and adoption. This report detailed key CWS-CARES project accomplishments, including advanced planning and preparation for Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST) 3, continued progress across Data Conversion cycles, including initiation of Cycle 6 activities, and sustained momentum across External Systems engagement and Binti county coordination. Additionally, the report provided a recap of the 2025 Judicial Council's Beyond the Bench conference participation, described how the Data Conversion (DC) Team is working with counties, tribes, and CDSS through a series of validation cycles to ensure data is accurately transferred from the legacy CWS/CMS system into CWS-CARES through two validation activities, and provides an overview of the External Systems activities and county engagement.

Other Completed Work Products – The Strategic Communications Team completed the following work products and activities: finalized 3 External Systems email communications for December 2025 updates for: all 58 counties, 43 Binti counties, 5 counties involved in Preliminary Data Mapping Validation sessions; completed the CARES Explorer – December 2025 issue and distributed it to external audiences; completed internal and external communications for outcomes of December 18 CWS-CARES Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting; finalized registration link for Stakeholder Briefing #5 and shared with external audiences; and completed and announced the new CWS-CARES Infographics, Slogans, and Flyers Webpage.

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	\$11,774,345
Other Operating Expenses & Equipment (OE&E) ²	\$19,223,537	\$15,508,665
Data Center Services ²	\$3,349,028	\$2,486,513
Contract Services ²	\$133,673,182	\$110,847,951
Enterprise Services ^{2, 5}	\$6,069,496	\$6,446,087
OTSI Spending Authority Total	\$176,552,900	\$146,868,807

CDSS Local Assistance Budget Item	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Expenditures
CDSS Salary & Benefits ³	\$1,520,000	\$1,344,935
CDSS OE&E (Includes Travel and Training) ³	\$462,000	\$652
Contract Services ³	\$981,000	\$883,685
County Regional Training Academy ³	\$306,251	\$0
Core Constituent Participation Costs ⁴	\$30,822,770	\$8,457,059
CDSS Local Assistance Total	\$34,092,021	\$10,686,331

Project Totals	2024/25 Budget	2024/25 Expenditures
CWS-CARES Project Total	\$210,644,921	\$157,749,892

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 June 2025 FISCAL reports and approved invoices through January 7, 2026.

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

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

⁵ Enterprise Services Direct and Indirect costs were higher than originally estimated.

Budget and Expenditures

2025-26 CWS-CARES Report Summary

OTSI Spending Authority Budget Item	2025/26 Budget ¹	2025/26 Expenditures
Personal Services ²	\$13,383,550	\$4,270,527
Other Operating Expenses & Equipment (OE&E) ²	\$63,347,877	\$38,000,022
Data Center Services ²	\$4,019,061	\$791,303
Contract Services ²	\$207,951,742	\$33,503,897
Enterprise Services ²	\$5,799,938	\$1,425,055
Legislation ²	\$15,015,000	\$0
OTSI Spending Authority Total	\$309,517,168	\$77,990,804

CDSS Local Assistance Budget Item	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Expenditures
CDSS Salary & Benefits ³	\$1,866,500	\$599,834
CDSS OE&E (Includes Travel and Training) ³	\$115,500	\$372
Contract Services ³	\$900,000	\$375,956
County Regional Training Academy ³	\$0	\$0
Core Constituent Participation Costs ⁴	\$35,457,147	\$4,626,328
CDSS Local Assistance Total	\$38,339,147	\$5,602,490

Project Totals	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Expenditures
CWS-CARES Project Total	\$347,856,315	\$83,593,294

¹ 2025/26 budget aligns with SPR 6 and is inclusive of CWS-CARES only costs. CARES-Live costs are not included.

² Actual expenditures through October 2025 FI\$Cal reports and approved invoices through December 30, 2025.

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

⁴ CDSS Fiscal Monitoring Unit confirmed one quarter of data for Core Constituent Participation and no data for Tribal Core Constituents.

