

SPARQ Release 8.5 implemented the following changes:

- Reformatted the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) data on the Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs).
- Designated additional core performance measures as 'TARGETS' on the QPRs.
- Updated the system with the 2022 Poverty Threshold guidelines
- Made changes to selected Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes.
- Made changes to the Data Validation (DV) fields and sampling process

Below is a synopsis of these changes.

Reformatted the ACSI Data on the QPRs

- The ACSI score in the E7 measure for participants' and host agencies' scores is now displayed to one decimal place.
- The participants' and host agencies' response rates in the E7 measure is now displayed to one decimal place.

Measures Classified as 'TARGETS' on the QPRs.

- The word "TARGET" has been added in the Goal/Target column for the service levels (E1) and community service (E2) measures.

Poverty Threshold

- The 2022 Poverty Threshold guidelines were uploaded to SPARQ.

Changes to FIPS Codes

- FIPS codes 2063 and 2066 in Alaska have been added to the system, and FIPS code 2261 has been removed to reflect the latest Census data.

Data Validation

- Field E6.1 "If exit is not due to unsubsidized employment, other reason for exit" has been added to the performance samples.
- The special rule for selecting waiver factors in the performance samples has been amended to the following: if a validatable waiver factor (one with a value of "Y") does not exist in the current DV performance year, the program will look back no more than **THREE PROGRAM YEARS** prior to the **program year of exit** to locate a validatable factor. If no validatable factor is found, then the Pass/Fail/Incomplete fields on the worksheet will be blank for that performance sample record.
- The rule for determining the minimum sample size has been modified for both the eligibility and performance samples. For each sample, if there are less than 20 participants in the total population from which the sample is drawn, the sample will include all participants. Additionally for the eligibility sample, if there are between 20 and 23 participants in the population, the sample will include exactly 20 participants. Otherwise, the sampling rules

Notes for SPARQ Release 8.5

remain the same. The purpose of the minimum sample size is to help maintain consistent sample sizes across years for smaller grantees, while also maximizing the number of records the smaller grantees validate.