

Connecticut State Court Improvement Program

Strategic Plan Update

August 30, 2013

Strategic Plan

State Name: CONNECTICUT

Date Strategic Plan Submitted: August 2013

Timeframe Covered by Strategic Plan: FFY 2014-2015

Overall Goal/Mission of SCIP: Mission of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, State Court Improvement Program is to:

- Promote and improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children who are subject to child protection cases in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters;
- Assure that families are engaged throughout the court process;
- Handle child protection cases in fair, timely, and efficient manner.

Outcome #1: The Court will use data to inform practice and to improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The Judicial Branch collects and reports caseload and case movement data related to child protection matters. In order to better analyze the treatment of cases under the Court's jurisdiction, inform practice across the entire child welfare system, and to meet the CQI requirements of the SCIP, an expanded set of data needs to be collected and utilized by the Court and the state child welfare agency in its policy and decision-making process.

Measurable Objective: Availability of data reports at Statewide Taskforce meetings; Use of child welfare information in the SCIP policy and decision-making process.

Activities to be undertaken include but are not limited to data collection from the Court's Statewide Child Protection Information System (CPIS); periodic court file review; collection and review of data from DCF's Connecticut Comprehensive Outcomes Review (CCOR) process; and, collaboration with the University of Connecticut Department of Community Medicine and Health Care to analyze and report findings from expanded data collection.

Strategic Category: *Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.*

☒ Capacity Building

☐ Court Function Improvement

☒ Systemic Reform

Activity or Project Description <i>Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome.</i>	CIP Funding Stream <i>Grant(s) used to fund activity; can be basic, training, data and/or other grants or funding sources as appropriate.</i>	Collaborative Partners <i>Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.</i>	Timeframe <i>Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".</i>	Anticipated Outputs and Results of Activity <i>What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity.</i>	Target Improvement <i>Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve.</i>	Data Source <i>Where relevant and practical, name the specific sources where data will be drawn to measure anticipated changes due to CIP activity.</i>	Feedback Vehicle <i>Brief description of stakeholders the data will be shared with and methodology/products for dissemination of findings.</i>
SCIP will meet enhanced Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process	Basic Data Collection	SCIP Director, SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force,	Ongoing	SCIP will use data collected to analyze trends and outcome measures to improve	Expanded outcome data will be reported semi-annually and shared with system	Child Protection Information System (CPIS)	The following individuals will meet semi-annually to review data:

requirements by conducting improved and expanded data analysis and reporting and using this information to inform the decision-making process.		Department of Children and Families, Office of the Chief Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, Child Protection Unit, UConn Dept. of Community Medicine and Health Care		practice in the child welfare system.	stakeholders.	File Review CFSR/CCOR data	Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters, Court Operations Managers; SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force.
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Narrative: Connecticut's State Court Improvement Program has long supported efforts to improve the state Child Protection Information System (CPIS) and enhance the Court's ability to perform data analysis. By using the CPIS and other methods of data collection such as file review and the DCF CCOR reviews, the Court and the state child welfare agency are anticipated to gain a better understanding of the manner in which cases progress through the child welfare system, and how this impacts outcomes for children and their families. Use of the empirical data provided by these activities, rather than dependence upon anecdotal evidence, will be used as the basis for sound decision-making, will guide SCIP activities and overall systemic improvements, and help Connecticut develop standards for the Court Performance Measures, Timeliness Measures, and Strategic Plan Measures, in an effort to improve outcomes for children involved in the child welfare system.

Annual Update Year #1: Performance Outcome and Timeliness Measures are produced and distributed semi-annually. Updates statistics can be found in Attachment A and B.
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Annual Update Year #2

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Outcome #2: Identify Connecticut's crossover youth population and assess whether this population is at risk of less favorable permanency outcomes compared with children who are solely involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice system.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The Connecticut Judicial Branch has actively participated in the statewide Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, Disproportionate Minority Contact Subcommittee for many years. Several studies, including the Casey Breakthrough Series, have been completed that identify the frequency and significance of children in the child welfare system who then become involved in the juvenile justice system, including documenting the disproportionate representation for youth of color within the population. In addition, Public Act 11-154 took effect in October 2011. In the Act, the state legislature has identified disproportionate minority contact in both the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare population as an issue requiring attention and evaluation. This project will support the Court's efforts to improve outcomes for youth for "Permanency Outcome (P1) Children in care will have appropriate permanency goals established and achieved in a timely manner" identified as an area needing improvement the CFSR.

Measurable Objective: The Judicial Branch and DCF will enter into a cross agency Memorandum of Agreement. The MOA will allow data sharing across the three systems. Data from each system will be collected and analyzed.

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Capstone Project to improve outcomes for crossover youth dually involved in child welfare and juvenile justice.	SCIP Basic Grant	Judicial Branch Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Dept. of	December 2012* July 2013*	An analysis of Judicial and DCF data to identify CT's crossover youth population. Recommendations for	The ability to track this population in Connecticut and improve their time to permanency.	Judicial CPIS system Judicial CMIS system DCF LINK system	The project leader will provide semi-annual updates at meetings of the SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force and the

		Children & Families		SCIP Task Force and agencies to implement and improve outcomes for this population.			OPM Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee/Data Workgroup. The project leader will provide quarterly email updates to leadership of the Judicial Branch, DCF and OPM.
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Narrative: As a result of Connecticut’s participation in Georgetown University’s Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), the team is required to develop and implement a Capstone Project that focuses on improving policies, programs and practices for “crossover” children that have been dually-involved in both the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare systems. Connecticut’s Capstone Project will focus on conducting a prevalence study to identify this population for Connecticut; analyzing the data to determine whether Connecticut’s crossover youth are at risk of less favorable outcomes by comparison with children who are solely involved in the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice System; and, providing recommendations to stakeholders that focus on improving policies, programs, and practices to better serve this crossover youth, including how to provide regular monitoring of this population going forward.

Preliminary data analysis will be completed. The project experienced delays because of the complex Memorandum of Agreement protocols in place between DCF and the Judicial Branch. Additionally, data matching has proven to be more complex than anticipated. Work on the data set is continuing.

Annual Update Year #1: *All data collection has been completed, final data analysis is in process with a draft report anticipated by the end of July 2013 and will be reported in the Annual Self-Assessment Report in December 2013.

