

# Seeking

*State legislators*

# better

*State child welfare agencies*

# collaboration?





# **A national resource is available to help you.**

Across the country, States are focusing time and resources on strengthening child welfare systems and improving outcomes for children and families.

Many of those efforts are linked directly to the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs).

Through the reviews, State child welfare agencies work collaboratively with their State partners to address needed improvements.

State legislators are key to making—and sustaining—those improvements.



States interested in enhancing links between State legislators and child welfare agencies now can request technical assistance (TA) to support those efforts.

# Technical Assistance Available

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The TA, provided by JBS International, Inc. (JBS), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), is funded by the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

During the past 3 years, JBS and NCSL have fostered legislator-agency collaboration in support of the CFSR process and other reform efforts in a range of areas:

- Assisting a State in assessing how reorganization plans for its State child welfare agency might affect the State's CFSR outcomes, including offering an overview of other States' reorganization strategies and experiences
- Preparing a research memorandum for a State on the administration of payment and services for children in foster care, subsidized guardianship, or adoptive placements
- Arranging for State child welfare agency administrators to brief other State agency leaders by phone on approaches that have worked in fostering legislator-agency collaboration
- Assisting State legislative committees in assessing options for improving their State's ability to meet the educational needs of children in foster care
- Briefing State legislators on strategies for addressing child safety issues

# TA Process

NCSL plans each TA event with input from State legislators, State child welfare agency staff, Federal staff, and JBS. The following is additional information regarding TA requests:

- **Eligibility:** State legislators, State child welfare agencies, or both may apply for TA. States that previously received TA are eligible for additional TA.
- **Application process:** Legislators, their staff, and State child welfare agency staff may submit requests for TA in writing or by telephone. Requests should include (1) a brief description of the TA needed, (2) a description of the proposed forum for TA (for example, informal meeting, legislative hearing, or workshop), (3) the intended audience, and (4) the preferred date. The project will follow up with each TA requester.
- **Selection process:** Priority will be given to applications from both State legislators and child welfare agency administrators; the TA may target legislators, child welfare agencies, or both. Next in order of priority are requests that target child welfare agency personnel only.

# For More Information

If you are interested in arranging a TA event, please contact John Zalenski, JBS, at [LegTA@jbsinternational.com](mailto:LegTA@jbsinternational.com), (240) 645-4530, or Nina Williams-Mbengue, NCSL, at [nina.mbengue@ncsl.org](mailto:nina.mbengue@ncsl.org), (303) 364-7700.

Alternatively, if you would like us to contact you to explore the potential for TA in your State, you may fill out the form below and drop it in the mail.

I am interested in exploring the potential for TA in my State.  
Please contact me.

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Position: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

\*State: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required information*

Check out the free publications on collaboration between State legislators and State child welfare agencies, produced by JBS and NCSL, available through [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/tta/related.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/tta/related.htm)



**PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE**

TA to State Legislators on the CFSRs  
c/o JBS International, Inc.  
Child Welfare Reviews Project  
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 1200  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3803