

# Creating a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System That Works



## Business Impact

Modern child welfare agency database systems ensure data quality and are designed around business functions so that they increase operational efficiency rather than hinder it.

## Challenges

- **Poor data quality:** Current child welfare systems do not monitor data quality.
- **Lack of automated entity resolution:** Over 25 percent of cases in current SACWIS systems are unmerged duplicates.
- **Limited data integration:** Limited data sharing hinders people from making informed decisions.
- **Ineffective data analysis:** Most current systems are data-rich but analysis-poor, limiting insights available to decision makers.

## The Issue

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has issued a new regulation that replaces the Statewide and Tribal Automated Child Welfare Information System requirements with a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS).

Now title IV-E agencies can determine the size, scope and functionality of their information systems that collect data from a variety of sources and service providers, as well as obtain service and client data directly from provider agencies that operate their own agency information systems through data exchanges. The regulation also gives agencies more latitude when selecting development and technology approaches. And the new modularity requirement makes it easier to update or add system functionality to meet emerging needs or new rules.

The time to act is now, as ACF's two-year transition period ends on July 31, 2018. But for many agencies, the challenge is knowing how to proceed. Should they transition their current system to a CCWIS? Keep their legacy system as a non-CCWIS – and if so, enhance it to make it more effective? Or build a new CCWIS? And how can they avoid pitfalls that made many prior systems ineffective at best?

## Our Approach

We help IV-E agencies implement a compliant, fully integrated CCWIS so they can:

- **Create a comprehensive data strategy:** Define a data strategy, objectives and policies for CCWIS-related and all other data available to workers.
- **Define a comprehensive data architecture:** Define the people, processes and technology to manage data throughout its life cycle.
- **Manage metadata:** Automate the capture, management and publishing of metadata, making it easy to reuse definitions and trace lineage across documents.
- **Ensure data quality:** Use automated tools to cleanse and enrich data in batches or in real time – and integrate it with transactional systems.
- **Centrally administrate data:** Set standards, policies and procedures for managing day-to-day operations within the data architecture.
- **Exploit their data warehouse:** Directly feed business intelligence and analytics to identify risky cases sooner.
- **Secure their data:** Employ role-based security to control data access.
- **Manage master data:** Consolidate, match and standardize data within and across transactional systems for higher-quality information and coordinated data across systems.

SAS has extensive experience helping organizations build large-scale, longitudinal data systems in education and other industries and empowering people to analyze data quickly and effectively. Only SAS provides:

- **Natively integrated data management and advanced analytics:** Combine the strength of SAS Analytics with SAS Data Management to ensure data is correct before analyzing it.
- **A powerful platform approach:** SAS delivers its data integration and data quality solutions on one platform, simplifying the transition to master data management.
- **Consulting services:** DataFlux, a SAS company, helps organizations map out their strategy (pre-sale) and provides support post sale.
- **Common metadata management:** Simplify metadata management by using the same processes for analytics and data management.
- **The SAS Data Management Quality Knowledge Base:** Harness thousands of data management rules within the SAS platform - and spend less time setting up data management and custom coding and analytics.

## State child welfare agencies

### Real-World Scenario

Child welfare agencies need to improve the quality of data being put into - and analyzed within - current child welfare information systems. In addition, they need holistic views of children and caregivers to ensure each child's safety and well-being and to make informed permanency decisions. Current systems do not support ongoing data quality monitoring or data exchanges, which are needed to meet CCWIS requirements. What's needed is a solution that delivers strong analytical, data management and reporting capabilities.

### Solution

SAS offers a complete solution that addresses data collection and storage, ensures data quality and simplifies management of business rules and preparation of reporting data.

### Ensure data accuracy

What if you could ensure data is correct before analyzing it?

### Optimize data management

What if you access thousands of proven data management rules from SAS at any time?

### Make the most of metadata

What if you could automate metadata capture and management so it's easy to reuse definitions and trace lineage across shared documents?

### SAS Facts

- SAS has extensive experience facilitating regulatory compliance in industries such as education, health care and banking.
- SAS has worked with over 30 health and human services organizations in the US.
- SAS Data Management solutions are used by more than 1,400 institutions worldwide.

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