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Outcome #4: Increased availability of information regarding confidentiality and information-sharing laws that are relevant across the juvenile court system including child welfare, juvenile justice, health, education, etc.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The Judicial Branch/DCF Executive Implementation Team (EIT) for Joint Strategic Plan (JST) identified the need to address issues related to the release of information versus the right to confidentiality for juveniles. The JSP report and the MacArthur Foundation, Models for Change, Information Sharing Project, provided the data and information that serve as the basis for this project.

Measurable Objective: Completion and posting of an online information-sharing guide.

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Development of information sharing guide	SCIP Basic Grant	Judicial OCPD Office of the Chief State's Attorney State Department of Education DCF Private Bar	December 31, 2012* July 31, 2013*	Online information-sharing guide published on internet.	100% of Users will have access to information regarding confidentiality and information sharing laws.	Number of visit (hits) to the Guide online.	The SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force will receive semi-annual updates on the use of the Information Sharing Guide.

Narrative: The Joint Strategic Plan is an interagency plan between the Judicial Branch and DCF which outlines an integrated system for planning, implementation, and evaluation of juvenile court services. One recommendation included in this plan focuses on identifying issues related to the release of information versus the right to confidentiality for children. Development of the information-sharing guide has been identified as one solution that is anticipated to provide members of the public and professionals with an overview of relevant laws, as well as direct users where to find additional information.

Annual Update Year #1: *Drafting of the Information Sharing Guide has been completed. There was a slight delay in finalizing the document because of internal content review and approval by the Judicial Branch Web Board. A web development consultant has been selected and will begin working on the on line version in late August 2012. It is anticipate that the consultant's work will be completed in late November 2012.

*Final Version of the Information Sharing Guide has been completed, approved by the Web Board in July 2013 and scheduled for inclusion on the Judicial Branch internet website. Utilization data will be reported in the Annual Self-Assessment Report in December 2013.

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Outcome #5: Reduction in the number of removals and time spent in out-of-home care for children of parents who require substance abuse treatment.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The results of Connecticut's CFSR included findings related to Safety Outcome One "Children are first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect: Item 1 "Repeat maltreatment and Permanency", Outcome 1, Item 5: "Children have permanency and stability in their living situation, Item 5:"Foster Care Reentry", Item 8: Reunification, guardianship and placement with relatives." These findings, in part, showed that children whose parents come to the attention of the DCF because of substance abuse are more likely to be removed from their homes and remain in out-of-home care longer than children from non-substance abusing homes and are also at risk for reentering foster care due to relapse. This led to the development of the RSVP Program, and its ensuing evaluation.

Measurable Objective: Develop expansion plan with project partners; Provide training to local stakeholders; Provide data for the ongoing evaluation.

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X Capacity Building **X** Court Function Improvement **X** Systemic Reform

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Recovery Specialist Voluntary program will be expanded and stakeholders will receive training about substance abuse and its effects on child permanency.	SCIP Training Grant	DCF DHMAS Judicial Branch ABH	Ongoing*	Local stakeholders will have a better understanding of substance abuse and its effects on families and the recovery process.		Attendance sheets for training	RSVP Core Team.
The University of Connecticut (UConn)	SCIP Basic Grant	DCF DHMAS	Ongoing, update	Data will show improved outcomes	Less than 5% of all children will have	CPIS system data	Data will be shared with RSVP Core

Department of Community Medicine and Health Care will provide data analysis and monitoring to the project partners.		Judicial Branch DHMAS	annual outcomes*	for the RSVP target population	returned home will have a subsequent neglect petition filed within 12 months of exiting care through reunification; 75% of children exiting care whose parents are enrolled in the program will do so within 12 months; 100% of children whose parents are enrolled in the program will do so within 24 months. 75% of parents will participate in the case status conferences.	UConn Evaluation Data File Review	Team DCF Leadership Judicial Branch Managers Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters.
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Narrative: The Recovery Specialist Voluntary Program was established as a pilot program by means of collaboration between DCF, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DHMAS) and the Judicial Branch in an effort to enhance early identification of parents requiring substance abuse treatment and recovery support, to engage them more fully in their court cases, and to enhance timely child permanency through reunification, transfer of guardianship and adoption, and to reduce foster care reentry due to relapse. Together, the agencies developed and implemented, in conjunction with Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH), the statewide substance abuse provider organization, an integrated system of care for families in need of substance abuse treatment services. This included changing policies, procedures and practices, and developing a coordinated network of behavioral health and support service. The objectives of the pilot program are to:

- Improve substance abusing parents/caregivers' access, engagement and retention in substance abuse treatment;
- Increase access to case management, support and recovery services;
- Promote inter-agency data sharing and collaboration for program development and strategic planning;
- Show improvements in rates and timeliness of child permanency decisions;
- Reduce repeat cases of child maltreatment and re-entry to DCF due to parental/caregiver substance abuse;
- Reduce costs associated with out of home placements and court proceedings; and
- Develop a plan for ongoing outcomes and performance monitoring.

RSVP provides eligible parents with a “Recovery Specialist” and recovery case management. The Court convenes more frequent and enhanced case status conferences with the attorneys, parents, and recovery specialist to share information, monitor case progress, and to ensure expedited access to substance abuse assessment and treatment for parents. The program has been operating in three sites and expansion plans are being developed. SCIP supports the work of the RSVP Program by providing training for stakeholder groups at each site, by jointly funding an evaluation of outcomes, and by monitoring the program for model fidelity.

Annual Update Year #1: *Expansion was completed in one court site in July 2012. Two additional court sites will be added during FFY 2014. Training will be provided for local stakeholders in conjunction with the expansion.

*Data collection and reporting continues. A three-year report has been drafted and is under review. Enhanced data collection has been proposed contingent upon the full execution of a cross system 'Data Use Agreement' currently under review by the RSVP Core Team. Outcome data will be reported in the Annual Self-Assessment Report in December 2013.

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Outcome #6: Increased timeliness and quality of court ordered psychological evaluations.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: Delays in obtaining court ordered evaluations were identified in the Court Improvement Re-Assessment completed in 2007, and were cited as a contributing factor leading to delays in the timeliness of adoption in the CFSR as referenced by Permanency Outcome 1: “Children have permanency and stability in their lives, Item 9 “Adoption, Composite 2 Timeliness of Adoption and in the SCIP Re-Assessment Report. Court ordered evaluations can often cause considerable delays in case resolution and many times involve the participation of multiple parties over many days. Multiple evaluations are sometimes ordered in the same case because evaluations are not written in a manner that is responsive to the court’s requests.

