

CWS-CARES Legislative Update

June 2026

Executive Summary

The project began the next phase of Production Simulation (“Phase 2”), which involves testing with converted data in the CWS-CARES V1 Readiness environment. This Phase 2 testing began on June 22, following last month’s delay caused by major issues identified during Mock 2 Data Conversion and environment setup. In the month of June, Milestones 10.1: Structured Decision Making (SDM), 11: Aftercare & Re-Entry, 18: Other Hearings, and 24: Track Assistance Costs all completed State Testing Quality Assurance (QA). Earned Value Management Schedule Performance Index (SPI) improved slightly in June-- the forecasted CWS-CARES Version 1 (V1) completion date is one month later than the planned October 26, 2026 Go-Live date.

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%	89%	81%
Milestone 7.1: Case Management Assessment (CMA)	2024-04-15	2025-12-26	100%	100%	100%	100%	85%	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%	95%	91%
Milestone 10.1: Structured Decision Making (SDM)	2023-04-24	2025-07-11	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	91%
Milestone 11: Aftercare & Re-Entry	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
Milestone 13: Adoption	2024-02-12	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	84%	74%
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%	100%	99%
Milestone 20.1: Foster Care Eligibility Determination (FCED)	2023-01-30	2025-12-26	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 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%	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%	100%	100%	97%
Milestone 26: Maintain Resource Family Home	2023-12-04	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	57%	52%
Milestone 26.1: Facility Management System (FMS)	2024-03-25	2025-11-28	100%	100%	100%	100%	43%	43%
Milestone 27: Complaints	2023-06-19	2025-12-30	100%	100%	100%	100%	89%	81%
Milestone 28: Legal Action	2024-02-26	2026-01-23	100%	100%	100%	100%	52%	43%
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%	100%

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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:

The project has resolved the longstanding dependency issues affecting this by moving all seventeen (17) previously blocked items into a separate group of work that will be completed after the V1 go live. This action formally removes the dependency barrier that was preventing progress and allows the remaining scope to proceed without the constraints caused by CalSAWS interface work. The team will reassess the remaining M24 functionality during upcoming planning sessions to confirm what can be delivered in V1 and what may require future release alignment.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

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 June. QA completed most testing and reduced rework, but automated regression continues to be the main constraint. The next mitigation step is a coordinated effort between QA and development to prioritize automation-blocking defects and streamline test coverage so automation results can reliably support Phase 2.

User Feedback / Usability Testing

The CWS-CARES project continues to review the outstanding user reported issues and essential system updates identified through EUST 3 feedback. These items represent scenarios where users cannot complete required business processes, making them a priority for evaluation and scheduling. The analysis of these items and the proposed sprint plan are still pending approval; once approved, the team will confirm the development timeline and provide updated delivery expectations.

Data / Document Conversion

During the month of June, the Data Conversion team advanced several key areas of work and transitioned multiple items from planned activities into full completion. All Mock Cycle 2 load activities are now complete, including CWS-CMS file extracts, Salesforce and Okta (user access management tool) user load processing, address standardization, data loads to Salesforce, document ingestion, Snowflake (data analysis and reporting tool) loads, and Civica (person/provider search tool) loads. This marks the full readiness of Mock Cycle 2 for Production Simulation and subsequent validation.

Conversion progress reporting expanded in June to include detailed status tracking by service area. All service areas have completed mapping activities (100%), with build progress varying by component: CalSAWS Linking build is 10% complete, RFA Document Linking is fully built, and Conversion Load Scripts to Civica are also fully built and validated. Additional work began on Data Pipeline updates and conversion impact analysis connected to recent Civica data layout.

Document conversion activities continued to progress through Phase 3, with updated June metrics showing 15,637,451 documents planned for conversion, 15,528,616 successfully extracted, and 108,835 files removed or identified as worker-corrupted. This reflects ongoing reconciliation and quality control as part of the historical document conversion effort.

User Adoption Summary

Organizational Change Management (OCM) Activities - In June, the project re-engaged with the OCM Advisory Workgroup, holding the first monthly meeting with the new Implementation Services team. This relaunch begins the reengagement of the OCM Coordinators and Super Users, building upon the earlier organizational change management approach. A change to the meeting is a recommendation to include representatives from each Organization, which is being discussed with the Regional User Group Chairs. The project presented the upcoming Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) activities with the critical focus of updating process maps to align with the future state CWS-CARES V1 operational processes as of EUST 3. Working with individual Organizations, the BPR Team will review the updated process maps to help identify variances between how work is done today and how it will be done at go-live. These optional sessions will occur over July and August 2026 with the goal of assisting the Organization with its OCM efforts, documentation updates, and readiness.

