

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
#5 Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (if applicable)	2	<p><u>State Field Name:</u> FCW-FC-REC-PERDIC-REV-DT</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3100, LN 012220)</u></p> <p>1) The program code does not restrict the review date to be after the start of the removal episode (element #21).</p> <p>2) The program code has been modified to only include the court types of "permanency hearing" and "dispositional hearing." However, based on what the State team indicated during the review, a "dispositional hearing" does not meet the requirements for a periodic review.</p> <p>3) The program code now requires that the creation timestamp for a FST meeting or a hearing date be within the report period.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u></p> <p>1) The State team indicated that workers were checking the box to indicate that a particular FST meeting also qualified as a PPRT, but then they were failing to take the next step and actually complete the PPRT screen. There now is a</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the program code to look for a periodic review for the current removal episode.</p> <p>2) Please clarify whether Missouri's dispositional hearings meet the requirements of a periodic review.</p> <p>2a) If they do not, modify the extraction code so that it does not include these hearings.</p> <p>3) Clarify why the condition checks within the report period instead of a date prior to the end of the report period?</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u></p> <p>1) Continue to monitor that workers are completing this step.</p> <p>1a) Provide an update in the</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>2a)</p> <p>3)</p> <p><u>Quality</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>1a)</p>	

<sup>1</sup> See *Case File Review Findings Matrix* for detailed findings regarding the error cases.

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		<p>message that appears on the screen message the moment a worker adds an FST and checks the PPRT box that reminds the worker to complete the final step.</p> <p>Frequency Report: There are records with review dates between 1997 and 2007 (2%).</p> <p>Case File Review Findings: 11 (18%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS<sup>1</sup>.</p>	<p>AFCARS Improvement Plan Update (AIPU).</p> <p>2) Supervisors need to ensure this data is entered correctly and in a timely manner.</p> <p>3) The State may want to identify the records with the old review dates and determine if these are actually closed foster care cases that were never entered as discharges on the system, or if there is another contributing factor causing the old dates. These old dates may be from the cases of youth over the age of 18 and/or 19.</p>	<p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	
<p>#10 Has the child been clinically diagnosed as having a disability(ies)?</p> <p>1=Yes 2=No 3=Not yet Determined</p> <p>If yes, indicate each type of a disability with a "1."</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p>1) There are Physical Health Information, Mental Health Information, and a Medical Examination History sections within the screen.</p> <p>2) There is not a question on the screen asking whether the child has a "diagnosed condition."</p>	<p><u>Screen</u></p> <p>1) Modify how this information is collected. Remove the categories and use actual diagnoses.</p> <p>2) Add this question as a field on the screen.</p>	<p><u>Screen</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	

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		<p><u>Program Code, Para 3200 LN 013800:</u>                      1) This element is derived from elements #11 -15. If a 4 (not yet evaluated) is present for the categories, this element is set to “not yet determined.” If elements 11-15 have not been set to “applies” or “not yet evaluated,” then this element is set to “no.”</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u>                      1) For a new removal episode, the screen for evaluated disability condition fills with conditions from the previous removal episode.</p> <p>Frequency Report (n=12,014):                      Yes = 3,934 (33%); No = 5,932 (49%); Not yet determined = 2,142 (18%); Not reported = 6 (.05%)</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 21 (32%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. Fifteen of these records should have had a response of “yes.” There were eleven of the cases reported as “not yet determined” yet the child had been in care for several months. The use of this value indicates that a child has not had any type of health exam.</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u>                      1) Once the screen changes have been implemented modify the program code to extract the information from the question field.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u>                      1) Implement a process that ensures case workers review and if necessary update the question.                       2) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.                       3) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p><u>Options</u>                      The State may want to consider adding screen edits that checks if the child is being placed in a therapeutic foster care setting and no diagnoses are entered. If this is the case then a placement cannot be entered. The State</p>	<p><u>Code</u>                      1)</p> <p><u>Quality</u>                      1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	

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			also needs to develop and implement a method to ensure that this data is reviewed and updated.		
#11 Mental Retardation #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired #13 Physically Disabled #14 Emotionally Disturbed #15 Other Diagnosed Condition  [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p>1) The screen only contains the AFCARS categories and not actual diagnosed conditions. There are no dates associated with diagnosed conditions. The case worker indicates whether the condition is mild (1), moderate (2) or severe (3).</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> 1) The program code checks for whether the condition is mild, moderate or severe and if one is selected, the element is set to "yes."</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> Based on the case file review, case workers are not selecting the correct AFCARS category for some medical conditions.</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1) Modify the screen to include a way for workers to select the child's actual diagnosed condition and to enter the start and end dates of the condition.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Once changes are made to the screen for elements #10 - 15, modify the extraction code accordingly.  2) Compare the State's mapping of conditions to be reported in AFCARS to the resource list attached to AFCARS Technical Bulletin #14.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1)</p> <p><u>Code</u> 1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p>	

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			2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.	2)	
<p>#17 If yes, how old was the child when the adoption was legalized?</p> <p>[0 = Not Applicable]                      1 = less than 2 years old                      2 = 2-5 years old                      3 = 6-12 years old                      4 = 13 years or older                      5 = Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p>1) An age can be entered into this field even if the answer to the question "has this child ever been adopted?" is "no."</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200 LN 014600, 015040</u>  <i>Post site-visit modifications</i>                      The program code was modified to check the value of foster care element #16 before setting the values for element #17. If element #16 is "yes," the program code now maps the State codes for age ranges to the appropriate AFCARS values. If the field is blank, this element is set to blank. If element #16 is "no," the program code now maps element #17 to "not applicable." If element #16 is "unable to determine" the code maps #17 to "unable to determine" (LNs 1502, 1535-1547).</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): Not applicable = <b>11,595</b> (97%); Unable to determine = <b>45</b>; Age categories = <b>349</b> (2.91%); Not reported = 25</p>	<p><u>Screen</u></p> <p>1) Modify the screen so that if "no" is selected for element #16 (was child previously adopted), that the age field is disabled.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u></p> <p>1) The Federal team will monitor the data for changes based on the modifications.</p> <p>2) If the child has been previously adopted but the age at the adoption is not known or cannot be estimated based on the legalization date, train the case workers to leave element #17 blank.</p> <p>3) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>4) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p>		