Measurable Objective: Peer review and training will be conducted quarterly, quality and timeliness, as measured by an audit instrument will increase.

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Credentialing of all psychologists who perform court evaluations will be done initially upon application and every three years thereafter.	SCIP Basic Grant	DCF Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) Advanced Behavioral	Ongoing	All psychologists providing court evaluations will be credentialed by the Judicial Branch.	100% psychologists will be subjected to the credentialing review process.	CAQH data source	Data will be shared with the SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force and the Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters.

		Health (ABH) UConn School of Psychiatry					
Peer Review of psychologist work product will be conducted at least 3 times per year.	SCIP Basic Grant	DCF Judicial Branch UConn School of Psychiatry	Ongoing	Peer Reviews will identify deficiencies in conducting evaluations and failure to adhere to Branch policies of conducting evaluations.	75% of reports subjected to peer review will have a favorable outcome on the audit instrument.	UConn Peer Review Outcome data	Outcome data will be shared with the Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters, With local court managers and staff and with the psychologists who conduct the evaluations.
Training for credentialed psychologists will occur at least 3 times per year.	SCIP Basic Grant	DCF Judicial Branch UConn School of Psychiatry	Ongoing	Credentialed psychologists will have enhanced knowledge about conducting evaluations in accordance with Branch policies and professional standards.	50 to 75 psychologists will attend 2 or more trainings.	Attendance Sheets Participant Surveys	SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force will receive results of the Participant surveys.

Narrative: The Judicial Branch has continued its quality improvement initiative for court ordered evaluations with the support of SCIP. As a result, the court ordered evaluation form has been revised and is currently in use, and the Judicial Branch is now credentialing all psychologists who conduct court ordered evaluations so that only psychologists who have been credentialed by the Judicial Branch may conduct evaluations. Additionally, the Judicial Branch has entered into a contract with the University of Connecticut School of Psychiatry and its consultants to conduct peer review and training for psychologists to further support this quality improvement effort.

The Judicial Information Technology Division is developing an application within the Court's case management system that will monitor case level data where evaluations have been ordered, including developing quality assurance reports that provide data to examine any reduction in delays.

Policies have been put in place, a peer review audit instrument has been developed to help assess quality improvement.

Ongoing training and a peer review is anticipated to take place by April 1, 2012 with a minimum of two additional sessions sometime thereafter.

Annual Update Year #1: Four peer review sessions took place in FFY 2013. A minimum of two to three sessions will take place in FFY 2014 and 2015.

A draft report of the results of the peer reviews held in FFY 2013 has been received and is under review. Draft recommendations for enhancements to the peer review process and training will be developed once the report has been accepted by Judicial Branch leadership. Outcome data will be reported in the Annual Self -Assessment Report in December 2013.

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Outcome #7: Parents, children (when appropriate), foster parents, and other family members will be engaged in and encouraged to fully participate in collaborative decision making in their cases.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: In Connecticut, parents, foster parents, and other significant individuals are excluded from court conferences and therefore do not actively participate in any collaborative decision making related to their children's cases. The Child Protection Mediation program (CPM) has been developed to provide a process for collaborative decision making and timely case resolution. However, the program presently is underutilized. The lack of participation by parents, foster parents, and children was identified in the Court Improvement Reassessment Report completed in 2007.

Measurable Objective: Develop and maintain a qualified, ready pool of mediators. Identify cases that are best suited for mediation. Provide training for attorneys about effective advocacy for their clients in mediation. Maintain data about referral, participation, and outcomes of mediations.

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Apply CQI Performance Outcome Measures to Child Protection Mediation Cases	SCIP Data Grant	DCF Judicial Branch	Ongoing	Child Protection Mediation will support timely permanency outcomes for children in foster care	Cases handled in the Child Protection Mediation Program will meet or exceed overall court performance measures for permanency and timeliness.	Court Case Management system	SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force will receive reports of data analysis Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile

							Matters Judges and Local Court Managers.
Provide Mediation Advocacy Training for agency and parents' and children's attorneys.	SCIP Training Grant	DCF AAGs OCPD OAG Quinnipiac University School of Law Dispute Settlement Center	July 1, 2012 Revised to December 31, 2012* July 31, 2014**	Increase the knowledge of agency attorneys, and attorneys who represent children and parents about the mediation process and the best practices for representing and advocating for clients during mediation.	75 to 100 attorneys will attend the mediation training.*	Attendance Sheets; Pre/Post Tests	SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force will receive results of the Pre/post test.

Narrative: The Child Protection Mediation Program has been in place since 2003 and receives 2-3 referrals per month. A workgroup was recently convened to explore ways to increase the referral rate and to improve stakeholders understanding of the mediation process and its value to child protection cases. The group has made recommendations to the Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters regarding classes of cases best suited for mediation and has recommended the development of training for attorneys. A new pool of mediators was trained in January 2012 and is accepting referrals for mediation on an ongoing basis.

*A workgroup comprised of representatives from the Quinnipiac Law School faculty and the Community Mediation, Inc. continues to meet with the SCIP Director to refine the curriculum for the attorney advocacy training. It is anticipated that the training will occur in December 2012. The training will be limited to 25-30 attorneys initially. Feedback will be evaluated and the course will be repeated subject to interest and availability of faculty.

Annual Update Year #1: **The CP Mediation Advocacy training will be offered during FFY 2014. Connecticut SCIP sought and was approved for NRC Technical Assistance to apply NCJFCJ Training Toolkit principles and measures to the training. A work plan between Connecticut SCIP and the NCJFCJ is under development.

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Outcome #8: Judges, attorneys, and court and DCF staff will have increased knowledge in the area of domestic violence and children, with particular focus placed on families involved with the child welfare agency and in the court system.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The “Structured Decision Making System for Child Protective Services Management Report,” February 1-April 30, 2007; May 1-July 31, 2007; August 1-October 31, 2007; identified domestic violence as a safety factor in 7.9%-9.1% of child protection investigations, twice topping the list as the most common safety factor identified. In addition, stakeholders who completed the Court Improvement Training Assessment in June 2012 identified “Domestic Violence and Children” as an area where training was needed. Many child protection cases have petitions filed in the court and children are often removed because of the ongoing domestic violence in the home. Judges, court and agency staff, and attorneys for children and parents are sometimes not familiar with the laws related to domestic violence, the manner in which domestic violence affects children, and various approaches in working with victims while holding perpetrators accountable.