Training Activities - In June, the Training Information, Planning, and Sharing (TIPS) meeting occurred twice following the agreed upon structure. The CWS-CARES team continued their review and development of the existing on-demand training materials (Enablement), Quick Guides, and Instructor Led Training (ILT) materials. A key deliverable of these items is the CWS-CARES Learning Path document that outlines the order of Enablement programs and the necessary ILT classroom training that will be needed, along with the anticipated time to complete the training modules. This document was shared with the County and Organization training leads in June. The team continued working with the Probation departments on developing probation specific training materials and training dates. These are critical pieces to delivering a holistic and comprehensive training program. As of June, there are over 700 registrants for the Train the Trainer (TTT) sessions with over 30 training sessions scheduled, beginning in July 2026. Collectively, there have been 46 unique Enablement programs developed that will be released into the Production Simulation and Training Environment throughout June and July.

Implementation - Throughout the month of June, the Implementation Leads continued to support an expansive range of project activities essential to preparing organizations for the upcoming CARES V1 rollout. Key efforts included maintaining updates across the Master Implementation Plan (MIP), which was delivered for State review during the month. The team also advanced implementation readiness activities by creating and beginning to maintain the Statewide Go Live Readiness Dashboard to report out on Readiness from the perspective of the CWS-CARES Project, as well as Organizations. In addition, the team facilitated and completed the first of four planned Readiness Checkpoints, establishing a baseline assessment of project and organizational readiness.

June also marked the continued cadence of Monthly Readiness Meetings with organizations, during which Implementation Leads validated progress on readiness tasks, coordinated updates to readiness activities within Asana, and supported organizations in validating the Technical Readiness Resource document and sharing updates to the project. Organizations received ongoing support related to training access validation, data readiness, and cutover tracking, ensuring all key implementation dependencies continued to move forward despite schedule pressures and Production Simulation delays noted earlier in the month.

The team progressed work on the CWS-CARES Go Live Support Plan, delivered updated materials to support Org specific Go Live Support Plans, and finalized the Org specific Go Live Support Plan Timeline to support planning activities anticipated to begin in July. These deliverables collectively strengthen the framework for organization-level readiness and support planning leading up to the planned October statewide deployment.

ACF Monthly Reporting on User Engagement & Adoption – The Strategic Communications Team submitted the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) June 2026 monthly report on user engagement and adoption. This report detailed key CWS-CARES project accomplishments: continued Production Simulation readiness activities and communicated a revised implementation approach to support statewide validation efforts and October 2026 Go-Live, conducted Stakeholder Briefing #8 to provide project updates, readiness information, and stakeholder engagement opportunities, and continued implementation, Organizational Change Management (OCM), and training readiness activities to support organizational preparedness for Go-Live. 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 during the reporting period. Communications were shared in the areas of External Systems, Implementation/OCM/Training, Production Simulation, Strategic Communications, User Feedback and information posted to the CWDS website.

External Communications & Engagement – The Strategic Communications team conducted Stakeholder Briefing #8 with 399 staff in attendance representing 42 of 58 counties with highest numbers from Fresno (39), Los Angeles (31), Santa Clara (16), and San Bernardino (12). The Strategic Communications team collaborated with project teams to distribute the CWS-CARES Weekly Digest on June 1, 18, 15, 22, and 29 to child welfare leadership and CARES Points of Contact. This month's updates included the May and June 2026 Progress and Engagement Summary, [CWS-CARES Role Based Training Curriculum](#), [Stakeholder Briefing #7 meeting materials](#), [Kin-Gap demo highlights](#) article, 500 new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) posted to the CWDS FAQ page, a [Prod Sim & Environment Status Update on June 22](#), CWS-CARES Data and Technical Contacts, CWS-CARES Data and Technical Contacts, and a recap of Train-the-Trainer Enablement Kickoff Sessions. 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 [June 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 eleven communications distributed in the reporting month including Weekly Digests, individual communications, and CWDS webpage updates. The summary included Stakeholder Briefing #7 results.