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#18 Date of First Removal from Home	2	<p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370, 015450</u></p> <p>1) For children whose only placement in foster care was a removal or a locked facility the State is to exclude these records from ever being reported to AFCARS, including this element. This should be handled in the selection logic, see General Requirement #1.</p> <p>2) The State does not correctly report the start date of the first removal episodes that included an initial placement in a hospital or a locked facility.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> Case File Review Findings: 14 (22%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Ensure that there is no logic in the extraction code to ever report the start date for these records if it was the child's first ever removal from home.</p> <p>2) For children whose first removal from home included an initial placement in a hospital or locked facility prior to the child being placed in a setting within the scope of title IV-E of the Social Security Act, the date of the foster care setting is always considered the date of removal for AFCARS purposes.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> The Federal team will review the data as changes are completed.</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p><u>Quality</u></p>	
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	2	<p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370</u></p> <p>1) For children whose only placement in foster care was a removal or a locked facility the</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Ensure that there is no logic in the extraction code to ever report the start date for these records if it was the</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p>	

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		<p>State is to exclude these records from ever being reported to AFCARS, including this element. This should be handled in the selection logic, see General Requirement #1.</p> <p>2) See the detailed findings for the case file review. There may be related to the issues in elements #18 and #21.</p>	<p>child's first ever removal from home.</p> <p>2) Review the extraction code and determine if there is an issue with how the number of removals is counted.</p> <p>2a) Provide a brief synopsis of the State's findings in the AIP Update.</p>	<p>2)</p> <p>2a)</p>	
<p>#20 Date Child was Discharged from last foster care episode (if applicable)</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370, 016710</u></p> <p>1) For children whose only placement in foster care was a hospital or a locked facility the State is to exclude these records from ever being reported to AFCARS, including this element. This should be handled in the selection logic, see General Requirement #1.</p> <p>2) See the detailed findings for the case file review. There may be related to the issues in elements #18 and #21.</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Ensure that there is no logic in the extraction code to ever report the discharge date for these records if it was the child's prior removal from home episode.</p> <p>2) Review the extraction code and determine if there is an issue with how the number of removals is counted.</p> <p>2a) Provide a brief synopsis of the State's findings in the AIP Update.</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>2a)</p>	

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#21 Date of Latest Removal	2	<p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 015370</u></p> <p>1) For children whose only placement in foster care was a removal or a locked facility the State is to exclude these records from ever being reported to AFCARS, including this element. This should be handled in the selection logic, see General Requirement #1.</p> <p>2) The State does not correctly report the start date of removal episodes that included an initial placement in a hospital or a locked facility.</p> <p>3) When the legal status changes, there is coding within the screen logic that will set the date to the prior day. Whenever the legal status is changed back to "LS1" it will cause a new removal in the system.</p> <p>4) See the detailed findings for the case file review. There may be related to the issues in elements</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Ensure that there is no logic in the extraction code to ever report the start date for these records.</p> <p>2) For children whose removal from home included an initial placement in a hospital or locked facility prior to the child being placed in a setting within the scope of title IV-E of the Social Security Act, the date of the foster care setting is the start date of removal for AFCARS purposes.</p> <p>3) Modify the system to ensure that changes in legal status do not create a new removal episode.</p> <p>4) Review the extraction code and determine if there is an issue with how the number of</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4)</p>	

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		<p>#18 and #21.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u>  <i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 14 (22%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>removals is counted.</p> <p>4a) Provide a brief synopsis of the State's findings in the AIP Update.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u>                      The Federal team will review the data as changes are completed.</p>	<p>4a)</p> <p><u>Quality</u></p>	
#23 Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting	2	<p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 017270</u></p> <p>1) There were several issues related to how the extraction code selects the date of placement. One issue is the dates are changing when there is a status change in case, whether it is due to a level of care or a payment change.</p> <p>1a) The program code is also reporting the discharge date as a new placement date.</p> <p>2) The State is incorrectly reporting cases where the child's only placement in a removal episode is "runaway."</p> <p>3) The State is incorrectly reporting the start dates of "trial home visits" and "runaways."</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the program code to not report the date of a status change.</p> <p>1a) Modify the program code to not report discharge dates as a new placement date.</p> <p>1b) Review the program code to ensure that correct dates are being reported for the current placement setting.</p> <p>2) The date of the current placement setting should be the same date as the removal from home (#21).</p> <p>3) Ensure that the program code extracts the start date of a "trial home visit" and "runaways."</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>1a)</p> <p>1b)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	

