

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: North Carolina

Report Period Under Review: October 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008 (2008A)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Task	Estimated Completion Date	Notes
Foster Care Population						
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><u>Program Code (Pqa847 LNs 84700-84900):</u> The program code incorrectly includes children whose only living arrangement in the removal episode is a hospital. <i>Post Site-Visit Finding:</i> The program code has been modified to exclude a child whose only living arrangement type is "53, therapeutic home." "Therapeutic homes" are to be included even if it is the first placement setting. The program code still incorrectly includes records of children whose only living arrangement type is "63, hospital" (pqa847, LN 84840).</p>	<p>1) Correct the program code to not exclude records where the only living arrangement is "53, therapeutic home."</p> <p>2) Modify the program code to exclude records in which the only placement setting is "63, hospital."</p>		
8	<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, AFCARS).</p>	3	<p>The 2008A report period data indicates the State is incorrectly reporting youth that are over the age of 18. The State is to report the youth as discharged for AFCARS purposes as of the youth's 18th birthday. See foster care elements #6, 56, and 58 for additional notes regarding changes.</p>	<p>CB will evaluate the 2009A and subsequent files file for improvement.</p>		
Adoption Population						
9	<p>[Report on all] children who</p>	2	<p>The status of "dismissed," "set</p>	<p>1) Modify the extraction code</p>		

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	had been in foster care under the responsibility and care of the State child welfare agency and who were subsequently adopted whether special needs or not and whether subsidies are provided or not (Appendix B – Section II, paragraph (a)).		aside,” and “transferred” are incorrectly included in the selection logic.	to not include the status types of: a) “dismissed” b) “set aside” c) “transferred”		
10	<p>[Report on] 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>[Report on all] 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’s value “E, private out-of-state of agency” is incorrectly excluded from the reporting population.	Modify the program code to include “E, private out-of-state of agency” adoption types.		
Technical Requirements						
45 CFR 1355.40(b)(2)						
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.	2	There are a couple of issues related to the storage of data. One is related to the issued of the lack of Statewide unique record numbers that are maintained for each individual regardless of where in the State they reside. Another issue relates to the	<p>1) Implement Statewide unique permanent record numbers for individuals.</p> <p>2) Add storage/history tables as appropriate to ensure that corresponding data for foster parents and foster children are maintained.</p>		

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			storage of information on foster parents. Lastly, some fields do not have a history table associated with them.	3) Implement history tables for diagnosed conditions.		
Appendix D, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care and Adoption Record Layouts						
20	Report the status of all children in foster care as of the last day of the reporting period (Section A.1.b(5)).	3	Due to issue that not all date elements are set to be extracted on the report period, inaccurate and invalid dates can be reported to AFCARS.	See individual date elements for corrections.		
ACYF-PI-CB-95-09, Reissued May 23, 1995 Technical Bulletin #13, AFCARS File Extraction						
22	State extracts all records based on the transaction date of discharge or the date of latest removal (foster care element #21), if the child has not been discharged.	2	<p>The State has had issues with records being dropped from one reporting period to the next. This has impacts on the Child and Family Services Data Profile.</p> <p>In the period under review, there was one record with a date of removal of April 15, 2008.</p> <p>The State's methodology does not fully meet the requirements of Technical Bulletin #13.</p>	Modify the extraction routine to follow the guidance in Technical Bulletin #13.		
Data Quality - Subsequent Submissions						
26	The data must be reflective of	2	The methodology used by the	Implement history tables and		

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	the time period being submitted, not new information applying to a different time frame.		State to extract its files does not correctly pull the data for subsequent files. The data for subsequent submissions must reflect the activities and conditions for the report period being submitted. <i>Post site-visit changes:</i> The program code has been updated to restrict the selection logic to records for which the placement authority begin date is no later than the last day of the reporting period. Changes to history tables must still be implemented before subsequent files can be correctly extracted for submission (pqa847).	extraction routine so that data are reflective of the report period being transmitted.		