Measurable Objective: Development of a guidebook, draft curriculum, and delivery of training to judges, court staff and key stakeholders.

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Work with selected contractor to develop the DV Guidebook, curriculum for training; SCIP will produce	SCIP Basic Grant	Judicial Branch DCF Attorneys	Ongoing Completed by 12/30/2012	Judges, court staff, DCF staff, Attorneys and the public will have access to information about domestic violence laws and the effect of	Number of visits (hits) to the Guidebook online.	Website data	The SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force will receive semi-annual data about the visits to the website.

both an Online version and print version of the DV Guidebook and DV Curriculum.				domestic violence on children involved in the child welfare system.			
SCIP will provide training consistent with the guidebook.	SCIP Training Grant	Judicial Branch DCF Attorneys	Ongoing Completed by 12/31/2012 December 31, 2013*		Judges, Court Staff and attorneys will be able to identify the laws and needs of children in DV cases.	Attendance Sheets Pre/Post Training test results.	Results of the Pre/Post test will be shared with the SCIP Training Workgroup.

Narrative: The Court Improvement Program has selected a contractor who will work with a stakeholder group to develop a state-specific Domestic Violence Guidebook for Connecticut. The guidebook will include information concerning the laws related to domestic violence in Connecticut, information about the effects of domestic violence on children, especially those in the child welfare system, and how the child welfare system and the courts can assist victims and their children and hold perpetrators accountable. The guidebook will serve as the basis for curriculum development and training for judges, court staff, DCF staff, and attorneys for parents and children.

Annual Update Year #1: *The DV Guidebook has been further reviewed by key system stakeholders. Their comments and suggested have been incorporated into the final document. Additional updates have been made consistent with statutory and policy changes. The Connecticut SCIP Training Workgroup will convene in September 2013 to finalize a plan for training. Due to Judicial Branch procurement requirements, a new Request for Proposals may be required for the solicitation of further training curriculum development and faculty.

Submission Date: August 30, 2013

Annual Update Year #2

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #3

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #4

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #5

Submission Date:

State Name: CONNECTICUT

Date Strategic Plan Submitted: August 2013

Timeframe Covered by Strategic Plan: FFY 2014-2016

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- Handle child protection cases in fair, timely, and efficient manner.

Outcome #10: Convert the CPIS from a legacy system to a web-based application.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: Case file review and internal CQI reports have shown that because child protection information and forms are solely dependent on the accurate and timely entry of information from paper documents by Clerks' office staff, and the accurate filing of these documents in child welfare agency case files. This reliance on manual and duplicate procedures often results in delays and errors in the exchange of information, documents, and assignment of cases for court hearings. This may lead to errors that result in inaccurate case information, delay case processing, and delay information from being provided to the child welfare agency about findings, orders, and dispositions that impact Title IV-E reimbursement and future case events.

Measurable Objective: Completion of Business Process Requirements (BPR) for case initiation; completed development of case initiation, user acceptance testing and staff training.

Strategic Category: Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.

☐ Capacity Building ☒ Court Function Improvement ☐ Systemic Reform

Activity or Project Description <i>Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome.</i>	CIP Funding Stream <i>Grant(s) used to fund activity; can be basic, training, data and/or other grants or funding sources as appropriate.</i>	Collaborative Partners <i>Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.</i>	Timeframe <i>Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".</i>	Anticipated Outputs and Results of Activity <i>What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity.</i>	Target Improvement <i>Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve.</i>	Data Source <i>Where relevant and practical, name the specific sources where data will be drawn to measure anticipated changes due to CIP activity.</i>	Feedback Vehicle <i>Brief description of stakeholders the data will be shared with and methodology/products for dissemination of findings.</i>
The SCIP Data Development Consultant will work with Court Operations to develop business process.	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	Ongoing September 2015 for Business Process Development	Real time capture of case information. Creations and storage of critical case documents. Provision of court documents and case disposition to DCF. Readiness to interface with DCF	A more flexible data system that can store and retrieve data and documents.	Internal CQI Reports	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will review and approve BPR.

				SACWIS system.			
Court Operations staff will conduct user acceptance testing of the Case Initiation .	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	TBD based on development progress.	Real time capture of case information. Creations and storage of critical case documents. Provision of court documents and case disposition to DCF. Readiness to interface with DCF SACWIS system.	A more flexible data system that can store and retrieve data and documents.	Internal CQI Reports	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will participate in testing and approve final "Memorandum of Hearing." Refer to Outcome 10a.
Local court staff will be trained and use the electronic	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	TBD based on development progress.	Real time capture of case information. Creations and storage of critical case documents. Provision of court documents and case disposition to DCF. Readiness to interface with DCF SACWIS system.	A more flexible data system that can store and retrieve data and documents.	Internal CQI Reports	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will review Internal CQI reports.

Narrative: Currently, the CPIS system is a legacy system that does not produce or store critical case documents. The CP Web Conversion is the multi-year, multi-phased project that will allow storage of court forms, including court orders, memorandum of hearings and petitions for access and retrieval of these forms by the child welfare agency. The CP Web Conversion will be staged to allow case disposition data to be sent to the child welfare agency and, when the child welfare agency readiness is resolved by the agency, population of their SACWIS system. A web based system will allow for the retrieval of data for CQI in a more timely and accurate manner as well as allow for future data exchange with the child welfare agency.

Annual Update Year #1: N/A

Submission Date: N/A

Annual Update Year #2

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #3

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Annual Update Year #4

Submission Date:

State Name: CONNECTICUT

Date Strategic Plan Submitted: August 2013

Timeframe Covered by Strategic Plan: FFY 2014-2016

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Outcome #10a: Electronic recording of court events that relate to outcomes in child protection matters including appearances, findings, orders and court dates.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: Case file review and feedback from judges assigned to Juvenile Matters has shown that the documentation of court hearings, known as the “Memorandum of Hearing” (MOH) may be missing information or may be completed in an inconsistent manner by different courts across the state. The Memorandum of Hearing contains information about service of process, appearances, court findings, and orders, and is signed by the judge. An incomplete Memorandum of Hearing can lead to delays in the completion of required court orders, completion of data entry, and in the permanent placement of children.

