

## CIP Project History

The Court Improvement Project (CIP) has existed in Nevada since 1995 and is overseen by the CIP Select Committee. It comes under the auspices of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and receives grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Since its inception, CIP has funded numerous successful pilot projects throughout the State's Judiciary including: the Children's Attorney's Project (CAP), the Family Visiting Project, the MANNUScripts program, the development of American Safe Families Act (ASFSA) case-management system requirements, and drafting and successful enactment of child welfare legislation in the Nevada Legislature, just to name a few.

In February of 2003 the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) conducted a statewide self-assessment of the child welfare system in preparation of a federal audit of the system. The completed self-assessment was submitted to ACF in December of 2003.

Thereafter, a federal audit of the child welfare system was held with onsite reviews. A final report of the audit was received indicating areas of substantial conformity and areas needing improvement. The Division of Child and Family Services, Washoe County Social Services, Clark County Social Services, the AOC, Court Improvement Project Committee and other stakeholders were invited to attend a conference in the spring of 2004 where many of those topics were discussed, prioritized and action plans started. The outcome of all of this was that a Program Improvement Plan or PIP was developed by DCFS and submitted to ACF in August of 2004. The PIP received final approval from ACF in March 2005.

One of the requirements for continued CIP federal funding was to complete a reassessment to update earlier assessment findings. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) was contracted to perform that project and a final report was submitted in June 2005. Nevada's Court Improvement Project Re-Assessment Report is designed to provide the state with an assessment of the timeliness, quality and effectiveness of the juvenile dependency court's performance with respect to its management and processing of child protection cases and court improvement efforts.

The AOC, Court Improvement Committee and Nevada's Child Welfare Agencies have been collaborating to ensure that specific tasks including performance measurements of improved outcomes stated in the PIP were mirrored in the Nevada's Court Improvement Project Strategic Plan. Recommendations from the Re-Assessment Report were also included in the Strategic Plan that was submitted to ACF in July 2005 and approved by ACF in August 2005.