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		<p>4) The extraction code does not include logic for when to include/exclude hospitalizations (see data quality finding #2).</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> 1) Some of the issues related to the date of placement are data entry issues. The State team indicated that if a hospitalization is seven days or less it is not entered into the information system if the intent is the child will return to the same foster home. Dates of “trial home visits” and runaways may not be entered.</p> <p><i>Frequency Report:</i> There are 14 records with no date.</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 25 (39%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>4) Modify the program code to include the start date of non-acute care hospitalizations (those that are for eight or more days).</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Enter all “living locations” into the system (child’s whereabouts should be entered in the system to reflect where the child is 24/7/365).</p> <p>3) Ensure that case workers enter the date a child was placed on a trial home visit, or known to have run away from the last placement setting.</p> <p>4) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p>4)</p> <p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4)</p>	
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This	2	<p><u>Program Code Para 3300, LN 017650</u> 1) The extraction code does not</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> 1a) The program code must not include a change in status</p>	<p><u>Code</u> 1a)</p>	

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Episode		<p>correctly implement the AFCARS standards for determining the number of placements. (See the Child Welfare Manual, section 1. AFCARS).</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Case File Review Findings: 23</i></p>	<p>of placement setting (e.g., foster home that becomes pre-adoptive home) in the number of placement settings.</p> <p>1b) Do not include living conditions that are a temporary absence from the child's ongoing foster care placement: visitation with a sibling, relative, or other caretaker (i.e., pre-placement visits with a subsequent foster care provider or pre-adoptive parents); acute care hospitalizations; respite care; day or summer camps; trial home visits; and runaway episodes.</p> <p>1c) Do not include a return from trial home visit to same placement setting.</p> <p>1d) Do not include the return from runaway status to same placement setting.</p> <p>1e) Institutions with several cottages on a campus, do not count a move from one cottage to another.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u></p>	<p>1b)</p> <p>1c)</p> <p>1d)</p> <p>1e)</p> <p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p>	

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		(37%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.	1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
<p>#41 Current Placement Setting</p> <p>1 = Pre-Adoptive Home                  2 = Foster Family Home-Relative                  3 = Foster Family Home-Non-Relative                  4 = Group Home                  5 = Institution                  6 = Supervised Independent Living                  7 = Runaway                  8 = Trial Home Visit</p>	2	<p><u>Program Code (Para 3500, LN20150):</u></p> <p>1) The State is incorrectly mapping the following to group homes: Foster Family Group Homes, Behavioral Foster Family Group Homes, and Medical Foster Family Group Home.</p> <p>2) "Medical Family" is incorrectly mapped to "institution" instead of foster home.</p> <p>3) The State indicated that Residential Treatment Facilities could either be the size of a group home or an institution (per AFCARS definitions). They are currently all mapped to institution.</p> <p>4) The State may be reporting a child placing agency as an institution instead of reporting the child's actual physical location.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u>  <i>Frequency Report (n=12,014):</i>                  Pre-Adoptive Home = 1,455 (12%); Foster Family Home</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Map these settings to either "foster family home - relative" or foster family home "non-relative" as appropriate.</p> <p>2) Modify extraction code and map "medical family" to the appropriate type of foster home.</p> <p>3) Identify a way to differentiate these settings.</p> <p>3a) Once the sizes of these facilities are identified, map them accordingly to either group home or institution.</p> <p>4) Modify the system and/or the extraction code to record and report the child's actual placement setting type.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u></p> <p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>3a)</p> <p>4)</p> <p><u>Quality</u></p> <p>1)</p>	

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		(Relative) = 2,462 (20%); Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) = 4,946 (41%); Group Home = 97 (1%); <b>Institution = 2,071 (17%)</b> ; Supervised Independent Living = 515 (4%); Runaway = 193 (2%); Trial Home Visit = 73 (1%); <b>Not reported = 202</b> <i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 18 (27%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In 10 of the cases the child was on a “trial home visit” but this is not what was reported to AFCARS.	the accurate and timely entry of this data.  2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data. <u>Options</u> Screen: The State may want to consider grouping the type of settings so that the worker does not have to select from a long single list.		
#43 Most recent case plan goal  1 = Reunify With Parent(s) Or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live With Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	2	<u>Screen:</u> Family Support Team Meeting Information; Primary Permanency Plan for the Child 1) There are no values to discriminate between guardianship/relative and guardianship/non-relative.  <u>Program Code (Para 3600, LN 020860)</u> 1) The State maps “Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement” (APPLA) to “emancipation.” The State does not map anything to “long-term foster care.” The State does have a policy and practice that all youth in which a case plan goal of “adoption,” “reunification,” etc. is	<u>Screen</u> 1) Add values that separate goals of guardianship between those that are with relatives and those that are not. Or, train case workers to enter goals with relatives as “live with relatives.”  <u>Program Code</u> 1) Youth in which a goal other than “APLA” is not a current option but the youth does have a permanent connection with an adult, are to be reported in AFCARS with a goal of “emancipation.”  1a) If there is no permanent	<u>Screen</u> 1)  <u>Code</u> 1)  1a)	<u>Code</u>

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		<p>not a current option the case worker is to ensure the child has a permanent connection to an adult.</p> <p>2) There are no date parameters associated with the use of “not yet determined.”</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u>  <i>Frequency Report (n=12,014):</i>                      Reunify = 5,847 (49%); Live With Other Relative(s) = 183 (2%); Adoption = 2,627 (22%); <b>Long-Term Foster Care 0;</b>  <b>Emancipation = 2,030 (17%);</b>                      Guardianship = 654 (5%); Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established = 7 (.06%); <b>Not reported = 666 (6%)</b></p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 8 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in</p>	<p>connection; the goal must be mapped to the AFCARS value “long-term foster care.”</p> <p>2) Modify the extraction code to check if the child has been in care for more than sixty days. If yes, map this element to blank. (Or, since the State’s policy is that a goal is to be established within 30 days of removal, use 31 or more days.)</p> <p>2a) Provide update in AIPU regarding system changes.</p> <p>3) Map goals of “relative guardianships” to “live with relative.”</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u></p> <p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p>	<p>2) ST: The State is in the process of making system changes to set the goal to "Not Yet Established" when the case is initially opened, prior to the first Family Support Team meeting. There will also be edits to require the goal to be changed from "Not Yet established" to some other appropriate goal at the first Team Meeting. These new edits will ensure that the child is never without a goal.</p>

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AFCARS.					
<p>Foster Care: #47 Mother's Date of TPR #48 Legal or Putative Father's TPR</p> <p>Adoption #19 Date of Mother's TPR #20 Date of Father's TPR</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p> <p>(LNs 2310-2311; 2412-2413; 2365-2366; 2486, 2378-2384; 2425-2431 and LNs 2310-2311; 2412-2413; 2365-2366; 2486, 2378-2384; 2425-2431; Adoption New paragraph 6550-GET-TPR-INFO)</p>	2	<p><u>Program Code (Foster Care: Para 3800, LN2280 and Para 3800, LN22960; Adoption Para 6500, LN39320 and 39320)</u></p> <p>1) The program code does not check for a legal mother's parental rights termination date.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications (foster care):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The program code was modified and no longer checks for an appeal date.</li> <li>• The deceased dates for both natural and adoptive parents (if applicable) are extracted.</li> <li>• The program code was modified to report a TPR date only if the TPR date and the timestamp of creation of the TPR action are both within the current reporting period. This change will successfully prevent reporting of TPR dates later than the current reporting period. <i>But it appears to prevent reporting of possibly valid dates of TPRs that occurred in a previous reporting period.</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report, AD #19:</i> Missing TPR dates</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the program code to check for legal parents TPR dates as well as the biological parents.</p> <p>2) Modify the extraction code to ensure that TPR dates from a prior report period are included.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p>	

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
		<p><i>Case File Review Findings, AD #19: 5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</i></p> <p><i>Frequency Report, AD #20 Missing TPR dates</i></p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings, AD #20: 6 (23%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</i></p>	<p>the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>		
<p>#52 1<sup>st</sup> Foster Caretaker's Race</p> <p>#54 2<sup>nd</sup> Foster Caretaker's Race (if applicable)</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine</p> <p>0 = Does not apply 1 = Apply</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590, 25100, and LN24590)</u> 1) The program code is incorrectly reporting the information for single foster parents.</p> <p>2) The program code incorrectly only reports one race.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Post site-visit modifications:</i> The program code has been updated to set this element to blank if element #41 is a value of 4 through 8 (LNs 2522-2530, and 2522-2530).</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings, FC #52: There were several errors in</i></p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> 1) If the foster family structure is a single male or a single female, modify the program code to report the individual's race information in element #52 and element #54 is to be reported as blank.</p> <p>2) Modify the program code to extract all applicable races.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) The Federal team will monitor the post site-visit modification through the frequency report.</p> <p>2) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p><u>Code</u> 1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p> <p>2)</p>	

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
		<p>each of the race categories. In most it was related to the child's placement being a non-foster home setting and these categories should have been blank.</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings, FC #54:</i> There were several errors in each of the race categories. In most it was related to the child's placement being a non-foster home setting and these categories should have been blank.</p>	<p>3) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p>		
<p>#56 Date of Discharge from foster care</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Court Information Screen, Order for Protective Custody; and Alternative Care Function</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 4000, LN25740)</u></p> <p>1) There are several issues with the reporting of outcome information. There were dates reported incorrectly in the 08B file as found during the case file review. Some of these issues may relate to the reporting of children with a legal status of "3" (post reunification supervision only cases).</p> <p>2) The State's system automatically closes cases where the placement setting is "trial home visit" after 180 days. The case worker and not the system</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u></p> <p>1) Modify the extraction code to report a legal status 3 as discharged on the day it occurs.</p> <p>2) Modify the system to not automatically close a case after 180 days; children will continue to be reported as long as the "AC" function has</p>	<p><u>Code</u></p> <p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
		<p>should close the case.</p> <p>3) On the AC Function Screen there is a field for “close reason.” The State is using this instead of the legal status field to record discharges.</p> <p>4) The State is incorrectly reporting youth over the age of 18 (see also General Requirement item #8).</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency Report:</i> The blanks for this element and the “not applicable” for element #58 do not match. There are more “not applicable” responses.</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 11 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>not been closed.</p> <p>3) Evaluate whether the use of the “close reason” field is causing some of the errors with the discharge date.</p> <p>4) For youth that are not receiving title IV-E foster care payments, enter and extract the discharge date as the date of the child’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) In regard to the entering of discharge information for children on a “trial home visit” at the time of discharge, describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p>	
<p>#58 Reason for Discharge</p> <p>[0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Alternative Care Closing Function</p> <p>1) This section of the system is where a case is closed. The closure of a case can occur after the agency no longer has responsibility for care and placement, but is providing services to the family. The selection list for this field includes</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1) Evaluate whether the use of Alternative Care Closing function is contributing to the errors for the discharge reason.</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1)</p>	

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child		<p>both outcome reasons (discharges) and other reasons for a case closing. There also is a legal status section of the system where the case worker enters the start and end date of the legal status. The frequency numbers in elements #56 and #58 do not match. This is also a problem identified in the test cases. The State needs to reevaluate where the information for element #56 and 58 is extracted. Since these elements relate to the legal status of the case and what the outcome is for the child, the State should consider using the legal status screen. The State agreed that the problem is related to the “closing” of a case.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 4000 LNs 26490-27110):</u>                      1) The program code checks the “close reason” field from the function table when the function status is pending, active, or closed then maps the State’s values to AFCARS.</p> <p>2) The program code was modified during the post site-visit phase to check for legal status of 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the legal status history table instead of in the legal status table</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u>                      1) See task under <i>Screen</i>, check whether this approach is contributing to the errors for the discharge reasons.</p> <p>2) Modify the program code to not check the goal and base the extraction of the discharge reason on the goal. This element should only be based</p>	<p><u>Code</u>                      1)</p> <p>2)</p>	



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		<p>5) There have been issues and inconsistencies across the State on when a child that is on a “trial home visit” is to be reported as discharged. There also have been problems related to closing the “case” as opposed to this being a legal discharge. There is a process for the system to “close” the case once the child has been home for six months. The State staff decided they are going to continue reporting the cases until they no longer have responsibility for care and placement.</p> <p>6) The State is incorrectly reporting youth over the age of 18 (see also General Requirement item #8).</p> <p>7) There is no parameter to check that the discharge is in the report period being submitted. This is an issue for subsequent submissions.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u>  <i>Frequency Report</i> (n=12,014):                      Not Applicable = 10,307 (86%);                      Reunification = 1,271 (11%);                      Living with Other Relative(s) = 43</p>	<p>with relative.”</p> <p>5) Modify the system and the extraction code to not automatically close a case that has a placement setting of “trial home visit.”</p> <p>5a) Modify the extraction code to extract the date and reason for the discharge.</p> <p>6) For youth not receiving title IV-E foster care payments, enter and extraction the discharge reason “emancipation” on the child’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> <p>7) Modify the extraction code to check for discharge dates that occur prior to the end of the report period.</p> <p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u>                      1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry</p>	<p>5)</p> <p>5a)</p> <p>6)</p> <p>7)</p> <p><u>Quality</u>                      1)</p>	

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<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
		<p>(.36%); Adoption = 27 (.22%); Emancipation = 41 (.34%); Guardianship = 220 (2%); Transfer to Another Agency = 38 (.32%); <b>Runaway = 50 (.42%)</b>; Death of Child = 5 (.04%); Not reported = 12</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 13 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>of this data.</p> <p>2) Provide training regarding the correct manner of entering cases of children that are "trial home visit" and when the case should be considered "discharged."</p> <p>3) Continue training to the workers to review these cases and to recommend to the court as soon as appropriate to discharge the case.</p> <p>4) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4)</p>	
#59 Title IV-E (Foster Care)  0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	<p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The program code was modified post site-visit to require that the date title XIX began or ended is within the reporting period before checking if the fund category code is "02, alternative care IVE" (LNs 2844-2856; 2888-2890).</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> Clarify why the code for title IV-E foster care is checking the dates of title XIX instead of the dates of IV-E eligibility.</p>		
#60 Title IV-E (Adoption Subsidy)  0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	<p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The program code was modified post site-visit to require that the date title XIX began or ended is within the reporting period before checking if the fund category code is "04, adoption subsidy IVE" (LNs 2844-2856; 2892-2894).</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> Clarify why the code for title IV-E foster care is checking the dates of title XIX instead of the dates of IV-E eligibility.</p>		
#61 Title IV-A (Aid to	2	<u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u>	<u>Program Code</u>		

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<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
Families with Dependent Children)  0-Does not apply 1-Applies		The State is incorrectly reporting this based on the removal family. This element should reflect if title IV-A is a source of income to the child after he/she has entered foster care.  <i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The extraction code for this element checks that the date title IV-A started or ended is within the reporting period. The information is pulled from the removal person table and for the AFCARS report period.	This information is to reflect whether title IV-A is a source of income to the child after he/she has been placed in foster care. It should not reflect whether the family from whom the child was removed from is receiving title IV-A.		
#65 None of the Above  0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	<u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> The program code correctly sets this element to “applies” if elements #59 - 64 are all “does not apply.”	<u>Program Code</u> Modify the program code to also check if there are other sources of income, regardless of what is reported in elements # 59 - 64, and set this element to “applies” if any are found.		
#66 Amount Of Monthly Foster Care Payment (regardless of source)	2	<u>Program Code (Para 4200, LN28970)</u> The extraction code adds together the payments of multiple settings if they occur within a month.	<u>Program Code</u> Modify the program code to extract the last full monthly payment that was made on behalf of the child. Ideally, it should reflect where the child is currently residing. If the child has not been in the current setting for a full month, then the State should report zeroes.		
#6 Child Birth Date	3	<u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 381	The Federal team will		

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____ (mo) ____ (day) ____ (year)		records of youth more than 18 years of age (6%).  This element is rated a “3” because of the need for corrections to the reporting population. The technical corrections will be implemented under foster care elements #56 and #58. (See General Requirements item #8 and foster care elements #56 and #58.)	monitor the accuracy of the data once changes have been implemented for elements #56 and 58.		
#8 Child’s Race (foster care) #7 Child’s Race (adoption)  a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine  0 = Does not apply 1 = Apply	3	<u>Program Code Para 3200, LN 013440</u> The program code was modified to initialize the child's race elements to blank instead of zeroes. The program code checks if the worker entered "yes" or "no" for each race element and maps the response to the corresponding AFCARS value. Any values other than "yes" or "no" are mapped to blank (LNs 1312-1399).  The State may want to change the language from “unable to determine” to “abandoned” so that it is clear to the case worker when it is a suitable option.  The State may want to consider including the option “declined” or “refused” to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide the race of	1) Provide training to workers that race information is to be self-reported by the child or his/her parents.  2) The Federal team will review the data to monitor the corrections made to the extraction code.  Provide an update on the implementation of the new NYTD values and the mapping for AFCARS purposes.	1)  2)	

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		<p>the child, or if age appropriate their own race.</p> <p>Since NYTD data collection will begin October 1, 2010 and includes the values of “unknown” and “declined” the State may want to go ahead and add “abandoned” to its options. Also, since the NYTD definition of “unknown” encompasses two situations in which it can be used, the State may want to use language on the screen that is more meaningful to the worker. Such as, “incapacitated” and multi-racial-other race not known. These would then map in NYTD to “unknown.”</p> <p><b>Mapping of NYTD race values for AFCARS reporting purposes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; if a person refuses/declines to provide the worker with his/her, or the parent declines to provide, race, then decline would map to the AFCARS value “f.”</li> <li>&gt; if a child is abandoned and there is no one available to provide the race of the child, then abandoned would be mapped to the AFCARS value “f.”</li> <li>&gt; if a child, youth, or parent, is incapacitated and unable to provide the worker with race</li> </ul>			

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		<p>information, the worker would select "incapacitated/unknown." This value would be mapped to the AFCARS value "f."                      &gt; if a person is multi-racial, but does not know the other race(s), the worker would select "multi-racial-other race not known/unknown," this value would then be mapped to blank and only the known race would be reported in AFCARS.                      (See the NYTD questions and answers on the Children's Bureau's web page regarding mapping for NYTD and AFCARS race.)</p> <p>The State indicated they will probably make the changes on the FACES screen and bring the data over from the common database then have the case workers update the information.</p>			
<p>#9 Child Hispanic/Latino Origin (foster care)</p> <p>#8 Child Hispanic/Latino Origin (adoption)</p> <p>1 = Yes                      2 = No                      3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p><u>Program Code Para 3200, LN 013700:</u>  <i>Post site-visit modifications</i>                      1/2) The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank. The program code checks if the worker entered "yes," "no," or "unable to determine" and maps the response to the corresponding AFCARS value. All other State values are mapped</p>	<p>1) Provide training to workers that ethnic information is to be self-reported by the child or his/her parents.</p> <p>2) The Federal team will review the data to monitor the corrections made to the extraction code.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	

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		<p>to blank (LNs 1401-1416).</p> <p>3) The State may want to change the language from “unable to determine” to “abandoned” so that it is clear to the case worker when it is a suitable option.</p> <p>The State may want to consider including the option “declined” or “refused” to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide this information.</p> <p>The State may want to add terminology that would also be reflective of an incapacitated parent. (Also see notes regarding NYTD definitions and AFCARS.)</p>	<p>3) Provide an update on whether the State makes changes to the options available to the worker.</p>	<p>3)</p>	
<p>#16 Has this child ever been adopted?</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): Yes = 394 (3.28%); No = 11,527 (96%); Unable to determine = 68 (.57%); Not reported = 25 (.21%)</p> <p><u>Program Code Para 3200 LN 014600, 014930:</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to map missing data to blank (LNs 1502, 1535-1547).</p> <p><u>Optional Screen:</u> Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System</p>	<p>1) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) The Federal team will review the data to monitor the corrections made to the extraction code.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
		<p>(AFCARS) Alternative Care Details</p> <p>The system currently does not collect the information that must be reported under section 422(b)(12) of the Social Security Act (the Act). This section of the Act relates to inter-country adoptions and requires States to identify the number of children who were adopted from other countries and entered into the State's custody, the reasons for the disruptions or dissolutions, the permanency plan for the children, and identify the agencies that handled the placement or adoption. States are currently required to provide this information in the Five-Year Child and Family Services plan, and annually in the Annual Progress and Services Report. The State may want to consider adding fields to enable the collection of information needed for reporting this information.</p>			
<p>Actions or Conditions Associated With Child's Removal (Indicate all that apply with a "1".)</p> <p>#26 Physical Abuse #27 Sexual Abuse</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p><u>Screen:</u> Alternative Care Client Information, Conditions Associated with the Removal field</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 25 records missing data.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> Based</p>	<p>1) Instruct case workers to use "child alcohol abuse" for "fetal alcohol exposure."</p> <p>2) Instruct case workers to use "child drug abuse" for "fetal drug exposure."</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
#28 Neglect #29 Parent Alcohol Abuse #30 Parent Drug Abuse #31 Child Alcohol Abuse #32 Child Drug Abuse #33 Child Disability #34 Child's Behavior Problem #35 Death of Parent #36 Incarceration of Parent #37 Caretaker Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reasons #38 Abandonment #39 Relinquishment #40 Inadequate Housing  [0-Does not Apply] 1-Applies		on the case file review, these elements are rated a "3." Almost all elements had one to four errors. The State needs to ensure that case workers are entering all actions or conditions that are associated with why the child was removed from his/her home and placed into foster care.  <u>Optional</u> The State may also want to add additional reasons to their list, for instance Domestic Violence or Safe Haven.	3) Instruct case workers to use "relinquishment" for Safe Haven cases.  4) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.  5) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.	3)  4)  5)	
#42 Is Current Placement Out-of-State?  1=Yes (Out of State placement) 2=No (In-State placement)	3	<u>Frequency Report:</u> There are no records reported as out of State.  <u>Program Code (Para 3500, LN020760):</u> <i>Post site-visit modifications:</i> The program code was modified to set the value of this element based on the address of the placement. If the address is missing, the program code reports blank (LNs 2145-2155).	The Federal team will monitor the accuracy of the changes by reviewing the data.		

