

Department of Social Services Progress Report
Quarter ending September 30, 2014

Budget Proviso 38.26

38.26. (DSS: Federally Certified Child Support Enforcement System Project) Effective July 1, 2014, the CFS Project Executive Committee is abolished. For the current fiscal year, the direction, management, oversight, and decision-making authority previously exercised by the CFS Project Executive Committee is placed under the sole authority of the Director of the Department of Social Services who shall make all final decisions regarding the project. The department shall publish on its website quarterly progress reports on the project's timetable to achieve a Federally certified Child Support Enforcement System.

This report is submitted in response to Budget Proviso 38.26 of the 2015 Appropriations Act. Most developments in this quarter were reported on September 5, 2014 when the Department submitted a report to the General Assembly to comply with State Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Proviso 38.18, available through the SC Legislature's website. This quarterly update supplements the September 5 report to the General Assembly with the following updates.

1. Since February, 2014 the Department of Social Services has been engaged with Hewlett Packard (HP) to mediate a settlement to the contract controversy that was filed August 9, 2013 before State Procurement. The hearing began on October 21, 2013. On September 22, 2014, the parties to the litigation agreed to a settlement in principle. Documents necessary for the final settlement are being completed, and it is anticipated that this process will take several weeks. .
2. The Department completed an assessment of the CFS Project artifacts that were left as of the contract termination date of July 10, 2013. One of the artifacts assessed was the application code. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the level of completeness of the artifacts assessed and to create a list of items that would be the basis to determine the work necessary to implement a statewide CSES and FCCMS. The Recovery and Assessment Phase Master Report assimilated detailed reports from nine assessment tracks. The report was submitted to the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) on July 17, 2014. The report said that many of the plans and processes can be adapted for reuse; however, the CSES application code has deficiencies that will require modification and code re-write. The report concluded: :

While the correction and completion of the HP products is a significant effort, there are additional considerations that affect the delivery of a certifiable solution. Ongoing technological change has broadened stakeholder expectations regarding application ease-of-use and functional capabilities. Likewise, the business of child support has evolved and any acceptable solution should provide sufficient flexibility to reflect changes in policies and practices.

While these findings show it is plausible to use the HP application as the foundation of a certifiable child support solution, doing so may not be practical. During the upcoming Planning and Proof of Concept Phase, new discoveries may show that alternate solutions are more viable.

3. The Department's CFS Project team is now in the process of preparing a Feasibility Study for approval by OCSE. The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to perform a detailed analysis of the possible options for implementing a statewide CSES and to compare the results to determine the most cost effective option.
4. The CFS Project has been working with OCSE to secure the federal portion of the funding necessary to perform the work noted in Items 2 and 3 above.

The work noted in items 3 and 4 is federally mandated and supports the determination of the resources, cost and schedule necessary to deliver a statewide CSES. For a copy of the Recovery and Assessment Master Report, please contact Roger Bryant at 803-724-5312.