

CWS-CARES Legislative Update

May 2026

Executive Summary

On Monday, May 4, the project kicked off Production Simulation in the CWS-CARES Version 1 (V1) Readiness environment (which was used for EUST 3) that included synthetic test data and cases. The originally planned testing with converted data on May 26 was delayed due to several major issues identified during Mock 2 Data Conversion and the environment set up. The recovery plan is being developed and will be described in the next monthly report. Milestones 16: Jurisdiction and Disposition and 17: Status Reviews have completed state Quality Assurance (QA) testing and are now closed.

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.

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%	84%	79%
Milestone 7.1: Case Management Assessment (CMA)	2024-04-15	2025-12-26	100%	100%	100%	100%	84%	18%
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%	92%	91%
Milestone 10.1: Structured Decision Making (SDM)	2023-04-24	2025-07-11	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	91%
Milestone 11: Aftercare & Re-Entry	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	90%
Milestone 13: Adoption	2024-02-12	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	74%	70%
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%	100%	100%
Milestone 17: Status Reviews	2024-01-02	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Milestone 18: Other Hearings	2023-05-22	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	97%
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	Milestone Start Date	Milestone End Date	Business Requirement	Design	Build	Vendor Testing (SIT)	State Testing (QA)	Ready for User Feedback
Milestone 23: Track Administrative Costs	2024-03-25	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%	50%
Milestone 23.1: Service Delivery Tracking	2024-03-25	2026-02-20	100%	100%	100%	100%	9%	9%
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%	88%	62%	56%
Milestone 26: Maintain Resource Family Home	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	52%	49%
Milestone 26.1: Facility Management System (FMS)	2024-03-25	2025-11-28	100%	100%	100%	100%	29%	29%
Milestone 27: Complaints	2023-06-19	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	77%	75%
Milestone 28: Legal Action	2024-02-26	2026-01-23	100%	100%	100%	100%	43%	38%
Milestone 29: Federal Reports	2024-08-28	2026-01-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Milestone 30: State Reports	2024-09-17	2026-01-27	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%
Milestone 32: Admin Console	2024-08-12	2025-10-31	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%

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, and 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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 workers 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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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, and 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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

Milestone 16 – Jurisdiction and Disposition

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
Closed	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Jurisdiction and Disposition Hearings equip 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:

Completed state QA testing in May.

Milestone 17 – Status Reviews

Dev Progress Health	Size	Complexity	Time
Closed	▼ Small Medium Large	▼ Low Moderate High Very High Extreme	▼ Short Average Long

Description:

Status Reviews equip 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:

Completed state QA testing in May.

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 up 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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 plans 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:

Progress health remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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:

Seventeen (17) TRS-related stories remain in blocked-dependency status due to the inability to perform end-to-end testing with CalSAWS. CalSAWS has not yet delivered the interface stories required to support testing of the transactional components for sending tiered rates. Without these interfaces, the project team cannot validate the tiered rate functionality end-to-end.

CalSAWS has communicated that design and development for TRS updates will begin in March 2027 with deployment planned for June 2027. The project moved the 17 TRS-related stories to post-V1 to align with CalSAWS.

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 does not meet 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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 case workers 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 May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 monitoring 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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

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 remains red for the month of May due to a high volume of defects requiring additional rework and testing. A recovery plan has been implemented that includes an increase in QA resources and expanded vendor testing efforts.

User Feedback / Usability Testing

The CWS-CARES project is working with the technical services team to confirm the status and timeline for reviewing the 38 essential system updates requested for CWS-CARES from EUST 3 feedback. These essential stories originate from user-reported issues and represent scenarios where a user is blocked from executing a necessary business process and no workaround exists. This review will determine how the work will be prioritized and scheduled in upcoming development cycles. We will provide further updates once the analysis and proposed schedule are complete.

Data / Document Conversion

The data conversion team has successfully completed mapping all 251 source tables from CWS/CMS to CWS-CARES. This includes 3,058 CWS/CMS data elements, with zero elements remaining in progress. An additional 955 data elements have been identified as not expected to convert because they originate from system-specific tables or have been determined as unnecessary for the new system. These “likely not needed” fields remain under review for final confirmation.

Full data loads have been completed for all CWS-CARES objects. Mock Cycle 2 data loads are also complete, and Mock Cycle 2 is scheduled to begin in early June as part of Production Simulation. The team continues to address data conversion-related defects identified during DC Cycle 6 and Mock Cycle 1.