Measurable Objective: Completion of the Business Process Requirements for the MOH. User Acceptance Testing of the MOH will begin.

Strategic Category: *Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.*

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The SCIP Data Development Consultant will work with Court Operations staff to develop Business process requirements.	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	By July 1, 2012- Completed	Court hearings including appearances, findings, court orders and scheduling information will be recorded in a timely and accurate manner.	Improved documentation of court hearings and data entry.	Business Process Requirements (BPR) Documentation.	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will review and approve BPR.
Court Operations staff will conduct user acceptance	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information	January 1, 2013	Court hearings including appearances, findings, court orders	Improved documentation of court hearings and	MOH will be available for testing.	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff

testing of the MOH.		Technology Divisions	November 1, 2013*	and scheduling information will be recorded in a timely and accurate manner.	data entry.		and local court managers will participate in testing and approve final "MOH."
Local court staff will be trained and use the electronic MOH.	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	September 1, 2013 Revised September 2014*	Court hearings including appearances, findings, court orders and scheduling information will be recorded in a timely and accurate manner.	Improved documentation of court hearings and data entry.	Internal CQI Reports	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will review Internal CQI reports.

Narrative: Currently, there is no method other than a physical review of court files to document appearances and other information related to child protection matters. The MOH project will result in an electronic system that will provide ready access to appearance information, including whether parents/foster parents received notice of the hearing and were present, and will also populate other data elements in the CPIS system. This will reduce data entry delays and errors and help to provide more accurate, timely and accessible data from which to develop continuous quality improvement efforts. Development of business process requirements is currently underway and once completed, the Data Developer will work in consultation with Court Operations staff to move the project into the user acceptance stage.

Annual Update Year #1: *Expansion of the scope of the project to accurately capture dispositions not currently available on the CPIS system has resulted in delays in development and user acceptance testing. The new disposition information will allow the extension and termination of court ordered supervision to be captured. The data elements will provide more accurate dispositional information and will expand the system's capacity to capture post court supervision information such as final custody and guardianship orders. The new date to begin user acceptance testing is November 2013. It is anticipated that local staff training will commence in September 2014.

Submission Date: August 30, 2013

Annual Update Year #2

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Submission Date:

State Name: CONNECTICUT

Date Strategic Plan Submitted: August 2013

Timeframe Covered by Strategic Plan: FFY 2014-2016

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Outcome #10b: Electronic Case Initiation for e-filing of child protection petitions.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: Case file review and internal CQI reports have shown that because child protection petitions, including requests for temporary removal, are manually filed in paper form with the court, there are delays and errors in the exchange of information and assignment of cases for court hearings. This may lead to errors that result in inaccurate case information, delay service of process to respondent parents/guardians, and inaccurate documentation of critical court hearing dates that can result in respondents and other parties missing hearings, necessitating continuances and creating delays in case resolution.

Measurable Objective: Completion of Business Process Requirements for Case Initiation; completed development of Case Initiation, user acceptance testing and staff training.

Strategic Category: Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.

☐ Capacity Building ☒ Court Function Improvement ☐ Systemic Reform

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The SCIP Data Development Consultant will work with Court Operations to develop business process.	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	June 2014	Timely filing of petition with the court. Population of court CPIS system with child welfare data and electronic provision of court hearing dates to the child welfare agency.	Improved timeliness of case initiation and court hearing dates.	Internal CQI Reports	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will review and approve BPR.
Court Operations	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch	December	Timely filing of	Improved timeliness	Internal CQI	Judicial Branch

staff will conduct user acceptance testing of the case initiation.		Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	2015	petition with the court. Population of court CPIS system with child welfare data and electronic provision of court hearing dates and findings data to the child welfare agency.	of case initiation and court hearing dates and findings data.	Reports	Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will participate in testing and approve final "MOH".
Local court staff will be trained and use the electronic	SCIP Data Grant	Judicial Branch Court Operations and Information Technology Divisions	June 2016	Timely filing of petition with the court. Population of court CPIS system with child welfare data and electronic provision of court hearing dates and findings data to the child welfare agency.	Improved timeliness of case initiation and court hearing dates and findings data.	Internal CQI Reports	Judicial Branch Court Operations Administrative staff and local court managers will review Internal CQI reports.

Narrative: Currently, when the child welfare agency files a petition with the court, the social worker must create a paper document and physically bring the paperwork to the court. The court must then enter the needed information into its data system and return the physical documents to the child welfare agency for service of process. There is no method other than a physical review of court files to document appearances and other information related to child protection matters. The current process is time consuming and labor intensive, both for the child welfare agency social workers and for the court staff.

The Case Initiation Project will result in an electronic transfer of information between the court and the child welfare agency and will allow the child welfare agency to view and print documents needed for service of process and for critical court findings. This will reduce data entry delays and errors and help to provide more accurate, timely and accessible data from which to develop continuous quality improvement efforts. Development of business process requirements is currently underway and once completed, the Data Developer will work in consultation with Court Operations staff to move the project into the user acceptance stage.

Annual Update Year #1: N/A

Submission Date: N/A

Annual Update Year #2

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #3

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #4

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Submission Date:

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Outcome #11: Increased knowledge of matters related to child welfare by Judges, attorneys, and court and DCF staff.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: Providing access to multidisciplinary training has been a priority for Connecticut's State Court Improvement Program from its inception. The SCIP Training Assessment completed in June 2010, as well as online surveys of attorneys completed in June 2012 have been used to identify targeted training needs for different stakeholder groups.

Measurable Objective: Completion of an annual training plan. Various assessment tools will be employed to ascertain the effectiveness of training events offered to key stakeholder groups.

Strategic Category: *Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.*

☒ Capacity Building

☐ Court Function Improvement

☐ Systemic Reform

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SCIP will issue an RFP and select an individual/organization to assist with developing and coordinating multidisciplinary training.	SCIP Training Grant	Judicial Branch DCF OAG OCPD	RFP to issue by March 1, 2012 - Completed Coordinator to be selected by June 1, 2012-	The SCIP Training Coordinator will assist the SCIP direct in the development, planning and delivery of multiple training events and other professional development activities under the grant.			The SCIP Training Workgroup will assist with the evaluation and selection of an individual/organization to serve as the Training Coordinator.

