

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Missouri

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

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Notes/CB Sign-Off
1	<p>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>All children in foster care under the responsibility of the State agency administering or supervision 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)(8) of the Social Security Act (the Act) (Appendix A – SECTION II).</p>	2	<p>1) The Missouri Department of Social Services includes the Children’s Division (CD) and the Division of Youth Services (DYS). The designated IV-B agency is the CD and the designated IV-E agency is the Department. The State is currently not including the DYS youth that are in the Department’s responsibility for placement and care.</p> <p>2) Legal status 3, Supervision Only by CD: These are cases in which legal custody is given to a relative and the agency is ordered to provide supervision services. The agency no longer has legal custody and a removal would require a court order. These cases are being reported in AFCARS. They should not be included as the agency no longer has responsibility for placement and care.</p> <p>3) The program code does not exclude the records of children whose only placement in a removal episode is a hospital or a</p>	<p>1) Modify the selection logic of the extraction code to identify all DYS youth that are in the Department’s responsibility for placement and care and include in the reporting population as required by the AFCARS standards.</p> <p>2) Modify the extraction code so that these records are no longer included. Specific tasks for reporting these cases as discharged are in foster care elements #56 and 58.</p> <p>3) Modify the extraction code to exclude cases in which the child’s only placement was a hospital or a locked facility.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2) See elem. #56 & 58</p> <p>3)</p>	

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			<p>locked facility.</p> <p>4) The State is incorrectly including the child of a minor parent in foster care (CYAC) when the child is residing in the same home as the minor parent.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i></p> <p>5) The State added a new condition - CO_DB_FUNCTION <> 'PRE.'</p>	<p>4) Modify the extraction code to exclude children of a minor child that is in the same foster care setting as the minor parent.</p> <p>4a) Modify the extraction code to report a child of a minor parent that is in a separate foster care setting than its parent as an individual record in AFCARS.</p> <p>5) What does the value "PRE" represent?</p>	<p>4)</p> <p>4a)</p>	
4	For children in out-of-State placements, the State placing the child submits and continually updates the data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).	3	The State is correctly including children in their responsibility for placement and care that are placed out-of-State. However, there are problems with data entry for those children placed in Missouri by other States' public child welfare agencies. There is a check box that is to be selected. Case workers are not always checking this box.	Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		

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5	Includes all children who have been in foster care at least 24 hours (Appendix A - SECTION II).	2	The program code does not exclude removal episodes lasting 24 hours or less in duration.	Modify the extraction code to check for the removal start and end dates that occurred on the same day and exclude those records from the AFCARS file.		
7	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, AFCARS Reporting Population).	3	<p>The State’s practice is to end a case (not the custody) after 180 days for those children placed back in their own home while the agency maintains responsibility for placement and care. It is the information system that closes the case. The State team indicated workers have been told in training they do not have to wait 180 days. At any time after a child has been returned home the agency can petition the court to discharge its responsibility for placement and care.</p> <p>The State staff made a decision to continue reporting to AFCARS the records of children that are on a “trial home visit” until the agency no longer has responsibility for care and placement. They believe having the records continued to be reported will provide more information to</p>	<p>1) See foster care elements #56 and 58 for tasks that must be completed so that the system does not automatically close a case after 180 days</p> <p>2) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.</p>	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	

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			evaluate what is happening in these cases.			
8	Includes youth over the age of 18 if a payment is being made on behalf of the child (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1, AFCARS).	3	The age of majority in Missouri is 18. The State is incorrectly including youth over the age of majority. See foster care element #56 and #58.	The Federal team will review the State's data once changes have been completed.		
10	<p>Report on all children adopted in the State during the reporting period and in whose adoption the State title IV-B/IV-E agency has had any involvement. All adoptions after 10/1/94 that meet the criteria below must be reported.</p> <p>All special needs children, whether or not they were in the public foster care system prior to their adoption and for whom non-recurring expenses were reimbursed.</p> <p>Children adopted for whom an adoption assistance payment or service is being provided based on arrangements with the State agency. (Appendix B – Section II, paragraphs (b) and (c)).</p>	2	The State indicated they do enter into adoption agreements with families adopting through a private agency and the child is special needs. The system allows them to record information on these children. However, the State is not reporting these cases.	<p><u>Program Code</u> Modify the selection logic of the extraction code to include all adoptions that there is State agency involvement.</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>		
11	For children adopted out-	3	The check box indicating a	Describe, develop, and		

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	of-State, the placing State reports the adoption data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)).		<p>case is from out-of-State (ICPC) that is not always selected.</p> <p>There were three cases in the adoption sample that were children placed with a family in Missouri by another State's child welfare agency.</p>	implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of this data.		
13	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)	3	<p>In general, the data are correctly extracted for the current report period (i.e., regular files). However, there are some date elements that do not have a parameter in the extraction code to extract dates that are prior to the end of the report period. Additional findings are in the respective foster care and adoption data elements.</p> <p>There are issues related to subsequent data files, see item #26.</p>	The Federal team will review the State's data once changes to the elements are completed.		
14	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. 45	3	<p>In the Frequency Report one record was identified as missing an adoption legalization date. The selection logic must check that an adoption finalization date is present.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit modifications</i></p>	1) Is it possible that an adoption will never be reported if the date of the timestamp occurs in the reporting period after the date of the legal status?		

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	CFR 1355.40(b)(3)		<p>In paragraph 5100-GET-DVN, the State has updated the program code to check that the legal status record timestamp and the legal status begin date are both within the reporting period.</p> <p>In section 4.3.3.6.2 of the technical specification document (V001) and the extraction code, 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.”</p>			
21	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 (Section A.1.b(5)).	3	There is an issue with the method the State uses to report foster care discharge information. See the findings for foster care elements #56 & 58.	The Federal team will review the data once changes are completed.		
24	State transferred historical information on open cases. Specifically, it included information on: date of first removal, total number of removals, and whether the child’s mother was married at the time of the child’s birth. If the case	3	The State converted all cases to FACES. The case management component came online December, 2007. The State still has the resource management and financial management components to complete. Round 2 of the eligibility	<p>1) Ensure relevant historical data are converted to FACES.</p> <p>2) The Federal team will review the data.</p>		

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	was open at the time of conversion, information on the number of placement settings was included.		component began October, 2008.			
26	<p>The data must be reflective of the time period being submitted, not new information applying to a different time frame.</p> <p>[Report the status of all children in foster care as of the last day of the reporting period (Section A.1.b(5)).]</p>	2	The State is incorrectly submitting subsequent files.	Modify the extraction code to identify the correct information for the transmission of a subsequent file.		