

NEWS REPORT | July 23, 2020

New Mexico & Tribal Nations Pilot New Shared Software To Streamline Foster & Adoption Approvals

On June 8, 2020, the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) and its tribal partners with independent child welfare systems contracted to pilot a software module created by Binti to streamline foster and adoptive approvals and services. The pilot will take place in one region of the state. The software simplifies the application process by enabling potential foster and adoptive families to apply online, and helps streamline the family approval and matching workflow for social workers. The goal is to help CYFD and the tribes comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which requires that states make every effort to keep tribal youth in their community of origin.

CYFD contracted to use Binti's Child Welfare Licensing and Placements modules. The state used a combined procurement process of a software reseller and a small contract for professional services; there was no formal request for proposals. The contracts, which are valued at almost \$70,000 for services and licenses, run for up to one year. CYFD has the option to end the contract sooner, once the pilot is completed. Because this is a pilot, there are no renewal options.

Binti launched in 2017. Its Child Welfare Licensing and Placements software-as-a-service (SaaS) modules have been deployed by more than 100 child welfare agencies and provider organizations in 15 states to expedite foster and adoptive family approvals. The agencies and provider organizations using Binti have approved about 80% more foster and adoptive families per year compared to their previous systems. The system reduces the amount of data entry time for social workers by 20% to 40%.

OPEN MINDS last reported on this topic in "New Mexico Agrees To Create Trauma-Responsive System For Children In Foster Care," which published on June 3, 2020. The article is available at <https://www.openminds.com/market-intelligence/news/new-mexico-agrees-create-trauma-responsive-system-for-children-in-foster-care/>.

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Editor's note: The article was updated on July 24, 2020, to incorporate clarifications from CYFD.

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