			Completed*				
			Ongoing				
SCIP will convene annual statewide forums for judges, attorneys, court staff and DCF staff.	SCIP Training Grant	Judicial Branch DCF OAG OCPD	Ongoing for FFY 2014/2015	200 to 250 Judges, court staff, agency, parent's and children's attorneys, and DCF staff will participate in the Annual Child and Youth Law Forum.	Enhance stakeholders understanding of recent changes in laws, rules, procedures and provide them with practical information to enhance practice.	Attendance Sheets Forum Participant Evaluations	Results of the surveys will be shared with the SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force and the SCIP Training Workgroup.
SCIP will provide multi-disciplinary training on Engaging Fathers and Cultural Aspects of Domestic Violence	SCIP Training Grant	Judicial Branch DCF OAG OCPD	By January 31, 2013 Completed*	40 Judges, court staff, agency, parent's and children's attorneys, and DCF staff will participate in each of the two trainings.	Enhance stakeholder understanding about how to engage fathers and programs that assist fathers as parents and provide them with advanced training on how culture impacts victims of domestic violence including immigration status and laws	Attendance Sheets Pre/Post Testing	Results of the Pre/Post Test Results will be shared with the SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force and the SCIP Training Workgroup.

Narrative: Connecticut's State Court Improvement Program has been successful in providing timely, relevant, and high quality multidisciplinary training opportunities that meet the needs of key stakeholders in the child welfare system. A standing committee comprised of multidisciplinary stakeholders planned this year's activities based, in part, on the results of a 2010 Needs Assessment that examined professional development activities. Some of these activities include an annual forum which is in its thirteenth year; targeted training programs, and attendance at relevant conferences and symposia. The addition of an individual/organization to support SCIP professional development will enhance its ability to manage professional development activities.

* Contract negotiation will be completed by September 1, 2012.

** Results of training will be reported in the Annual Update Year #1.

Annual Update Year #1: *The Engaging Fathers training was held in late winter 2013. The Cultural Aspects of Domestic Violence training was cancelled due to low registration. The Annual Child and Youth Forum was held on May 9, 2013. The training committee will reconvene in September 2013 to plan training activities for FFY 2014.

Submission Date: August 30, 2013

Annual Update Year #2

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State Name: CONNECTICUT

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Outcome #12: Attorneys from the Office of the Attorney General /Child Protection Unit will have enhanced trial skills.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The SCIP Training Assessment completed in 2010 identified the need for individual stakeholder groups to have specialized training. The Office of Attorney General (OAG)/Child Protection Unit attorneys were identified as one of the groups who might benefit from specialized trial skills training.

Measurable Objective: Completion of training. Various instruments will be used to assess the effectiveness of training.

Strategic Category: *Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.*

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☐ Court Function Improvement

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Child Protection Trial Skills Program for Agency Attorneys (Office of the Attorney General, Child Protection Unit). Develop and deliver advanced trial skills and other relevant training.	SCIP Training Grant	OAG, DCF & Judicial Branch	Ongoing* 6/30/2013** Ongoing for FFY 2014/2015	Improved Trial Skills for Agency Counsel Improved understanding of Best Practices in Child Welfare Intervention to Inform Case Analysis and Client Counseling.	Improved Permanency Outcomes	Attendance Sheets; Pre/Post Test	Results of the Pre/post test results will be shared with the SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force and Training Workgroup.

Narrative: Assistant Attorney Generals (AAGs) are responsible for assessing the competent evidence available in support of agency neglect, abuse and termination of parental rights petitions and the legal sufficiency of that evidence; to identify material facts to support elements of petition; to analyze case strengths and weaknesses; to recommend settlement versus litigation; and, to efficiently, accurately and thoroughly present a case if it proceeds to trial. Currently, trial skills training for AAGs is ad hoc. Attorneys have primarily learned trial skills by doing, but have not received the training necessary to ensure that their practice is consistent with the most advanced trial advocacy skills achievable and that the skill level is consistent among all AAGs throughout the department. Enhanced trial advocacy skills, specifically in the child protection context, will help to ensure that considerations regarding reasonable efforts, concurrent planning, family engagement, children's attachment and permanency needs are factored into case assessment, counseling the agency and formulating case strategy.

The OAG/Child Protection Unit will create a Child Protection Trial Advocacy Program specifically tailored to AAGs. The National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) has worked with several states on designing in-house programs specifically addressing child protection litigation. The OAG will collaborate with NITA and DCF on program design and content, and will coordinate with the Judicial Branch in order to arrange time for the AAGs to attend the program. The program is anticipated to include a minimum of 3 days dedicated to trial skills and 1 day of training in child welfare issues. There are approximately 40 Assistant Attorneys General in the Child Protection Department, and with the cooperation of the Judicial Branch it is anticipated that approximately 24 AAGs can be made available to participate in the first annual training.

* Trial Advocacy Training held in June 2012.

Annual Update Year #1: **Trial Advocacy Training was held in June 2013. Details will be provided in the CIP Self-Assessment Report due in December 2013. During FFY 2014/2015 the OAG will work with an internal workgroup to identify and plan advanced trial skills training and other relevant training topics, such as, periodic review of legal developments in statutes, rules and case law. In addition, the OAG will seek other training and professional development resources to enhance the overall skills of the attorneys assigned to the Child Protection Unit.

Submission Date: August 30, 2013

Annual Update Year #2

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Outcome #13: Attorneys who represent children and parents will have increased knowledge in the area of child welfare law, including the goals of the system, and the laws and procedures applicable in Connecticut.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The 2010 Court Improvement Training Needs Assessment identified that newly recruited attorneys need specific training in child welfare law before they can represent a client in juvenile court, and that already practicing attorneys have limited access to ongoing training. Case intake statistics from the Office of the Chief Public Defender (OCPD) and from the Judicial Branch indicate that some geographical areas are in need of additional contract attorneys.

Measurable Objective: Completion of training. Various instruments will be used to assess the effectiveness of training.

