



CONNECTIONS Weekly Technical Bulletin

CONNECTIONS Build: Family Services Stage—Phase 4 Implemented

The Family Services Stage—Phase 4 build was implemented in the CONNECTIONS application on Friday, June 10th. The build included modernization of the Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP) and the Service Plan Review (SPR), as well as new functionality to support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

Minor issues identified since implementation, as well as anticipated fixes and workarounds, are outlined in the most recent edition of the *CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin*, available on the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

A [Job Aid](#), which provides an overview of the modernized and new windows in CONNECTIONS, as well as step-by-step instructions for certain tasks, is available on both the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

Additionally, an [Impact Analysis](#) is available on the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

If you have questions about build-related functionality or the CONNECTIONS application in general, please reach out to your regional [Implementation Specialist](#). Alternatively, issues can be sent to the CONNECTIONS Triage mailbox at ocfs.sm.conn_app@ocfs.ny.gov.

New GIS Messages:

GIS #16-005: New SSN Edits

GIS #16-006: Absences

There are two new General Information System (GIS) Messages available: GIS #16-005 and GIS #16-006, per the below:

GIS #16-005 — The purpose of this GIS is to notify local departments of social services (LDSS) of the expansion of WMS edits to prevent the entry of Social Security Numbers (SSN) that are not consistent with the Social Security Administration's numbering structure.

In CONNECTIONS, if an inconsistent SSN is entered in the Person Identifier tab, an 'examine blinking fields' message will display when pressing the App/Reg button, prompting the user to correct the SSN.

GIS #16-006 — The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to LDSS regarding the utilization of the Activities Window in CONNECTIONS and the Benefits Issuance and Control System (BICS) to pay and claim allowable absences from foster care.

Both GIS messages will be available in more detail in the coming days on the OCFS website at: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/it/GeneralResources/GeneralResourcesDefault.asp>

June 17-23, 2016

Weekly System Maintenance

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will be unavailable on:

- **Friday, June 17,**
from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Wednesday, June 22,**
from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Friday, June 24,**
from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.