

ASO Monitoring Protocol

Updated January 21, 2015

Routine - ASO fiscal monitoring is done on an ongoing basis. Financial documentation is submitted by providers and case managers and reviewed by ASO staff for all payments, as evidence that flexible funds were used as authorized by the program. Automated tracking systems in the ASO web application are utilized for monitoring submission of receipts, for payments that are issued in advance of receiving back-up documentation.

Standard reports are utilized for monitoring ASO expenditures by the following stakeholders:

1. Families – ASO Spending Summaries are mailed to families monthly so they can review and manage ASO services to verify their receipt of services that have been paid.
2. Case Management Programs – The ASO web application enables case managers and supervisors to generate detailed payment and utilization reports at any time. Guidance for Monitoring ASO Services is available on the ASO web application, under Policies and Procedures.
3. Funding Agencies – Through the ASO web application Funder Login, standard ASO reports are available to funding agencies that provide information about utilization, service trends and spending. Funding agencies can also generate custom reports, including detailed data reports to be used for monitoring and site visits.

Annual – For Children's Board ASO funding, programmatic and fiscal monitoring is conducted through site visits on an annual basis. This in-depth monitoring occurs at the case management program level and is performed by Children's Board ASO or Fiscal staff. Other funders may designate the Children's Board to provide this function.

Prior to the site visit:

1. A detailed ASO Budget Item Report is generated for the case management program that lists all budget items (authorizations) for families enrolled by that program.
2. 10% of the total families with ASO budgets, or a minimum of 10, are randomly selected for review.
3. The ASO sample is sent to the program supervisor at least one week before the site visit.

During the site visit:

1. The client record is reviewed and the following questions are answered:
 - a. Does the service or support purchased by the ASO relate back to a goal or a need in the Family Support Plan? (Source: Family Support Plan)
 - b. Is there evidence that the family actually received the service or support? (Source: case manager progress notes, receipts, provider progress notes or report)
2. During the client record review and the interview with the program supervisor, the reviewer also assesses adherence to the Guidelines for Use of ASO funds, with special attention to the following:
 - a. How are case managers documenting that the ASO is the payer of last resort?
 - b. How are families given choices in the type of service offered to meet the need, as well as the provider? How is that family choice documented?
 - c. How often do case managers monitor service delivery and quality?
 - d. Are case managers consistently following the ASO Pre-Paid Card Policy?
 - e. For Childcare Support, did payments fall within the limit of 20 days of service per fiscal year?
 - f. For first month's Rent and Security Deposit payments, is the completed housing inspection in the file?
3. All findings are documented on the ASO Monitoring Summary and Checklist, which is provided to the program supervisor and the contract manager and included in the contract file (if applicable).
 - a. If there is not sufficient back-up documentation for the services and supports purchased with ASO funds, or the funds were not spent as authorized in the family support plan, the Children's Board will seek reimbursement of the ineligible expenditures from the case management agency.
 - b. If the site visit reveals significant concerns regarding a program's compliance with ASO policies and procedures, the provider may be placed on a Provider Improvement Plan and/or may lose access to ASO funds for that program.
4. Aggregate findings from all program site visits will be compiled by ASO Manager and summarized for report at Program Support. Findings will include any recommendations for additional training and/or procedure changes.