Strategic Category: *Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.*

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The OCPD will contract with the Center for Children's Advocacy to provide pre service training to new recruits.	SCIP Training Grant	OCPD Judicial Branch Center for Children's Advocacy	June/July 2012 Ongoing	Topic training that can be offered in multiple locations, trial training, scholarships to national trainings.	Attorneys representing parents and children will understand the process and the goals of the court in child protection matters.	Pre/Post Surveys of participants Client Satisfaction Surveys	OCPD Administration SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force.
Development and	SCIP Training	Judicial Branch	Ongoing	Topic training that can	Regional trainings,	Attendance records	OCPD

Implementation of a training curriculum in child welfare law practice.	Grant	DCF OCPD-CP OCPD Training Private Nonprofits with expertise in Child Welfare Practice	during FY12/13 Completed* Ongoing for FFY 2014/2015	be offered in multiple locations, trial training, scholarships to national trainings	Improved attendance at trainings. Improved level of practice by child welfare lawyers. Improved awareness of federal and state laws, improved awareness of mental health, child development and family dynamics.	at trainings. Number of trainings. Pre/Post surveys of attendees, general survey of lawyers, clerks, judges.	Administration SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force.
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Narrative: Separate initiatives will be undertaken to train both newly recruited and already practicing attorneys who represent children and parents in the area of child welfare law, including the goals of the system, the law and procedures applicable to Connecticut and issues and topics relevant to the children and families they counsel. Training will be made mandatory for all newly recruited attorneys, and also made more easily accessible to all existing contract attorneys across the state. This will be followed by a requirement that attorneys contracted with by the Office of the Chief Public Defender complete a specified number of hours of training per contract year.

Annual Update Year #1: *The OCPD has developed both pre service and ongoing training for attorneys. Details will be reported in the SCIP Annual Self-Assessment Report.
The OCPD will continue to partner with Connecticut SCIP to develop and offer training to new and existing child protection attorneys

Submission Date: August 30, 2013

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- Handle child protection cases in fair, timely, and efficient manner.

Outcome #15: The Judicial Branch, through the SCIP, will participate in Child and Family Reviews (CFSR) and the development and implementation of any required Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: In 2008, the CFSR was conducted in Connecticut. The Judicial Branch participated in the on-site review, and in the development and implementation of PIP strategies. The SCIP Program used the PIP to develop strategies and activities to address areas needing improvement related to the court's handling of child protection cases. In order to continue to identify strengths and address areas needing improvement and to meet the CQI requirements of the SCIP, the Judicial Branch will participate in any future CFSR conducted in Connecticut.

Measurable Objective: Ongoing, meaningful participation in the CFSR and PIP development and implementation.

Strategic Category: Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.

Capacity Building ☒ Court Function Improvement ☒ Systemic Reform

Activity or Project Description <i>Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome.</i>	CIP Funding Stream <i>Grant(s) used to fund activity; can be basic, training, data and/or other grants or funding sources as appropriate.</i>	Collaborative Partners <i>Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.</i>	Timeframe <i>Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".</i>	Anticipated Outputs and Results of Activity <i>What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity.</i>	Target Improvement <i>Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve.</i>	Data Source <i>Where relevant and practical, name the specific sources where data will be drawn to measure anticipated changes due to CIP activity.</i>	Feedback Vehicle <i>Brief description of stakeholders the data will be shared with and methodology/products for dissemination of findings.</i>
SCIP will meet the ACF requirements by participating in all aspects of the CFSR, and the development and implementation of court related PIP strategies.	Basic, Training, Data	SCIP Project Director, SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force; Department of Children and Families	TBD based on Federal ACF instruction upon release of new Program requirement	SCIP will provide data and information as needed in preparation for and to inform the ongoing CFSR. SCIP will use the information gathered from the CFSR to identify strengths and	Ongoing collaboration within the entire child welfare system and data-driven performance outcomes strategic planning.	Child Protection Information System (CPIS). CFSR Outcome data and results. Final Report of the	The following individuals will receive the results of the CFSR: Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters; Court Operations

			and schedule for CFSR in CT.*	weaknesses within the court. SCIP activities will be informed, developed and implemented to address areas needing improvement.		CFSR	Managers; SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force.
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Narrative: The Child and Family Services Review is held on a periodic basis to provide a systemic review of key indicators related to a state's child welfare system. The CFSR is a federal government program for assessing the performance of the state child welfare systems with regard to achieving positive outcomes for children and families. SCIP staff have participated in each of the two CFSRs that have been held in the state. In preparation for the CFSR, the Judicial Branch has provided data and information for inclusion in the Statewide Assessment and has provided court personnel and judges who participated in the on-site review of cases, interviews, focus groups, exit conferences, and in the development and implementation of the PIP. Connecticut's State Court Improvement Program will continue its ongoing collaboration with the state child welfare agency and other key stakeholders in the CFSR process, and in efforts to use information gained from the review process to improve outcomes for the children involved in the child welfare system.

Annual Update Year #1: *Connecticut SCIP continues to be committed to the CFSR process and will commit to active participation in the CFSR and developing and implementing any court related corrective action plan developed under the PIP. Any new corrective action will be included in future Connecticut SCIP strategic plans.

Submission Date: August 30, 2013

Annual Update Year #2

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #3

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #4

Submission Date:

Annual Update Year #5

Submission Date:

State Name: CONNECTICUT

Date Strategic Plan Submitted: August 2013

Timeframe Covered by Strategic Plan: FFY 2014-2015

Overall Goal/Mission of SCIP: Mission of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, State Court Improvement Program is to:

- Promote and improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children who are subject to child protection cases in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters;
- Assure that families are engaged throughout the court process;
- Handle child protection cases in fair, timely, and efficient manner.

Outcome #16: The Judicial Branch, through the SCIP, will take participate in Title IV-E foster care eligibility reviews and the development and implementation of any required Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: The Judicial Branch has participated in past Title IV-E foster care eligibility reviews. Results of prior reviews have identified areas in need of improvement, and as a result, changes have been made in court processes to address deficiencies. The Judicial Branch will continue to participate in each Title IV-E foster care eligibility review in order to collaborate with the child welfare agency to identify and address areas in need of improvement, and to meet the CQI requirements of the SCIP.

Measurable Objective: Ongoing, meaningful participation in the Title IV-E foster care eligibility reviews, PIP development and implementation.

Strategic Category: Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.