CWS-CARES Annual Planning Document

The project resubmitted the federal APDU for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 to the ACF on October 17. The ACF responded on December 23 with provisional approval of the CWS-CARES APDU and requested additional information which was provided to ACF on December 31. In addition, the ELT is developing plans to submit an As-Needed APDU encompassing any additional contractual changes pending a discussion and decision by the BOD on the path forward for the implementation strategy.

In alignment with ELT's recommendation, on December 18, the BOD approved the replacement of Production Pilot and EUST4/Process Simulation with an expanded Production Simulation strategy to achieve a successful statewide launch of CWS-CARES V1 as planned in October 2026. The project will seek ACF approval for this approach in an upcoming As-Needed APDU.

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.

The EVM dashboard below is being provided in compliance with the SPR 6 approval condition. The project has provided the data in the dashboard for schedule, cost, and scope as of December 15, 2025. Performance reflects continued schedule recovery and increased confidence in forecasted completion dates.

Metric	12/15/2025	11/15/2025	10/15/2025	Description
Planned V1 Percent Complete	74%	72%	70%	Planned percent complete as of this date.
Actual V1 Percent Complete	72%	70%	68%	Actual percent complete as of this date.
Schedule Performance Index (SPI)	0.968	0.965	0.958	Schedule performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Cost Performance Index (CPI)	1.198	1.154	1.146	Cost performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Estimated to Complete (ETC, V1)	\$219,243,987	\$245,882,838	\$264,111,620	Estimated cost to complete the project.
Estimated at Completion (EAC, V1)	\$779,220,898	\$808,289,397	\$814,228,060	Estimated cost at completion of the project.
Forecast V1 Completion	12/22/2026	12/28/2026	1/7/2027	Date V1 is forecasted to complete.
Forecast V2 Completion	7/9/2028	7/17/2028	7/31/2028	Date V2 is forecasted to complete.
Earned Cost (EC)	\$670,586,409	\$649,275,048	\$630,454,541	Budget for work actual completed to date.
Actual Cost (AC)	\$559,976,911	\$562,406,559	\$550,116,440	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 executed during the month of December 2025. Additionally, there were no contracts or contract amendments submitted to the ACF during the month of December 2025.

High Priority Risks

For the December 2025 reporting period, zero high priority risks were opened, and one high priority risk was closed. The project currently has zero high priority risks. The PMO continues to actively mitigate the project's medium and low priority risks in the bi-weekly Risk and Issues Forum and performs ongoing follow-up for risk mitigation with assigned owners.

New High Priority Risks: There are zero (0) new high priority risks for the month of December.

Continuing High Priority Risks: There are zero (0) new high priority risks for the month of December.

Closed High Priority Risks: There was one (1) high priority risk closed during the month of December.

Closed Risk	Impact	Status
RI-355: Mandatory API Fields Requirement for AAP Functionality <i>Description:</i> The CalSAWS team has reversed its earlier agreement to make certain API fields optional for AAP functionality, now requiring a formal change request (CR) to modify the API design. This impacts the integration approach agreed upon during the 8/20 tech sync between CalSAWS and CARES teams, which was to reuse existing FC APIs with some fields made optional.	Requires project work arounds, such as hard-coding mandatory fields. Introduces technical debt, risks data integrity, increases maintenance, and may delay delivery of AAP functionality.	FCR00012 which outlines a workaround to implement the required changes in CARES was completed and approved.

High Priority Issues

For the December 2025 reporting period, zero high priority issues were opened, zero high priority issues were closed, and 10 high priority issues are continuing, for a total of 10. The PMO continues to actively resolve the project's medium and low priority issues in the bi-weekly Risk and Issues Forum and performs ongoing follow-up for issue resolution with assigned owners.

New High Priority Issues: There are zero (0) new high priority issues for the month of December.

