

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Illinois

AFCARS Reporting Period: October 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010 (2010A)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes
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> <p>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).</p>	2	<p><u>Program Code CFAF6000</u></p> <p>1) The State is incorrectly excluding children who at the time the agency obtains responsibility for placement and care are on a runaway status in the AFCARS reporting population.</p> <p>1a) The reporting population logic excludes the living arrangement types Unauthorized Placement, Abducted, Whereabouts Unknown, and Unknown Contact. <u>Post Site-Visit Corrections</u> The State indicated a correction for General Requirement #1 but it is not clear that it will include all the values listed previously as excluded. It seems that it is excluding them as initial placements since the transaction code is not equal to "initiate plac."</p> <p>2) The value "youth in college" has been included in section 4115 and will be excluded in the selection logic.</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the selection logic to include children whose first or only living arrangement is "runaway."</p> <p>1a) Modify the selection logic to include children whose first or only placement is one of these values.</p> <p>2) This may need to be reassessed once the final decision is made and approved regarding the age of a child.</p>		
5	The reporting system includes all children who have or had	2	<u>CYCIS Forms 906/906-1, Placement/Payment</u>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) The State must modify the</p>		

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	<p>been in foster care at least 24 hours. Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II--Definitions</p>		<p><u>Authorization</u> There are instructions to this form to enter the time in which the child entered a placement. The CYCIS screen CM-07 also contains a field for time.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> The program code does not specifically exclude records of children whose removal episode is less than 24 hours.</p>	<p>selection logic to ensure records of children that are in care for 24 hours or less are not included.</p>		
7	<p>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).</p> <p><u>ACYF-CB-PI-10-11, Issued July 9, 2010</u> <i>Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)</i>. A title IV-E agency that exercises the option to extend assistance to youth age 18 or older must collect and report data to AFCARS on all youth receiving a title IV-E foster care maintenance payment (45 CFR 1355.40).</p>	2	<p><u>Program Code: CFS 6000</u> 1) The extraction code was modified to set the child's record as discharged at the time the child is 18 and no longer eligible for title IV-E. It is not clear though that the correction addresses this item as the 2010B data file still includes children over the age of 18 (12% of the records).</p> <p>2) The State is considering exercising the option to extend title IV-E foster care maintenance payments to youth over the age of 18 and possibly up to age 21.</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Confirm if this routine is actually working correctly or needs modifications. 1a) The Federal team will continue to monitor the data.</p> <p>2) Pending decision.</p>		

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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>	2	<p><u>CYCIS/SACWIS</u> There are data that is not stored in a history table. Consequently, data submitted for prior report periods will not accurately reflect the child's circumstances for that time frame. Changes/updates to this information overwrites the previous information. Additional information is provided in related adoption and foster care data elements.</p>	<p><u>CYCIS/SACWIS</u> Modify the system to ensure there are history tables for all AFCARS fields.</p>		
8	<p>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 1.3).</p>	3	<p><u>Program Code CFAF6000, 2500</u> <u>Post Site-Visit Corrections</u> The extraction code (CFS 6000) was modified. The logic in section 2500 that sets the discharge date after 30 days has been commented out and will not be executed.</p>	<p>1) The Federal team will review and evaluate the data.</p> <p>2) Provide training and oversight to ensure the timely entry of the date the State's legal status ends.</p>		
11	<p>The State must report on all children who are adopted in the State during the reporting period and in whose adoption the State title IV-B/IV-E agency has had any involvement.</p>	3	<p><u>Program Code</u> See the specific notes in the adoption data elements. The State team indicated that if the information is entered into the CYCIS¹ screens, then it will be reported into AFCARS.</p>	<p>1) Implement a process that ensures the entry of data on private agency adoptions in which the State is involved through an adoption agreement and/or subsidy.</p>		

¹ Child and Youth Centered Information System

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All special needs children who were adopted in the State, whether or not they were in the public foster care system prior to their adoption and for whom non-recurring expenses were reimbursed; and • All children adopted for whom an adoption assistance payment or service is being provided based on arrangements made by or through the State agency. Appendix B to Part 1355--Adoption Data Elements, Section II--Definitions 		<p>The State team also indicated it would be possible to have an agreement with a family living in Illinois who adopts a child from a private agency in another State. These two situations would be considered a “non-ward” case and should be reported to AFCARS.</p>	<p>1a) Ensure that data are entered if the private agency is in another State.</p> <p>2) Provide training on data entry of all adoption cases.</p> <p>3) Describe how the State will monitor the accuracy of this data.</p>		