Capacity Building ☒ Court Function Improvement ☒ Systemic Reform

Activity or Project Description <i>Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome.</i>	CIP Funding Stream <i>Grant(s) used to fund activity; can be basic, training, data and/or other grants or funding sources as appropriate.</i>	Collaborative Partners <i>Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.</i>	Timeframe <i>Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".</i>	Anticipated Outputs and Results of Activity <i>What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity.</i>	Target Improvement <i>Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve.</i>	Data Source <i>Where relevant and practical, name the specific sources where data will be drawn to measure anticipated changes due to CIP activity.</i>	Feedback Vehicle <i>Brief description of stakeholders the data will be shared with and methodology/products for dissemination of findings.</i>
SCIP will meet program instruction requirements by participating in the Title IV-E Review and in the development and implementation of court-related improvement	Basic, Training, Data	SCIP Project Director, SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force; Department of Children and Families	June 30, 2012*	SCIP will provide data and information as needed in preparation for, and to inform the on-site review. SCIP will use the information gathered from the Title IV-E Review to develop and implement changes to	Ongoing collaboration within the entire child welfare system. Full compliance with Title IV-E requirements.	Child Protection Information System (CPIS). Court files. Final Report of the Title IV-E Review.	The following individuals will receive the results of the Title IV-E Review: Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters; Court Operations

strategies.				ensure compliance with all Title IV-E court-related requirements.			Managers.
SCIP And Court administration staff will meet with DCF Revenue Enhancement staff to continuously monitor and improve communications and outcomes of Title IV-E within the state.	Basic, Training, Data	SCIP Project Director, Court administration, DCF Legal and Revenue Enhancement	Ongoing*	Monitoring and enhancement of data and information to ensure ongoing Title IV-E compliance.	Ongoing collaboration within the entire child welfare system. Full compliance with Title IV-E requirements.	Child Protection Information System (CPIS)	Updates at Quarterly Meetings to SCIP Project Director, court administration staff and ITD staff.

Narrative: The Title IV-E Review is held on a periodic basis to determine the state's compliance with the requirements of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The SCIP Director and Chief Clerk for Juvenile Matters have participated in the Title IV-E Reviews each time they have occurred. The Judicial Branch, through the SCIP, and in consultation with the state child welfare agency, has made changes that have improved documentation and tracking case specific court findings and orders. The Judicial Branch entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with DCF for data sharing. Data on court findings and disposition is electronically passed to DCF on a "real time" basis to assist with Title IV-E compliance monitoring. As part of the ongoing State Court Improvement Program Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative, quality assurance reports are made available to local court managers for ongoing monitoring of Title IV-E required findings and orders. The Judicial Branch will provide data and information including court documents, if needed, for future reviews, will attend the exit conferences and make any improvements required to ensure full compliance with the Title IV-E court related requirements.

Annual Update Year #1: *Title IV-E Review held in June 2012. Court personnel and CIP Director participated in Exit Conference. When scheduled, court personnel and the SCIP Director will participate in the next Title IV-E Review and Exit conference.

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Annual Update Year #2

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State Name: CONNECTICUT

Date Strategic Plan Submitted: August 2013

Timeframe Covered by Strategic Plan: FFY 2014-2015

Overall Goal/Mission of SCIP: Mission of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, State Court Improvement Program is to:

- Promote and improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children who are subject to child protection cases in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters;
- Assure that families are engaged throughout the court process;
- Handle child protection cases in fair, timely, and efficient manner.

Outcome #17: The Judicial Branch, through the SCIP, will plan and implement strategies to improve educational stability for children in out-of-home care.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: In November 2011, the SCIP Director attended the education summit convened by ACF and the U.S. Department of Education as a member of the Connecticut state team. Following that summit, an Education Leadership Team was convened in Connecticut. Using the state plan developed at the summit as a guide, the Education Leadership Team has developed and implemented strategies to improve education stability and outcomes for children in out-of-home care. The Team also identified areas that are court-related and are not part of the State Plan. The SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force convened in June 2012, and following a presentation about court related issues connected with educational stability, voted to convene a workgroup to further identify and make recommendations for addressing factors that enhance educational stability.

Measurable Objective: Identification of court related educational stability issues and needs.

Strategic Category: Classification of activities/projects strategized to reach desired outcome.

X Capacity Building

X Court Function Improvement

X Systemic Reform

Activity or Project Description <i>Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome.</i>	CIP Funding Stream <i>Grant(s) used to fund activity; can be basic, training, data and/or other grants or funding sources as appropriate.</i>	Collaborative Partners <i>Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.</i>	Timeframe <i>Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".</i>	Anticipated Outputs and Results of Activity <i>What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity.</i>	Target Improvement <i>Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve.</i>	Data Source <i>Where relevant and practical, name the specific sources where data will be drawn to measure anticipated changes due to CIP activity.</i>	Feedback Vehicle <i>Brief description of stakeholders the data will be shared with and methodology/products for dissemination of findings.</i>
Convene a multidisciplinary Education Workgroup under the SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force.	Basic, Training, Data	SCIP Project Director, SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force; Department of Children and Families	June 2013 December 2013*	Identification of needs of legal professionals related to educational stability and recommendations for strategies to address those needs.			Education Workgroup will present recommendations to the SCIP Multidisciplinary Task Force.

Narrative: The Foster Connections Act of 2008 builds on prior law by adding a new requirement that case plans ensure the educational stability of the child in foster care, and by also requiring Title IV-E state plans to show that each child receiving a Title IV-E foster care, adoption or guardianship payment is a full-time school student, or is incapable of attending school due to a documented medical condition. In the 2012 session of the Connecticut General Assembly, legislation was passed and became law (P.A. 12-53) that required the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to report to the court in its permanency plan for each child, steps to be taken to enable a child to have appropriate independent living skills, including options for education. The Court in its oversight capacity is charged with reviewing permanency plans. There are ongoing efforts at the DCF and the State Department of Education to develop better data, and to ensure that children's well-being needs related to education are met. The SCIP Education Workgroup will convene to identify and develop recommendations to ensure that all legal professionals understand and have the tools and strategies necessary to implement the federal and state laws.

Annual Update Year #1 *The Connecticut SCIP has convened a multi-disciplinary workgroup. The workgroup has met two times. With the help of Kristin Kelly of the ABA Center for Foster Care and Education, and Jessica Feirermen of the Juvenile Law Center, the workgroup has identify systems issues and will draft recommendations to be reviewed by the SCIP Task Force. Once approved, recommendations will be added to the Connecticut SCIP strategic plan.

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Annual Update Year #2

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Submission Date: