Early Implementation Rapid Cycle Report Technical Assistance Guide for Section 1115 Reentry Demonstrations

This document describes the reentry-specific reporting requirements for states submitting an implementation Rapid Cycle Report (RCR) as referenced in STCs and the Reentry Frequently Asked Questions (September 2026). The appendix provides an optional structure for organizing the report. Use of the appendix, either in its entirety or for specific sections, is optional, and states may present their findings in an alternative format that meets the applicable reporting requirements.

The RCR complements, but is distinct from, the state's ongoing monitoring and interim and summative evaluation requirements, as summarized below.

Table 1. Required monitoring and evaluation reports.

	Monitoring Reports	Early Implementation RCR	Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports
Preparer of the report	State Medicaid agency and/or contractor	State Medicaid agency[a] and/or external evaluator	External evaluator
Purpose of report	Ongoing systematic collection of descriptive data to track progress, risks, and performance	Document early implementation progress and lessons learned, focusing on actionable insights to support program refinement during initial demonstration phase	Assessment of demonstration's value and effectiveness in achieving its goals
Occurrence of report	Annual reports due 180 days following each demonstration year	One-time report; 180 days after state begins claiming for demonstration services	Interim report: 1 year before end of demonstration Summative report: 18 months after end of demonstration
Methods	Quantitative monitoring metrics and qualitative / narrative information	Quantitative and qualitative implementation information	Mixed methods including statistical methods to analyze outcomes compared to baseline and/or comparison group

[a] The state should share the RCR with state partners and/or its independent evaluator prior to submission to CMS to ensure a common understanding of early implementation findings and provide insights that may inform future evaluation processes.

Guiding Principles for Completing an RCR

The state may refer to these guiding principles when determining the level of detail expected within the RCR:

- **Focus on what matters.** Do not describe every implementation activity. Focus on accomplishments, challenges, adaptations, and lessons that could be useful to other states implementing similar initiatives.
- **Use existing information.** Leverage information already available from administrative or operational records, and routine partner feedback.
- **Avoid duplication.** If information is already captured in a table or earlier response, do not repeat it in the narrative.
- **Write for a broad audience.** The final RCR must be posted publicly on the state's website. Use clear language and explain acronyms or state-specific terms.

Core components of an RCR

The RCR should present findings about a demonstration's implementation progress using the reentry demonstration implementation milestones (Table 2). The state's RCR submission should include the following sections, discussed further in Sections A–E:

A. General background information
B. Implementation status and key lessons learned
C. Funding sources associated with early implementation
D. Implications for planned evaluation activities
E. Supplemental information
    1. Methods and methodological limitations
    2. Appendices and supporting documentation

A. General background information

This section should include the **"go-live" date** for the demonstration. This is the date that the state began claiming federal matching funds for services in any facility. If the state is phasing in services, locations, or populations, list the start dates (actual or projected) for each phase of implementation. Report the number of facilities expected to participate over the demonstration period and the number currently implementing. Appendix Table A1 provides an example that the state may use to report these numbers.

B. Implementation status and key lessons learned

The appendix includes example tables and prompts for reporting implementation status (Appendix Table B1) and summarizing key lessons learned (Appendix Section B2).

B1. Implementation status self-assessment

The state should summarize progress by reentry demonstration implementation milestone (Table 2). The state may use the example implementation measures to guide its response, and may include additional milestones and measures, as appropriate. If the implementation milestone is not being implemented as originally planned or if implementation differs substantially by facility type or population, the state should include a brief explanation.

B2. Key lessons learned

The state should use the implementation milestones in Table 2 as a framework for describing key lessons learned during early implementation and use the example implementation measures to identify relevant processes and approaches to consider within each milestone. Key lessons may include a challenge, adaptation, accomplishment, unexpected facilitator, or assumption that did not align with implementation experience. The state does not need to identify a key lesson for each implementation milestone and should focus on the lessons that are most relevant to its early implementation experience.

Table 2. Reentry demonstration implementation milestones

Implementation milestone	Example implementation measures
Ability to provide the approved pre-release service package	• Processes in place for assessing and documenting facility operational readiness • Partnerships in place to deliver pre-release services (including correctional vendor arrangements, provider coordination, and facility access established)
Ability to identify and enroll eligible beneficiaries	• Operational processes and IT systems in place to identify potentially eligible beneficiaries, conduct eligibility screening, support application submissions, and enroll eligible people into Medicaid
Ability to coordinate care pre- and post-release	• Processes to maintain continuity of care despite lockdowns, restricted movement, release-date changes, and variation across correctional settings • Processes for care transition planning and coordinating community-based referrals • Processes for ensuring timely access to health care supplies and 30-day supply of medication upon release
Ability to track services	• Infrastructure, systems, and processes in place to track services pre- and post-release, including mechanisms in place for billing pre-release services
Ability to validate and share data among cross-system partners	• Methods established for validating data, including data completeness, missingness, and reporting lags • Agreements and technology infrastructure established to support interoperability or data sharing across partners • Processes established to gather stakeholder feedback, including from partners and beneficiaries

C. Funding sources associated with early implementation

In this section, the state should describe the funding strategy and funding sources used for early implementation. The state should note any funding obtained to build capacity for the demonstration.

D. Implications for planned evaluation activities

In this section, the state should indicate whether early implementation experiences affect the feasibility or design of planned evaluation activities, including interim and summative evaluations. If so, the state should describe the implications for the evaluation design and how it intends to address them. The state should also describe any delays, timeline modifications, or other limitations that may affect planned analyses and identify potential mitigation strategies.

E. Supplemental Information

In this section, the state should include information that provides context for the state's findings, including a description of the methods used to establish the findings. Optionally, the state may also provide any supplemental information that supports interpretation of the findings in the appendices.

Appendix: Early Implementation Rapid Cycle Report (RCR) Optional Format for Section 1115 Reentry Demonstrations

The state may use this appendix to report the information required by the demonstration STCs either in its entirety or in sections. The state is encouraged to keep responses concise.

A. General background information

Demonstration name	*[Enter text]*
Approval period	*[Enter text]*
Go-live date	*[Enter text]*
Subsequent phase-in dates, as applicable	*[Enter text]*

Table A1. Implementation status updates by facility type

Report the number of facilities expected to participate over the demonstration period and the number currently implementing. Note only material changes to the planned timeline or approach outlined in the state's implementation plan.

Facility type	Total number of facilities expected to participate	Number currently implementing	Changes to implementation plans or timelines
State prisons	*[Enter #]*	*[Enter #]*	*[No change / briefly describe]*
Jails	*[Enter #]*	*[Enter #]*	*[No change / briefly describe]*
Youth correctional facilities	*[Enter #]*	*[Enter #]*	*[No change / briefly describe]*
Tribal correctional facilities	*[Enter #]*	*[Enter #]*	*[No change / briefly describe]*
Other facility types	*[Enter #]*	*[Enter #]*	*[No change / briefly describe]*

B. Implementation status and key lessons learned

Provide a status update across the five implementation milestones in Table B1, including a short narrative description of any deviations from the state's implementation plan (B1a).

Table B1. Implementation status self-assessment

Implementation milestone	Implementing as originally planned	Adaptive action planning in progress	Adaptive action implemented	Not yet far enough along to assess
Ability to provide the approved pre-release service package *(e.g., facility, provider, systems readiness)*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to identify and enroll eligible beneficiaries *(e.g., operational processes and IT systems in place to identify, screen, and enroll beneficiaries)*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to coordinate care pre- and post-release *(e.g., transition plans, referrals, medications at release)*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to track services *(e.g., infrastructure, systems, and processes to track and bill services)*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to validate and share data among cross-system partners *(e.g., data validation procedures, DUAs, interoperability, stakeholder feedback)*	☐	☐	☐	☐

B1a. Description of implementation changes or deviations

If the status for an implementation milestone in Table B1 is not "Implementing as originally planned" or if implementation differs substantially by facility type or population, provide a brief explanation here.

[Enter text]

B2. Key lessons learned

Share a minimum of 3 key lessons about a challenge, adaptation, accomplishment, unexpected facilitator, or incorrect assumption regarding early implementation, mapping the key lesson to an implementation milestone. The state may refer to the example implementation measures to identify concepts for highlighting key lessons. Add additional key lessons as appropriate based on the specific state implementation experience.

Key lesson 1

Implementation milestone	*[Enter the applicable implementation milestone from Table 2]*
What happened?	*[Briefly describe the important implementation experience, accomplishment, or challenge.]*
What did the state do?	*[Describe the adaptive action or response.]*
What happened as a result?	*[Describe what is known so far, and how the state will continue to assess the progress.]*
What is the key takeaway or lesson?	*[State the practical lesson or takeaway.]*

Key lesson 2

Implementation milestone	*[Enter the applicable implementation milestone from Table 2]*
What happened?	*[Briefly describe the important implementation experience, accomplishment, or challenge.]*
What did the state do?	*[Describe the adaptive action or response.]*
What happened as a result?	*[Describe what is known so far, and how the state will continue to assess the progress.]*
What is the key takeaway or lesson?	*[State the practical lesson or takeaway.]*

Key lesson 3

Implementation milestone	*[Enter the applicable implementation milestone from Table 2]*
What happened?	*[Briefly describe the important implementation experience, accomplishment, or challenge.]*
What did the state do?	*[Describe the adaptive action or response.]*
What happened as a result?	*[Describe what is known so far, and how the state will continue to assess the progress.]*
What is the key takeaway or lesson?	*[State the practical lesson or takeaway.]*

C. Funding sources associated with early implementation

In this section, the state should describe the funding strategy and funding sources, including how the state identified and secured funding sources for implementing the demonstration. The state should also indicate any funding obtained to support building capacity for the demonstration.

[Enter text]

D. Implications for planned evaluation activities

In this section, the state should assess how early implementation experiences affect the feasibility and design of planned evaluation activities, including interim and summative evaluations, and describe any planned refinements in the state's evaluation design, if needed.

Has early implementation revealed anything that will affect the feasibility or design of the planned interim or summative evaluation?

☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, briefly describe what changed and the anticipated response. *[Enter text]*

E. Supplemental information:

E1. Methods and methodological limitations

In this section, the state should provide an overview of the data sources and approach used to establish findings for the RCR. The state should describe how it identified the key lessons learned, including which key entities provided input and how it selected the key lessons. Include any limitations that may affect the interpretation of the findings or lessons learned.

[Enter text]

E2. Appendices and supporting documentation

The state may include appendices and supporting documentation necessary to support the interpretation of the RCR findings and document implementation activities.