Other Completed Work Products – The Strategic Communications Team completed the following work products and activities: Production Simulation communications and release notes, CWS-CARES planned outage communications, communication updates for the Monthly CWS/CMS Oversight Committee Meeting, ELT Messaging on the backlog and release strategy, monthly External Systems meeting content, adding 500 searchable, categorized and tagged questions and responses to enhance the CWDS website's Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) content, a video showcasing highlights from CWS/CMS and CWS-CARES for the executive audience, and County Advisory Committee (CAC) communications.

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	\$38,738,905
Data Center Services ²	\$4,019,061	\$3,319,523
Contract Services ^{2 5 6}	\$207,951,742	\$108,997,710
Enterprise Services ²	\$5,889,535	\$4,971,793
Legislation ²	\$15,015,000	\$0
OTSI Spending Authority Total	\$309,830,466	\$166,956,359

CDSS Local Assistance Budget Item	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Expenditures
CDSS Salary & Benefits ³	\$1,866,500	\$1,454,465
CDSS OE&E (Includes Travel and Training) ³	\$115,500	\$1,303
Contract Services ³	\$900,000	\$809,732
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	\$11,366,478

Project Totals	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Expenditures
CWS-CARES Project Total	\$348,169,613	\$178,322,837

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 April 2026 FISCAL reports and approved invoices June 30, 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 June 15, 2026.

Metric	6/15/2026	5/15/2026	4/15/2026	Description
Planned V1 Percent Complete	90%	89%	82%	Planned percent complete as of this date.
Actual V1 Percent Complete	89%	87%	78%	Actual percent complete as of this date.
Schedule Performance Index (SPI)	0.984	0.976	0.945	Schedule performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Cost Performance Index (CPI)	1.182	1.197	1.124	Cost performance of 1.0 or greater is on track, less than 1.0 is off track.
Estimated to Complete (ETC, V1)	\$90,019,144	\$104,297,720	\$183,440,178	Estimated cost to complete the project.
Estimated at Completion (EAC, V1)	\$789,628,015	\$779,700,502	\$830,355,589	Estimated cost at completion of the project.
Forecast V1 Completion	11/25/2026	12/8/2026	1/30/2027	Date V1 is forecasted to complete.
Forecast V2 Completion	6/3/2028	6/20/2028	8/31/2028	Date V2 is forecasted to complete.
Earned Cost (EC)	\$826,757,184	\$808,314,277	\$726,990,276	Budget for work actual completed to date.
Actual Cost (AC)	\$699,608,871	\$675,402,782	\$646,915,411	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 June 2026:

Contract	Purpose	Contract Cost	Term	Notes
KPMG LLP	Product Value Services (PVS)	\$93,615,258.40	3/1/21 – 10/31/26	Amendment to increase contract amount to account for Production Simulation
xTerraLink, Inc.	Prod Sim Security Testing Services	\$400,000.00	6/8/26 – 12/5/26	New agreement

The following contracts or contract amendments were submitted to the ACF during the month of June 2026:

Contract	Purpose	Contract Cost	Term	Notes
KPMG LLP	Product Value Services (PVS)	\$85,932,466.12	3/1/21 – 10/31/26	Amendment to increase contract amount to account for change requests from the project
KPMG LLP	Product Value Services (PVS)	\$93,615,258.40	3/1/21 – 10/31/26	Amendment to add Tier 1 and 2 Support for Production Simulation
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 change requests from the project
OnCore Consulting, LLC	CARES Data Infrastructure (CDI)	\$148,510,383.71	4/15/21 – 10/31/27	Amendment to add Tier 3 Support for Production Simulation
Evident Change	Structured Decision Making (SDM) Interface Development	\$3,573,311.50	3/1/23 – 5/31/27	Amendment to increase contract amount to account for Production Simulation
Opeeka	Case Management Assessment (CMA) Services	\$11,109,141.20	4/2/24 – 2/1/28	Amendment to increase contract amount to account for Production Simulation

High Priority Risks

For the June 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 June.

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

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

High Priority Issues

For the June 2026 reporting period, zero (0) high priority issues were opened, zero (0) high priority issues were closed, and eleven (11) high priority issues are continuing, for a total of 11. The priority for *RI-308: Delays in delivery of CARES V1 State forms and RI-321: Insufficient time and resources to complete the development of County forms needed for CARES V1 Go-Live* was lowered in severity from a High Issue to a Medium Issue ; *RI380 – Delivery Plan for Remaining Scope Not Established* was escalated from a Medium Risk to a High Issue at the Risk and Issue Forum on June 24, 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 zero (0) new high priority issues for the month of June.

Continuing High Priority Issues: There are eleven (11) continuing high priority issues for the month of June.

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
RI-327: Long processing time for Micro-conversion may impact Go-Live Date <u>Description:</u> 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 Go-Live.	Final conversion load would require a 72-hour freeze period for CWS/CMS.	Finalizing the micro-conversion playbook and assessing lower environments to support repeated execution toward the 48-hour cutover target. The resolution plan is updated to run another micro-conversion on 9/21 and 10/05.
RI-339: Automation Regression Test (ART) execution failures are poor and are 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.	The state QA team ran the regression scripts with a 74.12% pass rate. Several Milestones have changed over the last few weeks, some better or some worse. Many epics which have been identified for weeks continue to be pending. This is the weekly routine outcome from the regression scripts.

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
RI-342: Issues identified by Salesforce Code Quality Review <i>Description:</i> 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.	Test-coverage* differences remain (77% vs. 90%), and closure is pending IV&V validation of refactoring results and alignment of coverage reporting. Additional review to be carried out by mid- July. *Test coverage is a metric that measures how much of a software application's code, features, or requirements are exercised by a set of tests, helping ensure quality and identify untested areas.
RI-344: Separation of Business Rules <i>Description:</i> 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.	Only Data Check Tool rules are currently in the Business Rules Engine (BRE), with most business rules still in Salesforce. PaaS SI is drafting a migration plan to move to the BRE for review by the State in July.
RI-345: Insufficient QA capacity to support V1 <i>Description:</i> 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).	Exploratory validation by State QA is at 100% complete for all milestones with 92% of all stories moved to “done”, indicating acceptance of results by Service Managers and Product Delivery Leads. Remaining 8% of stories have outstanding defects that are at various stages of being corrected with goal to close the milestones by end of July.
RI-354: Non-Adherence to Best Practices in APEX Custom Code Management <i>Description:</i> 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.	Documentation is complete, and a defined process is in place for best practices and compliance. IV&V requires time to review the materials before closure can be approved. The team continues to address exception items through weekly reviews, with Jira tickets

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
		used to track new requests and approvals.
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.	Production Simulation began later than planned for about 2,500 users on 6/22 with converted data from CWS/CMS and the Mock 2 Conversion. Additional users will be added in waves to the environment on 7/6, 7/13, and 7/20. This issue will be reviewed for closure by end of July.
RI-376: Inadequate time to complete development for SDM and CARES Live before Mock 2 <i>Description: The Data Conversion team does not have sufficient time to complete development and unit testing for SDM and CARES Live before Mock 2. The vendor has not yet provided the full volume of documents or ingestion files required to begin development.</i>	• 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	Opeeka data linking is complete, and navigation from CARES to P-CIS is functioning. SDM ingestion has not begun due to remaining open questions, and a confirmed timeline for linking historical assessments that is still needed. Resolution timing will be confirmed with testing in Production Simulation
RI-378: RBAC Gaps for Sealed & Sensitive Records: High Defects <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, negative and regression RBAC testing for sealed/sensitive records has not yet 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	Vendor testing was completed with state and county testing to be performed in Production Simulation environment. This test will use real production scenarios and new configured user profiles for the counties. Issue will be presented for closure in July.

Continuing Issue	Impact	Status
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 more than eight weeks of delays, no batch job has successfully been executed in any converted environment, and delta jobs have also not been tested.</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	DDS batch jobs performed successfully for all environments. LIS/FAS job executed and under validation. CECRIS validation requires resolution of close-out data files that are pending during month of July.
RI-380: Committed delivery plan for remaining scope is not established <i>Description: If the committed delivery plan for remaining scope is not established, there is a potential that critical business functionality is not delivered when CARES Go-Live and the project may need to delay implementation.</i>	If the committed delivery plan for remaining scope is not established, there is a potential that critical business functionality is not delivered when CARES Go-Live and the project may need to delay implementation.	ELT did not approve the proposed sprint plan to plan development of 260 stories from project backlog. This is pending review of the proposed workarounds of about 120 stories slated for delivery after go-live. Review and final decision anticipated in month of July.

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