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<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
<p>#44 Caretaker Family Structure</p> <p>1 = Married Couple                      2 = Unmarried Couple                      3 = Single Female                      4 = Single Male                      5 = Unable to Determine</p>	3	<p><u>Program Code (Para 3700, LN21570)</u>  <i>Post site-visit modifications:</i>                      The program code was modified to no longer map the non-existent State code "0" to "unable to determine." The program code is now initialized to blank and if no data are found, it remains set to blank (LNs 2233-2258).</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014):                      Married Couple = 5,919 (49%);                      Unmarried Couple = 221 (2%);                      Single Female = 2,674 (22%);                      Single Male = 304 (3%); <b>Unable to Determine = 2,895 (24%)</b>; Not reported = 1</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 15 (23%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>3) The Federal team will review the data to monitor accuracy of the changes.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	
<p>#45 1<sup>st</sup> Primary Caretaker's Birth Year</p> <p>#46 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Caretaker's Birth Year (if applicable)</p> <p>____(mo) ____                      (day)____(year)</p>	3	<p><u>Frequency Report, FC #45:</u> Dates = 9,009. There should be 9,118 records.</p> <p>There are 24 records indicating 9 year olds and 2 records for 8 year olds.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings, FC #45:</u> 15 (22%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>3) The Federal team will review the data to monitor accuracy of the changes.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	

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Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
		<p><u>Frequency Report, FC #46:</u> Dates = 4,338. There should be 6,140 records. There are 32 records indicating 9 year olds and 1 record for 8 year olds.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings, FC #46:</u> 12 (18%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>			
<p>#49 Foster Family Structure</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=12,014): <b>Not applicable = 141 (1%)</b>; Married Couple = 5,817 (48%); Unmarried Couple = 204 (2%); Single Female = 2,618 (22%); Single Male = 284 (2%); <b>Not reported = 2,950 (25%)</b> In element #41 there is 2,949 records reported as non-foster home settings. There are 202 records reported as blank. <u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 25 (38%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590)</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications:</u> The program code was modified to set this element to "0, not applicable" if element #41 equals a value of 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8. Also, missing data are now mapped to</p>	<p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>3) The Federal team will review the data to monitor accuracy of the changes.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
		blank (LNs 2523, 2547-2551).			
#50 1 <sup>st</sup> Foster Caretaker's Birth Year  #51 2 <sup>nd</sup> Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3	<p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24960)</u> <i>Post site-visit modifications:</i> The program code was modified to report the date of birth of a single male or single female foster parent in this element (LNs 2569-2572; 2602-2605).</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, FC #50:</u> Dates = 8,157. There should be 8,923 records. There are 8 records with invalid years.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings, FC #50:</u> 15 (25%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, FC #51:</u> Dates = 5,728. There should be 6,021 records. There are 8 records with invalid years.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings, #51:</u> 13 (20%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>3) The Federal team will review the data to monitor accuracy of the changes.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	
#53 1 <sup>st</sup> Foster Caretaker's Hispanic or Latino Origin  #55 2 <sup>nd</sup> Foster	3	<p><u>Frequency Report, FC #53:</u> No records reported for "not applicable."</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings, FC</u></p>	<p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p>1)</p>	

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/Comments
<p>Caretaker's Hispanic Origin</p> <p>0 = Not applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>		<p><u>#53</u>: 34 (57%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, FC #55</u>: No records reported for "not applicable."</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings, FC #55</u>: 27 (43%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 3900, LN24590; 25250)</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications</u>: The program code was modified to set this element to "0, not applicable" if element #41 is a value of 4 through 8 (LN 2522-2525). The section of code that incorrectly set this element to blank if the foster family structure is a single male or female has been deleted (LN 2590).</p>	<p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>3) The Federal team will review the data to monitor accuracy of the changes.</p>	<p>2)</p> <p>3)</p>	
<p>#62 Title IV-D (Child Support)</p> <p>0-Does not apply 1-Applies</p>	3	<p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code checks the removal person income table for an income source type of "child support." It then checks that the date the income began or ended was within the reporting period before setting this element to "applies" (LNs 2953-2981).</p>	<p>1) The Federal team will review the data to monitor accuracy of the changes.</p>		

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Foster Care Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
#64 SSI or other Social Security Act Benefits  0-Does not apply 1-Applies	3	<p><u>Case File Review Findings: 7</u> (10%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code (Para 4100)</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code has been corrected to check for both SSI and OASDI income source types (LNs 2923-2951).</p>	1) The Federal team will review the data to monitor accuracy of the changes.		

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**  
**State: Missouri**  
**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>			
#11 Mental Retardation #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired #13 Physically Disabled #14 Emotionally Disturbed #15 Other Diagnosed Condition  [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies	2	<u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details  <u>Program Code</u> 1) See the findings for foster care elements #11 - 15 regarding how this information is collected in the system and the need for modifications to the screen and extraction code.  <u>Data Quality</u> <i>Post site-visit modifications</i> The program code has been updated to first check if the value of element #10 is a "4" before checking if the individual elements #11-15 apply (LNs 3849-3851).	<u>Program Code:</u> 1) Compare the State's mapping of conditions to be reported in AFCARS to the resource list attached to AFCARS Technical Bulletin #14.  <u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 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 timely entry of this data.	<u>Code</u> 1)  <u>Quality</u> 1)  2)	
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth  1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details 1) The collection of this information is not in the appropriate section of the system, which may be contributing to incomplete data.  <u>Program Code (Para 6300, LN37160):</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> 1) The program code has been	<u>Screen</u> 1) Move the fields for this element from the adoption section to a case management section of the system. The State may want to consider adding it to the "Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Alternative Care Details" screen.  <u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction code to map missing data to blank.	<u>Screen</u> 1)  <u>Code</u> 1)	