Data Conversion (CWS/CMS Data Elements)

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

The team also continues converting documents from CWS/CMS. All historical documents, approximately 87.4 million, have now been converted. Newly added or updated documents are being processed on an ongoing basis at a rate of roughly 100,000 per week.

User Adoption Summary

Organizational Change Management (OCM) Activities - In May, the KPMG team reengaged with counties for the ongoing work with OCM activities. The team presented to the CARES leadership team the redesigned Process Information Sessions workflows with Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) documentation. While these overall guides are being reviewed internally, they will be shared with the counties at a County Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting in June, introducing the subject. After that introduction, the OCM team will begin meeting with each county individually to review their processes and work through the county-specific BPR documents.

Training Activities - In May, the KPMG team reengaged with the counties by holding the Training Advisory Workgroup (TAW) meeting. During the May meeting, counties voted to rename this meeting series to Training Information, Planning, and Sharing (TIPS) to better reflect its purpose. After this meeting, the CWS-CARES Training Coordinators reached out to each county to begin planning the upcoming training sessions. This individualized recognizes that, while counties may share regional similarities, each county's processes and needs are distinct. The CWS-CARES team also began the review process of the existing on-demand training materials (Enablement), Quick Guides, and Instructor Led Training (ILT) content. These are critical pieces to delivering a holistic and comprehensive training program.

Implementation - The Implementation Leads participated in a broad range of project activities throughout May, including training logistics planning, data quality discussions, readiness reviews, stakeholder briefings, external systems meetings and project schedule reviews. The team reviewed key project documents, developed implementation timelines, and completed updates and readiness checklist refinements within Asana.

The Monthly Readiness Meeting cadence with organizations was successfully relaunched with readiness activities updated and tracked in Asana. Implementation Leads coordinated closely with organizations on forms development, supported updates to forms inventories, supported Production Simulation activities, ensured completion of required tasks and communications, and continued ongoing engagement through monthly readiness meetings and project communications. The team advanced development of the Go-Live Support Plan created organization-specific readiness and support planning questions and began preparations for the four-month readiness checkpoint.

Additional efforts included collaboration with partners such as Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) on training approaches and support strategies. The draft Master Implementation Plan (MIP) was completed and approved by project leadership. In addition, the team submitted recommendations regarding the project meeting structure and cadence, which are currently under review. Formal recommendations will be presented to project leadership, and any resulting decisions will be documented through the project's Decision-Making Framework (DMF).

ACF Monthly Reporting on User Engagement & Adoption – The Strategic Communications Team submitted the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) May 2026 monthly report on user engagement and adoption. This report detailed key CWS-CARES project accomplishments: the conclusion of Extended User Scenario Testing (EUST) with 2,769 cumulative feedback items reported from 782 users across 35 counties, prepared for the Production Simulation environment that will enable users to access a production-like system with converted data, interfaces, and analytics to support validation of system functionality and business processes; and completed analysis of Communication Effectiveness Survey #3 results to assess stakeholder sentiment and identify opportunities for improvement. The report also highlighted the county participation at monthly stakeholder and user engagement meetings led and facilitated by CWS-CARES project staff, recurring meetings, and summarized the total communications were sent to CWS-CARES leaders and staff. Communications were shared in the areas of External Systems, Implementation/OCM/Training, Strategic Communications, User Feedback and posted to the CWDS website.

External Communications & Engagement – The Strategic Communications team conducted Stakeholder Briefing #7 with 742 staff registered and 626 staff in attendance. 42 of 58 counties attended with highest numbers from Los Angeles (96), Orange (52), Fresno (31), Santa Clara (18). The California Department of Social Services – CDSS (28) and Child Welfare Digital Services - CWDS (21) also had strong representation. The Strategic Communications team collaborated with project teams to distribute the CWS-CARES Weekly Digest on May 4, 11, 18, and 26 to child welfare leadership and CARES Points of Contact. This month's updates included the May 2026 Progress and Engagement Summary, CWS CARES: Changes to Court Reports Development, registration for Stakeholder Briefing #7, CWS-CARES Progress and Engagement Summary, CWS-CARES Production Simulation Hub, a Forms in CWS-CARES: Guidance and Recommendations fact sheet, the CWS-CARES and Data Exchange Fact Sheet. The Weekly Digest also includes a FAQ of the week where each week, a question is highlighted along with information to help readers better understand CWS-CARES functionality.