Continuing High Priority Issues: There are ten (10) continuing high priority issues for the month of December:

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
RI-260: Sprint velocity is inadequate to achieve approved SPR 6 milestone schedule <u>Description:</u> Per SPR 6 approval condition #7, a 3-month delay to V1 would require a new SPR. Delays may trigger secondary risks including compressed user testing, reduced defect resolution, poor quality, de-scoping, and team burnout. EUST 3 testing is scheduled for Jan–Feb 2026 and depends on completing all SDLC milestones by end of 2025.	Impacts of Delayed SDLC for EUST 3 Milestones: 1. Compressed Testing – Shortened vendor testing, QA, and User Testing may increase undetected defects. 2. Limited Defect Resolution – QA overload and rising defects may lead to unresolved issues at Go-Live. 3. System Instability – Incomplete testing may disrupt operations and reduce stakeholder confidence. 4. Team Burnout – Overtime pressure may cause fatigue, errors, and resource shortages. 5. De-scoping – To stay on schedule, features may be deferred, reducing V1 value and missing dependencies.	Build Drop 5 has completed SIT for a significant number of stories, with the remainder scheduled to undergo QA starting December 11. QA completion is required to meet the SPR6 milestone.
RI-321: Insufficient time and resources to complete the development of County forms needed for CARES V1 Go-Live <u>Description:</u> Some Counties have not started developing required forms for CARES V1 Go-Live due to the following delays: • High number of forms • Long development time per form • Delays in data dictionary and forms data dictionary	Some counties have begun development, while others report delays in early tasks such as form identification and prioritization. If this issue is not resolved it will negatively impact the testing efforts in EUST 3 and Production Simulation.	Delays in availability of testing environment and the subsequent version of data dictionary from Build Drop 5 have been experienced, increasing the delays in county form development.

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
• Delays in forms training for the counties along with environment readiness • Training schedule extending through Feb 2026 • Overall time needed to complete each form These factors put readiness of forms for EUST 3 and Production Simulation at risk.		
RI-327: Long processing time for Micro-conversion may impact Cutover and Pilot planning and implementation <u>Description:</u> If Micro-conversion cannot complete within 48 hours, CWS/CMS will need to be frozen longer than one weekend for the final delta load prior to pilot. For pilot to begin using forward and backward event-based syncing between the CWS CARES and legacy CWS/CMS, the data in the two systems must be fully synchronized. The estimated processing time is approximately 72 hours.	Final conversion load would require a 72-hour freeze period for CWS/CMS.	Performance significantly improved in Cycle 6 of conversion testing. Fine-tuning efforts are ongoing, and some action items, such as confirming 24-hour processing feasibility, are still in progress.
RI-339: Automation Regression Test (ART) execution failures are poor and not showing an improvement or improving trend <u>Description:</u> The Automation Regression Test (ART) results have been showing a failing trend across majority of the Milestones that have passed a manual validation by state QA.	Successful ART is a prerequisite for going live, there is risk of undiscovered defects unstable baseline code, and delay to implementation date.	Regression test failures have increased in volume. The project is refreshing the test environment to align with the latest QA code base with the goal to see improvement in results. Concerns remain regarding the accuracy of regression testing results.

