

CECRIS & CWS-CARES Crosswalk:

How CECRIS, CARES FFPS Federal Reports, and Form CB-496 (Title IV-E Expenditure Report) Work Together

OVERVIEW

This document is intended to describe the differences and similarities across reports submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and from CDSS to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to support Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) claiming, cost tracking, and outcomes. Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements who will be claiming Title IV-E prevention reimbursement will have a separate process that will be further clarified and outlined separately from this document. The document explores the intersections among:

- The **FFPS Title IV-E Prevention Service Data (IV-E PSD)**: the federal report submitted from CDSS to ACF bi-annually with individual level data from CWS-CARES on California children receiving prevention services to prevent foster care entry
- The **Children's Bureau Form CB-496 Title IV-E Expenditure Report (CB-496)**: the quarterly financial and caseload report used by state and Tribal agencies to claim federal funding for eligible programs under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act
- The **County Expense Claim (CEC)**: the county report documenting administrative costs, training, and specialized services via the County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS)
- The **CA 800 Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures (CA 800)**: the county report documenting direct assistance payments to recipients that is uploaded into CECRIS¹

NOTE: CWS-CARES will be the platform in which service and cost information will be entered to support development of the IV-E PSD to report on individual services and outcomes. The CEC and CA 800 will inform the development of the CB-496 for reporting total costs and claiming reimbursement.

Key concept: Due to differences in purpose, reporting requirements, and data structures, the fiscal claiming reports and the individual-level data captured in CWS-CARES may not align with the CEC or CA 800 on a one-to-one basis. Each data source is designed to meet distinct federal and state reporting obligations; therefore, information generated from CWS-CARES cannot be directly

¹ The CA 800 Summary Report is able to be uploaded to CECRIS for CDSS processing but does not include any automation within CECRIS. Once CDSS processes the report, the data is managed within the CECRIS environment. CECRIS will continue to be maintained as the financial system of record.

compared to the CEC or the CA 800 Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures for auditing or reconciliation purposes².

The document is divided into three parts:

- Overview of IV-E PSD and CB 496
- Cost Tracking Fields in the CWS-CARES Provider Portal
- CB 496 / CECRIS / IV-E PSD Crosswalk

Overview of the IV-E PSD and CB-496

The IV-E PSD and the CB-496 serve distinct but complementary roles in the Title IV-E claiming ecosystem. They are both ongoing reports that CDSS must submit to ACF. The IV-E PSD captures child-level information on services and outcomes for children and families. In contrast, the CB-496 is a fiscal billing report that captures aggregate IV-E expenditures, including costs for prevention services, training, and administration under the FFPS Program.

While the two reports serve different purposes and do not reconcile one-to-one at the child level, they both rely on consistent eligibility and service documentation captured in CARES. Both reports are essential for compliance, cost allocation, and federal audits, but they operate on different data and timelines.

Key Difference:

The IV-E PSD is a **service report** that documents prevention activities and outcomes at the child level. The CB-496 is a **billing report** that summarizes total IV-E costs for reimbursement. The IV-E PSD is not intended to replace the fiscal claiming system.

Side-by-side Comparison of the IV-E PSD and CB-496		
Area	IV-E PSD	CB-496
Primary Purpose	Track service delivery and outcomes	Claim federal reimbursement for IV-E eligible costs
Focus	Services and outcomes for individual children/youth	Spending totals by category
Level of detail	Child-level data	Aggregate data
Who is included	Candidates for foster care and Pregnant/parenting youth	All IV-E eligible populations tied to claimed costs
What is reported	Eligibility status, service types & date, costs tied to services, outcomes (e.g., foster care entry)	Total IV-E expenditures: administrative, training, maintenance costs
Where is it reported	ACF via the National Child Welfare Data Management System (NCWDMS)	Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and managed by ACF's fiscal system
Frequency	Bi-annual (within 45 days after period ends)	Quarterly (within 30 days after reporting period ends)

² Please review the [CB-496 Excel Template File](#) and [Revised Technical Bulletin #1 | The Administration for Children and Families](#) for more information about these fiscal reporting requirements.