The Strategic Communications Team collaborated with project staff to produce the May 2026 CWS-CARES Progress & Engagement Summary. This communication tool gives stakeholders a clear, concise overview of our shared progress and accomplishments. The summary highlighted key activities and fosters transparency in areas like prototype reviews, forms, reports, data conversion, and training. The summary included the fourteen communications distributed in the reporting month including Weekly Digests, individual communications, and CWDS webpage updates. The summary included Communication Effectiveness Survey #3 results. In the April reporting month, one demonstration was conducted in the Family First Prevention Services (FFPSA) area.

Other Completed Work Products – The Strategic Communications Team completed the following work products and activities: Production Simulation communications, Word Limitations in CWS-CARES Forms – AEM Recommendation, a Court Reports article, communication updates for the Monthly CWS/CMS Oversight Committee Meeting, ELT Messaging on Prioritization, Remediation, and Post V1 Release Strategy, monthly External Systems meeting content, an Inquiry Management Initiative to enhance the CWDS website's Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) content, CWS-CARES Implementation Timeline, County Advisory Committee (CAC) communications, a County Forms Revalidation communication, and a CWS-CARES Providing Vendor Resources for County Forms Development communication.

Budget and Expenditures

2025-26 CWS-CARES Report Summary

OTSI Spending Authority Budget Item	2025/26 Budget ¹	2025/26 Expenditures
Personal Services ²	\$13,607,250	\$10,928,428
Other Operating Expenses & Equipment (OE&E) ²	\$63,347,877	\$38,443,595
Data Center Services ²	\$4,019,061	\$3,319,523
Contract Services ^{2 5 6}	\$207,951,742	\$100,824,464
Enterprise Services ²	\$5,889,535	\$4,971,793
Legislation ²	\$15,015,000	\$0
OTSI Spending Authority Total	\$309,830,466	\$158,487,803

CDSS Local Assistance Budget Item	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Expenditures
CDSS Salary & Benefits ³	\$1,866,500	\$1,316,377
CDSS OE&E (Includes Travel and Training) ³	\$115,500	\$1,252
Contract Services ³	\$900,000	\$735,445
County Regional Training Academy ³	\$0	\$0
Core Constituent Participation Costs ⁴	\$35,457,147	\$9,100,978
CDSS Local Assistance Total	\$38,339,147	\$11,154,052

Project Totals	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Expenditures
CWS-CARES Project Total	\$348,169,613	\$169,641,855

¹ 2025/26 budget aligns with SPR 6 plus Budget Letter adjustments 25-21 and 25-23 and is inclusive of CWS-CARES costs only. CARES-Live costs are not included.

² Actual expenditures through March 2026 FI\$Cal reports and approved invoices June 4, 2026.

³ CDSS Local Assistance expenditures through May 2026. CDSS Salary & Benefits and OE&E expenditures through May 2026.

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

⁵ Several prime vendor invoices are being held pending confirmation services were rendered.

⁶ FY 2025/26 contract withhold amounts are included.

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) are 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 data in the dashboard for schedule, cost, and scope as of May 15, 2026.

Metric	5/15/2026	4/15/2026	3/15/2026	Description
Planned V1 Percent Complete	89%	82%	80%	Planned percent complete as of this date.
Actual V1 Percent Complete	87%	78%	76%	Actual percent complete as of this date.
Schedule Performance Index (SPI)	0.976	0.945	0.952	Schedule performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Cost Performance Index (CPI)	1.197	1.124	1.134	Cost performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Estimated to Complete (ETC, V1)	\$104,297,720	\$183,440,178	\$193,487,061	Estimated cost to complete the project.
Estimated at Completion (EAC, V1)	\$779,700,502	\$830,355,589	\$822,586,067	Estimated cost at completion of the project.
Forecast V1 Completion	12/8/2026	1/30/2027	1/19/2027	Date V1 is forecasted to complete.
Forecast V2 Completion	6/20/2028	8/31/2028	8/15/2028	Date V2 is forecasted to complete.
Earned Cost (EC)	\$808,314,277	\$726,990,276	\$713,646,052	Budget for work actual completed to date.
Actual Cost (AC)	\$675,402,782	\$646,915,411	\$629,099,006	Actual cost for work completed to date.

Legend

> 0.99	0.95 – 0.99	< 0.95
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Vendor Contracts

The following contracts or contract amendments were executed during the month of May.