RI-341: Impact from scope delays in Build Drops 1, 2, 4 and 5 <u>Description:</u> The compounded deferment of numerous stories from previous build drops causes downstream delays to State QA and EUST 3 preparation, posing risk to completion of development in line with baselined project schedule.	Delays to State QA, PDL reviews, user feedback sessions, EUST 3 preparation and development of training. Stories are not complete until state QA is finished, and story is moved to done.	Build Drop 5 experienced a two-week delay on partial delivery and the remaining code delivery was 4 weeks late, placing added pressure on State QA and EUST 3 Scenario Writing teams.
RI-342: Issues identified by Salesforce Code Quality Review <u>Description:</u> The independent analysis of the code by Salesforce has identified quality issues such as: high percentage of custom code, API versions being out of date, Apex code length and code commenting, among others.	The code quality issues must be resolved before CWS-CARES can be implemented.	Status is the same as RI-354, the seven-step mitigation plan for Build Drop 5 is largely complete, with all Severity 1 and 2 issues addressed. Resolution is aligned with the completion of Build Drop 5.2 targeted for completion by January 31, 2026.
RI-345: Insufficient QA capacity to support Build Drop volumes <u>Description:</u> The current QA velocity of moving 26 stories per week to Joint Review, is not sufficient to complete testing of all stories and retest corrected defects in time for EUST 3 that begins on 1/20/2026 for Admin Console and on 2/2/2026 for functional milestones.	If QA capacity is not increased, there is a high likelihood of schedule delays, impacting the planned start dates of January 20, 2026 (Admin Console), and February 2, 2026 (functional milestones).	The QA team onboarded 10 contractors. Mean Time to Resolution (MTTR) continues to be impacted by lingering defects and ongoing VPN connectivity issues experienced by the vendor team overseas.
RI-350: PaaS SI misalignment creating bottlenecks <u>Description:</u> IV&V observed that nearly 50% of committed stories remain blocked due to unresolved dependencies from prior sprints and persistent test environment issues following the EUST 2. Despite multiple escalations, blockers lack clear ownership and resolution timelines. (Ref: Observation #240, 1.6.12 – PaaS Team Misalignment)	Delayed sprint deliverables, at times lack of clear ownership and resolution of blockers is delaying current and future sprint outcomes.	Build Drop (BD) 4 and BD 4.5 were delivered on time however Build Drop 5 experienced a two-week delay on partial delivery and the remaining code delivery was 4 weeks late with impacts to cross-functional teams (Usability Testing, EUST 3 Scenarios, Reporting and Training). Analysis to identify additional corrective action is in progress.

RI-354: Non-Adherence to Best Practices in APEX Custom Code Management <u>Description:</u> The PaaS SI is not following an established, traceable process for requesting and procuring increases in Salesforce governor limits.	The absence of a structured and approved approach to requesting governor limit increases may lead to several operational, financial, and technical risks, including: • Uncontrolled cost escalation due to unapproved or unanticipated resource increases • Potential performance or stability issues if the platform limits are exceeded or adjusted without proper validation. • Risk of non-compliance with vendor/platform policies if maximum or frequency limits are violated • Delays in delivery or downstream project phases due to lack of visibility on Salesforce support's turnaround time for such changes • Possible data integrity issues or software defects if storage or memory allocations are exceeded without regression testing • Audit and governance risks, such as stakeholder approvals and traceable change records are missing	Status is the same as RI-342, the seven-step mitigation plan for Build Drop 5 is largely complete, with all Severity 1 and 2 issues addressed. Resolution is aligned with the completion of Build Drop 5.2 targeted for completion by January 31, 2026.
RI-357: Lack of Non-Production Test Data for LIS/FAS Integration <u>Description</u> The absence of non-production environments and test data for LIS/FAS presents challenges in conducting integration testing in lower environments. This may impact test coverage and requires careful consideration to ensure data privacy and testing effectiveness.	Limited access to non-production test data and environments may impact the integrity and reliability of integration testing. Reliance on production data introduces potential data privacy concerns and operational risks. These constraints could lead to undetected defects, delayed issue resolution, and potential impacts to project timelines.	An interim manual redaction process has been approved for LIS/FAS SIT testing, to be performed in a secure environment. Options include redacting a 200-record file or using an approved scripting tool. The long-term utility-based solution remains pending third-party validation.

