

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Arizona

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009 (2009A)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/CB Sign-Off
5	The reporting system includes all children who have or had been in foster care at least 24 hours.	2	<p><u>Program Code Procedures 30810, 30850 and 30860, LNs 3079-3192, 3267-3299, 3307-3345, and 1347-1362, 1150-1159:</u> The State's approach for determining whether a removal episode is 24 hours or less does not capture all such episodes. Based on the State's methodology if the child were to later re-enter foster care and the episode is longer than 24 hours, the AFCARS data will reflect two removal episodes instead of one.</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> In order to accurately reflect the total number of removals as defined for AFCARS, the State needs to add a clock field to both the removal status and legal status. The program code would use these fields to determine whether the child's removal was for less than 24 hours and exclude all removal episodes that are for 24 hours or less.</p>		
13	<p>The State agency shall transmit semi-annually information on each child adopted during the reporting period.</p> <p>Adoption data are to be reported during the reporting period in which the adoption is legalized or, at the State's option, in the following reporting period if the adoption is legalized within the last 60 days of the reporting period. For a semi-annual period in which no adoptions have</p>	2	<p>In all three years shown on the Data Profile (2007-2008&2009A), Arizona reported fewer adoptions in the adoption file than in their foster care file.</p> <p><u>Program Code LNs 522-838</u> It is possible that some adoptions that occur near the end of a reporting period may never be reported, if the corresponding return date or effective date is entered into the system after the extraction is performed.</p>	<p>The State needs to identify a method to identify and report all adoptions regardless of when they were entered into the system. Listed below are three possible solutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Resubmit the adoption file on a regular basis. (This is mainly a temporary interim solution.) 2) Add an indicator that marks those records that have been transmitted. The extraction code would be modified to check for 		

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	been legalized, States must report such an occurrence.			<p>adoptions that occurred prior to the end of the report period being submitted that have not been flagged by the indicator.</p> <p>3) Add a transaction date to the legalization date of the adoption. This date would be used to extract the adoption files.</p>		
20	State extracts all records based on the transaction date of discharge (foster care element #57) or the date of latest removal (foster care element #21), if the child has not been discharged.	2	<p><u>Program Code LNs 1150-1159:</u> The selection logic in the program code does not use the transaction date of discharge.</p>	Modify the program code to extract the regular report period file based on the transaction date.		
1	<p>Each State's data transmission must include all children in foster care for whom the State title IV-B/IV-E agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).</p> <p>The State agency shall transmit semi-annually information on each child in foster care during the reporting period (45 CFR 1355.40 (b)(1)).</p>	3	<p><u>Program Code VALCH110 LNs 2294-2315; 1150-1159:</u> The program code does not exclude removal episodes during the reporting period for which the only placement was a hospital or locked facility. <i>Post Site-Visit Findings: The program code has been modified to exclude records of children whose only placement is a locked facility or a hospital (LNs 11580-11860).</i></p>	<p>The State needs to monitor the data for accuracy.</p> <p>Resubmit prior report periods. Contact the Federal Regional Office to schedule a conference to discuss which report periods need to be resubmitted.</p> <p>The Federal Team will review the data for changes and accuracy.</p>		

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	The population to be included in this reporting system includes all children in foster care under the responsibility of the State agency administering or supervising the administration of the title IV-B Child and Family Services State plan and the title IV-E State plan; that is, all children who are required to be provided the assurances of section 422(b)(10) of the Social Security Act (Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II--Definitions).					
7	Includes youth over the age of 18 if a payment is being made on behalf of the child (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1.3).	3	<u>Frequency Report:</u> There is one record with a year of birth of 1970 (38 year old). There are an additional 143 records reflecting youth over the age of 19. See foster care elements #56 and 58 for additional information.	The Federal team will reassess this data once changes have been completed regarding the 19 and older population (FC #56 and 58).		
8	Include all children who are in the placement, care, or supervision responsibility of the title IV-B/E agency that are on "trial home visits" (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section	3	The State returns children to their home while still under the agency's responsibility for placement and care. The State is including these in the reporting population, but not all of the records are being	1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data. 2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and		

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	1.3).		correctly reported as a living arrangement “trial home visit.” (See foster care elements #23 and 41.)	timely entry of this data. The Children’s Bureau will monitor future and subsequent files for changes in the data.		
12	<p>The data must be extracted from the data system as of the last day of the reporting period and must be submitted in electronic form as described in appendix C to 45 CFR 1355 and in record layouts as delineated in appendix D to 45 CFR 1355 (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1))</p> <p>For foster care information, the child-specific data to be transmitted must reflect the data in the information system when the data are extracted (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(2)).</p>	3	<p><u>Subsequent Files</u> Data submitted in a subsequent file does not accurately reflect the child’s situation for the report period being submitted.</p>	The Federal Team will monitor this data once changes have been implemented in the foster care and adoption extraction code to include the report period.		
19	Provide data for all children who were discharged from foster care at any time during the reporting period, or in the previous reporting period, if not previously reported (Appendix D, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care and Adoption Record Layouts	3	<p><u>CFSR Data Profile 2007 - 2008 & 2009A, Dropped Records</u>: There were 258 dropped records between 2008B and 2009A, which would represent 3.6% of the reported discharges in that year. Dropped records were not an issue in FY2007 or</p>	See item #20.		

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	Section A.1.b(5)).		FY2008. <u>Program Code LNs 1150-1159:</u> The State is not using the transaction date as required and this is probably causing the dropped records.			