**Linkages Outcome Measurement Worksheet**

Use this worksheet with your Linkages Planning Team including data analysts from both CalWORKs and Child Welfare to determine the best way to measure the outcomes you want to track that will indicate the impact of your Linkages program.

**Linkages Outcomes**

*Enter the Outcomes your county wants to track for its Linkages program from Step 1 of the Evaluation Road Map in the table below:*

| **Child Welfare Outcomes** | **CalWORKs Outcomes** |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Decide When Measurement Occurs**

1. What time period do we want to establish from which to draw the data?



For example, you may want to look at data every year on clients who have a Linkages case start date between January 1 and March 30. To measure the outcomes for a particular cohort, you may need to create a separate “merged data” file that links selected data from both your Child Welfare (CWS/CMS) and your CalWORKs/TANF data systems.

**Identification of Linkages Clients**

1. What identifying information is shared commonly between both data systems?



Some counties use social security numbers to uniquely identify each client. By matching social security numbers of clients in the Child Welfare (CWS/CMS) system with those in the CalWORKs/TANF system, you can pull data for the matched clients into your merged data file.

1. Which clients are your Linkages clients?



You will need to make sure that you can identify all of your Linkages clients served during the time period you selected and include all of them in your merged data file.

**Translate Outcomes into Specific Data Elements**

1. What client level information do you need to measure each outcome?

| **Linkages Outcome** | **Measured By** |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Go through each of your outcomes and identify the data elements you will need to calculate the outcomes. For example, to measure the outcome “Percent of families that achieve reunification,” you would need:

* + Total number of families with a Linkages case start date during the specified time period.
  + Out of these families, the number of families with at least one child that was removed from the household.
  + Out of these families, the number who were reunified with at least one child.