Contract	Purpose	Contract Cost	Term	Notes
OnCore Consulting, LLC	CARES Data Infrastructure (CDI)	\$139,805,087.71	4/15/21 – 10/31/27	Amendment to increase contract amount to account for Prod Sim work
OnCore Consulting, LLC	CARES Data Infrastructure (CDI)	\$148,510,383.71	4/15/21 – 10/31/27	Amendment to add Tier 3 Support to the contract
Los Angeles County	County SME	\$996,623.00	7/1/23 – 6/30/27	Amendment to exercise the first option of the contract
County of San Francisco	County SME	\$1,057,141.023	7/1/23 – 6/30/27	Amendment to exercise the first option of the contract
Evident Change	Structured Decision Making (SDM) Interface	\$3,573,311.50	3/1/23 – 5/31/27	Amendment to increase contract amount to account for Prod Sim work
Opeeka, Inc	Case Management Assessment (CMA) Interface	\$11,109,141.20	4/2/24 – 2/1/28	Amendment to increase contract amount to account for Prod Sim work
Taborda Solutions, Inc.	Salesforce Subscription Services	\$70,033,778.98	8/7/25 – 8/6/27	Amendment to exercise the only option of the contract
Infinite Solutions, Inc.	Project and Technical Management Support Services	\$7,205,760.00	9/7/21 – 9/6/27	Amendment to exercise the final option of the contract
Cinnovx	Technical Advisory Services	\$903,420	7/1/26 – 4/30/28	New agreement

High Priority Risks

For the May 2026 reporting period, zero (0) high priority risks were opened, closed, or continuing. 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 issues for the month of May.

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

Closed High Priority Risks: Zero (0) high priority risk was closed during the month of May.

High Priority Issues

For the May 2026 reporting period three (3) high priority issues were opened, zero (0) high priority issues were closed, and nine (9) high priority issues are continuing, for a total of 12. Priority for *RI-369: Production Simulation was not started by 5/4, impacting user confidence*, and was updated from a medium risk to a high priority issue at the Risk and Issue Forum on May 27, 2026. 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 three (3) new high priority issues for the month of May.

New Issue	Impact	Status
RI-376: Inadequate time to complete development for SDM and CARES Live before Mock 2 <u>Description:</u> The Data Conversion team will not have sufficient time to complete the development and unit testing for SDM and CARES Live before Mock 2 starts as vendor has not provided full volume of documents, ingestion file till date to start the development.	• Mock 2 readiness at risk: SDM/CARES Live functionality may be partially built, untested, or unstable at Mock 2 start • Defects and rework increase: reduced unit testing time increases the likelihood of higher defect leakage into later test cycles, driving rework and delays • Quality and cutover risk: Insufficient validation of full-volume processing can lead to performance/throughput issues or data quality issues surfacing late, increasing cutover and operational risk	Data for CANS and CARES Live has been received, including the historical CANS extract, CARES Live ETL/mapping data, and the converted CANS assessments now under validation. A remaining design issue involves linking legacy hotline assessments to referrals instead of screenings, while work on CANS and SDM mappings continues and open questions are tracked in the appropriate records.

RI-378: RBAC Gaps for Sealed/Sensitive Records: High Defects; Converted Data Untested <i>Description: RBAC (Role Based Access Control) testing has only been performed on synthetic data with high defect rates, and no defects have yet been addressed. RBAC testing on converted data was never planned or executed. In addition, RBAC (negative and regression) testing for sealed/sensitive records has not started.</i>	• Potential unintended exposure of sealed/sensitive records due to incomplete RBAC controls (Personas, Permissions, Sealed/Sensitive) • Increased risk to Prod Simulation timelines and go-live readiness; may require rework, delayed approvals, and additional county testing	ELT approved excluding sealed sensitive records from Mock 2 until RBAC validation is complete, with a clone of this data to be retained outside PROXIM for later reintroduction once access controls are verified. State QA identified cross-county visibility into sealed records, confirming RBAC gaps, and the team is preparing for converted-data RBAC testing as soon as the necessary environment becomes available.
RI-379: Interface Batch Jobs Not Executed Against Converted Data; No Successful Runs to Date <i>Description: Interface batch jobs across all partner systems (CDE, DDS, LIS, FAS, CECRIS, JNET) have never been executed in a converted data environment. After 8+ weeks of delays, no batch job has successfully run in any converted environment yet, and no delta jobs have been tested either.</i>	• Low confidence in code and data quality due to lack of end-to-end execution • PaaS has no planned testing against converted data, increasing the risk of undetected data defects, duplicates, and downstream issues affecting Provider, Education Provider, and RM Directory functionality • Potential for performance issues, blocking integration validation, and threatening readiness for Prod Simulation and go live	Interface batch jobs are planned to run in environment 401 using the latest Mock 2 data, with CDI DDS, and CECRIS processing largely completed aside from one pending CECRIS file and an LIS/FAS format update. JNET outbound processing can proceed in the Prod SIM/ while inbound work remains on hold until an environment is available that supports CloudHub 2.0 and converted data.