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

Element	Rating Factor	Findings			
		<p>modified to incorrectly set this element to a default value of "3, unable to determine" (LNs 3795; 3853-3860).</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u>  <i>Frequency Report (n=575):</i> Yes = 117 (20%); No = 309 (54%); Unable to determine = 143 (25%); Not reported = 6 (1%)</p> <p><i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.</p>	<p><u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u>                      1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p> <p>2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p><u>Quality</u> 1)</p> <p>2)</p>	
<p>#25 Adoptive Mother's Race</p> <p>#27 Adoptive Father's Race</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p>b. Asian</p> <p>c. Black or African American</p> <p>d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</p> <p>e. White</p> <p>f. Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p><u>Program Code:</u> Only a single race is being reported.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to initialize this element to blank, but still only reports one race (LN 4443)</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Modify the extraction code to report all applicable races.</p>		
<p>#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent</p> <p>#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative</p> <p>#31 Relationship of</p>	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details</p> <p>1) The case worker cannot select more than one relationship.</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1) Modify the screen to allow case workers to select all relationships that apply.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Once changes are made to</p>	<p><u>Screen</u> 1)</p> <p><u>Code</u> 1)</p>	

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>			
Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent #32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative  0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies		<u>Data Quality</u> <i>Frequency report:</i> there were only 541 responses across 29 - 32, should be at least 575. There were also no multiple relationships reported.  <i>Case File Review Findings, AD #30:</i> 6 (23%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.	the screen, modify the program code to extract all applicable relationships and map them accordingly.  <u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 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 timely entry of this data.	<u>Quality</u> 1)  2)	
#36 Monthly Amount	2	<u>Program Code:</u> The program code is pulling what is paid, not the amount in the adoption subsidy agreement.  <u>Data Quality</u> <i>Case File Review Findings:</i> 3 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.	<u>Program Code:</u> 1) Modify the extraction code to check the field where the adoption subsidy amount that is in the adoption agreement is recorded.  <u>Data Quality</u> 1) The Federal team will monitor the data for accuracy once the changes have been implemented.	<u>Code</u> 1)  <u>Quality</u> 1)	
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs  1 = Yes 2 = No  #10 Primary Basis for	3	<u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details For adoption element #10, there a single field "Primary Special Need."	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 timely entry of this data.	<u>Q1)</u>  2) 3)	

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

Element	Rating Factor	Findings			
<p>Determining Special Needs</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable                      1 = Racial/Original Background                      2 = Age                      3 = Membership in a Sibling Group                      4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities                      5 = Other State Defined Special Need</p>		<p><u>Policy/Practice Notes</u>                      Missouri statute allows for all children adopted from the Missouri foster care system to get adoption subsidy.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, AD #9 (n=575):</u>                      Yes = 349; No = 226; Not reported = 0                      Element #35 indicates 544 records as receiving monthly subsidy.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report, AD #10 (n=575):</u> Not applicable = 226; Race/Original Background = 47 (8%); Age = 26 (5%); Sibling group = 205 (36%); Medical, etc. = 25 (4%); Other =46 (8%); Not reported = 0                      The frequencies for elements #11 - 15 have only one record reported as applies but there are 25 records reported for “medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities” in element #10. The response in the 25 records might have actually been “other state defined special need.”</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings, AD #9:</u>                      5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In each of the error cases the response should have been “yes” instead of “no.”</p>	<p>3) Provide training to workers that “other state defined special need” should be selected for children determined to be special need because of being in foster care.</p>		

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>			
		<u>Case File Review Findings, AD #10</u> : 5 (19%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.			
#16 Mother's Birth Year  #17 Father's Birth Year	3	<u>Case File Review Findings, AD #16</u> : 4 (17%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.  <u>Case File Review Findings, AD #17</u> : 5 (24%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS.	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	3	<u>Frequency Report</u> : 1 record missing date.  <u>Program Code (Para 6500, LN39320)</u> : <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The Technical specifications document, section 4.3.3.6.2 was modified. The court activity history table was added as well as "The child should not be reported in the adoption file if the date adoption legalized is missing."	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 timely entry of this data.	1)  2)	
#22 Adoptive Family Structure  1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	3	<u>Frequency Report (n=575)</u> : Married Couple = 434 (75%); Unmarried Couple = 5 (1%); Single Female = 116 (20%); Single Male = 12 (2%); <b>Not reported = 8 (1%)</b>	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 timely entry of this data.	1)  2)	
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	3	<u>Frequency Report, #23</u> : Dates = 542. There should be 555 records.	1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure	1)	

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>			
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth		There are 3 records with invalid years.  <u>Frequency Report, #24:</u> Dates = 434. There should be 451 records. There are 3 records with invalid years.	the accurate and timely entry of this data.  2) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.	2)	
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin  #28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin  0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	3	<u>Program Code:</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> The program code was modified to set the default value for this element to blank (LNs 4486-4489; 4551-4554).	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 timely entry of this data.  3) The Federal team will monitor the data for accuracy.	1)  2)  3)	
#33 Child Was Placed from  1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	3	<u>Screen:</u> Medical Information Screen and Adoption and Foster Care Automated [sic] Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Details  <u>Frequency Report:</u> All reported as "within State."	<u>Data Quality/Training/Supervision</u> 1) Ensure that workers understand when to use "Another State."  2) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.  3) Implement supervisory oversight for the correct and timely entry of this data.	1)  2)  3)	
#37 Adoption Assistance - title IV-E	3	<u>Program Code</u> <u>Post site-visit modifications</u> This element is set in a new section of the adoption extraction code with	The Federal team will monitor the data for accuracy.		

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**

**State: Missouri**

**AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008 (2008B)**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Findings</b>			
		independent checks for a fund category code of "04" (LNs 4657-4718).			