

Iterative Project Report for Programs & Multi-Year Phased Projects

Submitted to Project Oversight on 08/07/2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program/Project Name: OCEANS Project

Agency Name: Health and Human Services

Project Sponsor: Jessica Thomasson

Project Manager: Linda Praus

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for facilitating delivery of services that support child safety, child permanency, and well-being, which together are designed to prevent and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and support family reunification and stability whenever possible. To continually improve child welfare services, HHS has determined that it is necessary to transition to a modern, integrated, comprehensive information system. The Organized Child Electronic Assessment Needs and Services (OCEANS) Program (the Program) was established under the authority of the Governor and delegated through the HHS Commissioner and executive leadership. This authority is further endorsed by the consensus of the Oversight Committee (OC) and subsequently granted to the Executive Sponsor.

The Program is an initiative to replace North Dakota's outdated child welfare information systems, comprised of the mainframe-based Comprehensive Child Welfare Information and Payments System (CCWIPS), the aging Java-based FRAME application, and the Families First Title IV-E Microsoft Dynamics application. Strategic Alignment

The mission of HHS is to foster positive, comprehensive outcomes by promoting economic, behavioral, and physical health, ensuring a holistic approach to individual and community well-being.

The Program furthers HHS' strategic priorities, including the advancement of strong, stable, healthy families and communities and advancing the foundations of well-being through access to high-quality services and supports closer to home. The OCEANS system advances excellence in agency infrastructure and operations and helps HHS deliver a best-in-class customer-centered experience.

The OCEANS system improves citizen experience by enabling the creation of dashboards, allowing citizens to see real-time child welfare system outcomes via a citizen-facing portal.

BUSINESS NEEDS

Replacing CCWIPS and FRAME is necessary due to the existing aging and outdated systems, which struggle to meet current and future program needs. These systems struggle to accommodate regular rule revisions, leading to ongoing challenges in achieving federal compliance through system customizations. Neither CCWIPS nor FRAME can match the capabilities of modern system designs or offer the range of features that best-in-breed systems provide.

PROGRAM/PROJECT FORMAT

Program/Project Start Date: 7/21/2021

Budget Allocation at Time of Initial Start Date: \$30,000,000

How Many Phases Expected at Time of Initial Start Date: 3

Phase Approach Description: Hybrid

Estimated End Date for All Phases Known at Time of Initial Start Date: January 2029

PROGRAM/PROJECT ROAD MAP

The program road map shows the high-level plan or vision for the program/projects/phases. It is intended to offer a picture of the lifespan of all the effort that is expected to be required to achieve the business objectives.

Project/ Phase	Title	Scope Statement	Estimated Months Duration	Estimated Budget
Project 0	Requirement Gathering	Gathering requirements for the OCEANS RFP	31	\$619,641.35
Project 2	OCEANS Planning Project	North Dakota Organized Child Electronic Assessments Needs and Services (OCEANS) Planning Project	6	\$1,214,359.30
Project 3	Design, Development and Implementation Project	Replace North Dakota's outdated child welfare information systems, comprised of the mainframe-based Comprehensive Child Welfare Information and Payments System (CCWIPS), the aging Java-based FRAME application, and the Families First Title IV-E Microsoft Dynamics application.	TBD	TBD

Notes:

PROJECT BASELINES

The baselines below are entered for only those projects or phases that have been planned. At the completion of a project or phase a new planning effort will occur to baseline the next project/phase and any known actual finish dates and costs for completed projects/phases will be recorded. The iterative report will be submitted again with the new information.

Project/ Phase	Project/ Phase Start Date	Baseline End Date	Baseline Budget	Funding Source	Actual Finish Date	Schedule Variance	Actual Cost	Cost Variance
Project 0	9/01/21	4/01/24	\$619,641.35	Federal/State	4/30/24	0	\$619,641.35	0
Project 1	4/01/24	7/31/24	\$1,096,800	Federal/State				

Notes:

Phase 1 Planning Project has two change orders that have been approved:

- Change Order 1 – made the scope change in deliverable 13 to reflect changing from Quality Assurance RFP Specification and Scope Sections to Independent and Validation Verification RFP Specification and Scope Sections.
- Change Order 2 – extended the end of the project to September 2025 and added 8 additional planning deliverables to the project at a cost of \$537,200.

OBJECTIVES

Project/ Phase	Business Objective	Measurement Description	Met/ Not Met	Measurement Outcome
Project 1	Complete the scope and deliverables of the Project to enable the successful procurement of viable and qualified Transparent & Sustainable Procurements (TSPs), thus providing a solid foundation for subsequent phases of the OCEANS Project			

KEY LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORIES

A lessons learned effort is performed after each project or phase is completed. This process uses surveys and meetings to determine what happened in the project/phase and identifies actions for improvement going forward. Typical findings include, "What did we do well?" and "What didn't go well and how can we fix it the next time?"

Project/ Phase	Key Lessons Learned and Success Stories
Project 1	TBD

KEY CONSTRAINTS AND/OR RISKS

- **ACF Review Timelines:** ACF reviews documentation and regulatory compliance timelines to ensure timely execution, approvals, and funding allocations.
- **Change Management Process:** Changes to the Project's scope, schedule, or budget must follow a formal change management process, requiring approval from the appropriate stakeholders and project governance bodies.
- **Resource Constraints:** The Project will operate within resource limitations, including limitations on personnel availability, role conflicts with other priorities, and the availability of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), which may impact Project activities and timelines.
- **Contingency Planning:** Contingency plans will be developed to address potential risks and issues during project execution, outlining predetermined actions and responses to minimize disruptions and maintain project progress.