Reporting Period	Period 1: Oct 1 – March 31 Period 2: April 1 – Sept. 30	Q1: October 1 – December 31 Q2: January 1 – March 31 Q3: April 1 – June 30 Q4: July 1 – September 30
Due Date	Period 1: May 15 th Period 2: November 15 th	Q1: Jan. 30 th Q2: April 30 th Q3: July 30 th Q4: October 30 th
Submission Format	Structured child-level data file (XML, as specified by program instruction)	Standard fiscal claim form (excel form)
Who uses the data	Federal government: program oversight and evaluation	Federal government: reimbursement and audits
Consequence of errors	Compliance risk, potential impact on eligibility	Disallowed costs, repayment risks

CB 496 and IV-E Prevention Data Elements:

IV-E Prevention Service Data Report Elements	CB 496 Title IV-E Expenditure Report Elements
State Information: - Agency ID – Which agency is reporting (State or Tribal code). - Report Date – End date of the reporting period. Child- Specific Information: - Child ID – A unique, encrypted identifier for the child. - Date of Birth – Child’s birth date. - Sex – Male or Female. - Race & Ethnicity – Multiple race indicators and Hispanic/Latino status. - Pregnant or Parenting Youth – Is the child a pregnant or parenting youth in foster care? Prevention Services: - Prevention Plan Start Date – When the prevention plan began. - Service Category: - Substance Use Treatment - Mental Health Services - In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs - Service Start Date – When the service began. - Service End Date – When the service ended (or left blank if ongoing).	Prevention Services: - Well-Supported Practices -Total costs for prevention services rated <i>Well-Supported</i> under FFPSA. - Supported Practices- Total costs for prevention services rated <i>Supported</i>. - Promising Practices -Total costs for prevention services rated <i>Promising</i>. - Tribal Agreement Prevention Services - Costs for prevention services provided under Tribal-State agreements. - Prevention Services Administrative Costs- Costs for planning, case management, and agency administration related to prevention. - Prevention Services Training Costs- Training for prevention service providers. - Prevention Services Program Total Costs - Sum of all prevention service costs. - Non-Federal Share for Prevention Services State/Tribal match for prevention services. Caseload Counts: - Number of Children Receiving Prevention Services - Number of Children Receiving Prevention Services under Tribal Agreement - Number of Families Receiving Kinship Navigator Services

- Cost of Service – Total dollars spent on the service.

Foster Care Outcomes:

- Foster Care Status at 12 Months – Was the child in foster care one year after the plan started?
- Foster Care Status at 24 Months – Was the child in foster care two years after the plan started?
- Date(s) of Entry into Foster Care – If the child entered foster care, when?

Cost Tracking Fields in the CARES Provider Portal

The information below describes the fiscal data elements that will be entered into the CARES Provider Portal.

CARES Cost Tracking Fields:

1. Service Category (multi-choice dropdown)
2. Service Type (multi-choice dropdown)
3. Has the service started (Yes or No)
4. Service Provided the Reporting Month (multi-choice dropdown)
5. Who Provided the Service (fill in agency name as the response)
6. Where was this Service Provided (multi-choice dropdown)
7. Total Eligible IV-E Cost of Service (fill in response)
8. Number of Units Provided (fill in response)
9. Units of Service (multi-choice dropdown)

There is clarifying helper text available in some of the cost tracking fields in CARES:

- Data field “Total Eligible IV-E Cost of Services” includes helper text saying “Indicate the total IV-E cost of the service for the reporting period”
- Data field “Number of Units Provided” includes helper text saying “Indicate the number of hours provided to the child/family in this reporting period. If less than an hour was provided, please utilize decimals to convey the amount provided (i.e., 12 minutes = .25 hrs.)”
- Data field “Units of Service” has drop down options for day(s), hour(s), week(s) and other

Note that all the data elements noted in the CARES cost tracking section are not in the IV-E PSD report: “number of units” and “units of service,” will not be included in the IV-E PSD report.

Additionally, the helper text noted above is directly from CARES and may change in future iterations. For example, although the CARES Provider Portal currently offers a multi-choice dropdown for days, hours, and weeks as units of service, providers will use the standardized units outlined in the [FFPS Evidence Based Practice \(EBP\) Unit of Service](#) resource.

CB 496 / CECRIS / IV-E PSD Crosswalk

Although there has been no guidance suggesting that the data elements will be reconciled across both federal reports, the CB 496 instructions indicate that, upon request, Title IV-E Agencies must submit documentation supporting current and prior quarter expenditures. This section crosswalks the CB 496 data fields and, where there is a potential connection, uses the IV-E PSD as a supporting document.

While formal reconciliation between the FFPS Federal Report and CB-496 is not required, counties are expected to maintain reasonable internal controls to ensure that aggregate expenditures are logically supported by documented eligibility and service activity in CARES. Timing differences are anticipated and do not require quarter-level alignment, provided that eligibility and allowability are supported.

CB 496 Reporting Fields	Data Source for Reporting Fields	Possibility of IV-E PSD Serving as a Supportive Document
Well-Supported Practices - Total costs for prevention services rated <i>Well-Supported</i> under FFPSA. Supported Practices- Total costs for prevention services rated <i>Supported</i>. Promising Practices -Total costs for prevention services rated <i>Promising</i>. Amounts included in this section are only the federal share.	CECRIS Program Code (PC) PC 1131 - CWD - Title IV-E Prevention Services - Well-Supported EBP PC 1132 - CPD – Title IV-E Prevention Services - Well-Supported EBP- There are two newly established program codes created to track well-supported³ Title IV-E Prevention Service EBP: 1. CWD provided well-supported Title IV-E prevention service EBP. 2. CPD provided well-supported Title IV-E prevention service EBP. These PCs will be available in the forthcoming FFPSA Claiming CFL and upon the	CWS-CARES will be collecting the Total Eligible IV-E Cost of Service of the services for the reporting period each month. The Well-Supported Practice cost could be matched with the Total Eligible IV-E Cost of Service by aggregating the data for a specific quarter. Both the CB 496 and IV-E PSD only ask for the federal share. Therefore, the information will be similar if the IV-E were to be aggregated by a certain timeframe.

³ Due to all of California's approved EBPs being Well-Supported the reporting fields related to Supported and Promising will not be applicable at this time.

	implementation of CWS-CARES.	
Tribal Agreement Prevention Services - Costs for prevention services provided under Tribal-State agreements. Amounts included in this section are only the federal share.	Invoice System	Will not be captured in the IV -E PSD report
Prevention Services Administrative Costs- Costs for planning, case management, and agency administration related to prevention.	CECRIS PC 1012- CWD- Title IV-E Prevention Services - Admin, Training, & Case Management PC 1016- CPD Title IV-E Prevention Services - Admin & Case Management	Will not be captured in the IV -E PSD report
Prevention Services Training Costs- Training for prevention service providers. Amounts included in this section are only the federal share.	CECRIS CWS/Fed - PC 1012- CWD- Title IV-E Prevention Services- Admin, Training, & Case Management* *Federal share of training reported on DFA 327.4 CWS(CBOs)/Fed - PC 1014 - CWD –Title IV-E Prevention Services Training Other Agencies/Providers CPD/Fed - PC 1017 - CPD – Title IV-E Prevention Services Training	Will not be captured in the IV -E PSD report

Prevention Services Program Total Costs - Sum of all prevention service costs.	CECRIS PC 1012 - CWD - Title IV-E Prevention Services - Admin, Training, & Case Management PC 1014 - CWD - Title IV-E Prevention Services - Training Other Agencies/ Providers PC 1016 - CPD - Title IV-E Prevention Services - Admin & Case Management PC 1017 - CPD - Title IV-E Prevention Services – Training PC 1131 - CWD - Title IV-E Prevention Services - Well Supported EBPs PC 1132 - CPD - Title IV-E Prevention Services - Well Supported EBPs	Will not be captured in the IV -E PSD report
Non-Federal Share for Prevention Services State/Tribal match for prevention services.	Invoice System 50% of Total Costs (above) for counties	Will not be captured in the IV -E PSD report
Number of Children Receiving Prevention Services	CWS-CARES	The total number of children receiving services could be collected in the IV-E PSD report by adding up the child IDs for that specific quarter
Number of Children Receiving Prevention Services under Tribal Agreement	CWS-CARES	The total number of children receiving services could be collected in the IV-E PSD report by adding up the child IDs for that specific quarter for the two Tribes with California Title IV-E agreements
Number of Families Receiving Kinship Navigator Services	Currently not applicable	Currently not applicable

Findings:

Based on the information in the crosswalk above, there are only three possible areas that could be cross-referenced, and they would match.

1. Well-Supported Practices -Total costs for prevention services rated *Well-Supported* under FFPSA. If the amount entered CARES is only for delivery costs, then it will match. The PC code entered in this section is specifically for service delivery, and both request the federal share only.
2. Number of Children Receiving Prevention Services. This information could be gathered for the IV-E PSD report by adding up all the child IDs for a specific quarter.
3. Number of Children Receiving Prevention Services under Tribal Agreement. This information could be gathered for the IV-E PSD report by summing all the child IDs for a specific quarter for California Tribes with Title IV-E agreements.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on this brief. Please take a few moments to complete the [CECRIS/CARES Crosswalk Feedback Survey](#) to share your input and suggestions. Your feedback will help inform future resources and ensure they are clear, effective, and supportive of FFPS Program implementation.

Questions?

For additional questions regarding FFPS Program policy and requirements, please contact the CDSS FFPS Team at ffpsapreventionservices@dss.ca.gov.