Continuing High Priority Issues: There are nine (9) continuing high priority issues for the month of May.

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
RI-308: Delays in delivery of CARES V1 State forms <i>Description: Approximately 310 forms have been identified for CARES V1 based on the current Requirements and User Stories, but about 117 of these have not yet been fully defined and their templates have not been provided.</i>	If the remaining 117 forms and approved mockups are not provided by the end of October 2024, delivery of form designs and integration with the CARES application will be delayed, impacting the baseline project schedule.	All V1 forms have been completed and released into a higher environment for validation. Two additional forms were identified and will follow the established change control process. Tracker updates and retesting activities are underway to ensure alignment and confirm timelines

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
RI-321: Insufficient time and resources to complete the development of County forms needed for CARES V1 Go-Live <i>Description:</i> Some Counties have not started developing required forms for CARES V1 Go-Live due to various factors, which put readiness of forms for EUST 3 and Production Simulation (Prod Sim) at risk.	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.	Structured support for counties continues, and additional options to assist them are being explored while preparation work for the next metrics checkpoint remains underway. Counties are expected to need increased support to complete and validate essential forms for the upcoming release, prompting a recommendation to engage the implementation function to help track progress, address development challenges, and ensure readiness.
RI-327: Long processing time for Micro-conversion may impact Cutover and Pilot planning and implementation <i>Description:</i> If Micro-conversion cannot complete within 48 hours, CWS/CMS will need to be frozen for 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.	Planning for micro-conversion execution is being adjusted to align with the next mock-conversion cycle, with additional time needed to finalize the approach, complete testing, and validate the automation framework. Earlier timelines are no longer viable, as testing from the prior mock cycle indicates a need for optimization and clearer scheduling for both the micro-conversion window and the broader production-conversion period. Updated timings and a consolidated plan will be developed, supported by collected performance metrics and proposed improvements.
RI-339: Automation Regression Test (ART) execution failures are poor and not showing an improvement or improving trend <i>Description:</i> 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.	Recent regression runs have shown varying pass rates across cycles, with improvements in some milestones but continued fluctuations tied to open defects and ongoing script maintenance. Failures are being attributed to application changes and known issues, and both execution results and trends continue to be shared for visibility.

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
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.	A series of technical working sessions is underway to review analyzer outputs, identify rule exceptions, and confirm the next set of follow-up actions. Quality benchmarks and verification activities are being rerun, with plans to compare results and update the record once findings are consolidated.
RI-344: Separation of Business Rules <u>Description:</u> Business rules are currently hard coded into the Apex code and have not been separated into the Business Rules Engine.	This approach does not align with contractual requirements or CCWIS compliance, creating potential risks to both compliance and long-term system flexibility. The V1 Modularity Approach – CARES – Confluence (created 3/21/2022) specifies that business rules must be hosted in a business rules engine, separate from the code.	The State reaffirmed that required rules must reside in the BRE for the initial release. Follow-up discussions are planned to clarify criteria, rule placement, and migration steps. An interim plan is expected, and the item remains high severity until that plan is finalized.
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 item remains open for monitoring as support for the initial release continues, with the understanding that expanded verification and end-to-end testing may surface additional defects in the short term. Weekly reporting and a continued focus on milestone closure will guide ongoing progress tracking.
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.	A series of working sessions is being initiated to review rule exceptions and incorporate findings into the broader analyzer and verification effort linked with the related item. Quality benchmarks are being rerun, with updated adherence metrics and remediation steps planned as part of the consolidated review. The item will move forward in coordination with the linked effort, with next steps focused on

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
		refining the plan and publishing updated results.
RI-369: Production Simulation was not started by 5/4, impacting user confidence <i>Description: CWS-CARES production simulation is delayed due to high number of unresolved defects which significantly impact the start of proposed Production Simulation environment.</i>	If the system is not stable or has many noticeable defects or security flaws, this may negatively impact confidence from the user community in CARES system.	Team has rescheduled the Production Simulation with converted data to June 8 - 9 to align with the official environment release. Earlier guidance indicated Phase 1 of Prod Sim began on May 4 in the Readiness Environment, with Phase 2 planned to start on May 26 using Mock Cycle 2 converted data.

Closed High Priority Issue: Zero (0) high priority issues were closed in the month of May.