



CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin

CONNECTIONS Build: Family Services Stage—Phase 4 Family Assessment and Service Plan, Service Plan Review, and New Functionality to Support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

The next build to the CONNECTIONS application is tentatively scheduled for implementation in mid to late April and will include the modernization of the Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP), and the Service Plan Review (SPR), as well as new functionality to support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

Overview

The **Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP) and Service Plan Review (SPR)** of the Family Services Stage (FSS) will be updated to a modernized user interface, consistent with other modernized CONNECTIONS modules such as Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigation (INV) and Family Services Intake (FSI) stages. Modernization will replace most buttons and drop-down menus with links in the left navigation panel and improve general navigation and window layout, but overall functionality and processes, as well as security access rules, will remain essentially the same.

Additionally, new edits to the **CPS Safety Assessment**, accessible in INV, Family Assessment Response (FAR), and FSS stages, will ensure that the Safety Decision and Safety Factors are consistent.

The FSS Phase 4 build will also introduce **new edits and windows to support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act**, including:

- *INV and FAR Conclusion edits* — Added to verify that all persons under the age of 18 with an appropriate role in the case have a valid Sex Trafficking Screening recorded since the date of Intake.
- *FASP Submission edits* — Added to prevent a FASP from being submitted unless there is a valid Sex Trafficking Screening recorded for all tracked children as of the due date of the FASP.
- *Tracked Child: APPLA* — The age requirement for Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement (APPLA) will change to 16 and older. Additionally, there will be new documentation requirements for APPLA.
- *Essential Documents* — There will be a new Essential Documents tab in the Tracked Children Detail window, to track the status of the essential documents collected for a child in foster care.
- *Missing Child* — A new window accessed from the Workload within INV, FAR, and FSS stages with type CWS and CCR, which will include questions addressing the date of absence, reporting requirements, the child's reason for absence, experience while missing, and any other contributing factors.
- *Bill of Rights* — A new window accessed from within the FASP that will ensure that all children with a Program Choice of Placement who will be age 14 years or older by the due date of the FASP have been provided with the required Bill of Rights.

Training and Support

A combination of training classes and support documentation will be available to assist staff in preparation for FSS Phase 4 implementation. These items include:

- An **Impact Analysis** that summarizes the new features and impacts for district and agency management to consider, available in advance of the build implementation date.
- A **Job Aid** that provides a step-by-step explanation of the changes, available in advance of the build implementation date.
- **Webinar Training** will be available to up to 200 participants per class. This live training will include screen images and PowerPoint slides with explanations of the major changes and other available resources. Trainees viewing the webinar from their desk will have the opportunity to interact with the trainer and other class participants using iLinc technology.
- **Web Based Training (WBT)** will provide a two-hour, asynchronous, self-guided training course via the Statewide Training Automated Registration System/Human Services Learning Center (STARS/HSLC). The WBT will discuss specific modernized and new windows in greater depth than the Webinar, allowing self-paced learning and more hands-on interaction, including simulations, demonstrations, and quizzes.
- As always, **CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation Staff** will hold regional and on-site preparation meetings to orient staff to changes, as well as provide on-site support following implementation, where possible. A list of Implementation Specialists by regions is available on the *Contact Us* page of the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

Additional information involving training schedules and registration, the Impact Analysis and Job Aid, when available, as well as a more detailed implementation schedule, will be provided in forthcoming Build Bulletins.