

## **BRIDGES Security Update: User Communication**

Jan. 27, 2026

### **Overview**

As part of our ongoing commitment to data security and privacy, several security-related updates have been implemented in the BRIDGES system. These changes strengthen access controls and further reduce the collection of sensitive personal information.

### **Updated Terms of Use Acknowledgement**

The login process has been updated to require users to acknowledge the BRIDGES Terms of Use before accessing the system.

- By logging into BRIDGES, users acknowledge and agree to the Terms of Use.
- This acknowledgement is now an integrated part of the login process and is required for system access.

### **Login Attempt Limits**

To enhance system security and protect against unauthorized access, login attempt controls have been updated.

- After entering a username, users have five attempts to enter their password correctly.
- If the password is entered incorrectly five times, the user's account will be locked for 30 minutes.
- Once the 30-minute lockout period has expired, the user may attempt to log in again.
- It is recommended that users access the "Forgot Password" feature prior to the fifth attempt to prevent a possible lock out.

### **Removal of Children's Social Security Numbers**

BRIDGES no longer stores or collects children's Social Security numbers (SSN).

- The SSN field has been removed from the Demographic Screen #2.
- As a result, the demographic screens have been renumbered accordingly.
- This change further reduces the collection of highly sensitive data and aligns with best practices for protecting personally identifiable information.

### **Summary**

These updates reflect BRIDGES' continued focus on strengthening security, safeguarding sensitive information and aligning with data privacy best practices. No action is required from users beyond following the updated login process.