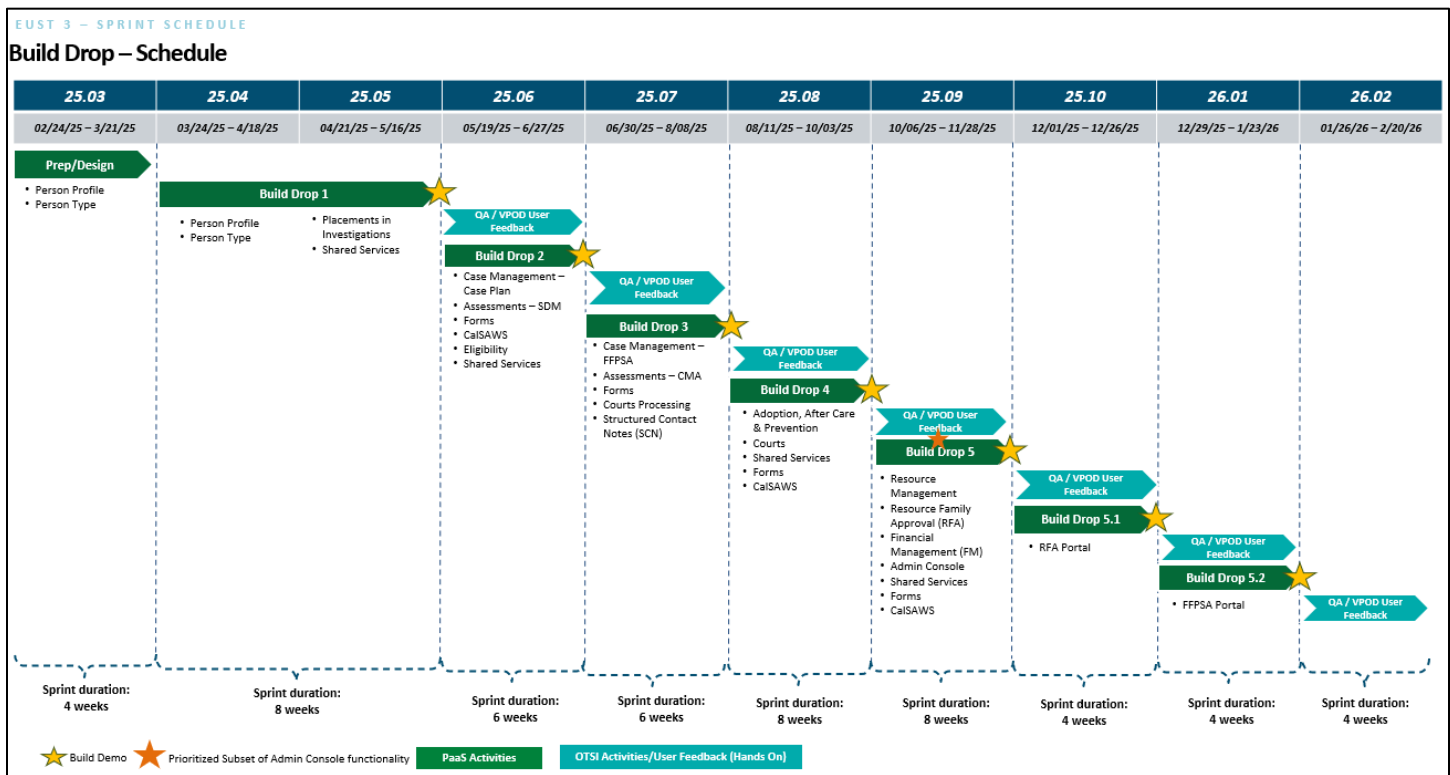
Closed High Priority Issues: There were zero (0) high priority issues closed in the month of December.

Appendices

Updated Build Drop Sprint Schedule

To support the delivery of functionality by feature set, the project team revised the Sprint Schedule for the remainder of EUST 3 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.

This schedule was later updated to include Build Drop 5.1 and Build Drop 5.2.



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 Console		2 weeks Jan 2026
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 Feb – Apr 2026
EUST 3R	29 – Federal Reports 30 – State Reports		6 weeks Mar – Apr 2026
Production Simulation	End-to-End Validation of all Product and Interface Milestones		6 months May – Oct 2026