

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: General Requirements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009 (2009B)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings
Foster Care Population			
45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)/(b)(1) and Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II--Definitions			
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>Organizational Structure:</u> <i>Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services:</i> The Department has six divisions: Behavioral Health, Children and Family Services, Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid and Long-Term Care, Public Health, and Veterans' Homes. The Division of Children and Family Services includes protection and safety programs and services (child welfare, juvenile services), economic and family support programs and services, and the service areas.</p> <p><u>Program Code (NF03JOB):</u> The program code initially builds an episode table that is based on the removal episode information and the child's person number. It is based on the "Case Person Involvement History" and case types of "CFS" and "JC" (child family services and juvenile corrections) with an "active status" date that is prior to the end of the report period or a status date that ended prior to the end of the report period.</p> <p>If a child is on runaway status at the time the Department obtains responsibility for placement and care, the child State is not including this child in the reporting population. Modify the program code to extract these records.</p> <p>The State is correctly not including episodes in which the child's only placement was a locked facility.</p>
2	This includes American Indian children covered under the assurances in section 422(b)(10) of the Act on the same basis as any other child (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).	4	
3	For children in out-of-State placement, the State placing the child and making the foster care payment submits and continually updates the data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).	4	
4	This population includes all children supervised by or under the responsibility of another public agency with which the title IV-B/IV-E State agency has an agreement under title IV-E and on	4	The State does have title IV-E agreements with some Tribes.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: General Requirements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009 (2009B)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings
	whose behalf the State makes title IV-E foster care maintenance payments (Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II--Definitions).		
Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II--Definitions			
5	The reporting system includes all children who have or had been in foster care at least 24 hours.	4	<u>Program code:</u> The program code checks if the start and end date of a removal episode are on the same day. See foster care element #19 for additional information related to removal episodes that are less than 24 hours.
6	Foster care does not include children who are in their own homes under the responsibility of the State agency.	4	
Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1, AFCARS			
7	Includes youth over the age of 18 if a payment is being made on behalf of the child (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1.3).	4	The State's legal age of majority is 19. As of the onsite AAR, the State has not decided whether to exercise the option to expand the definition of a child under title IV-E, foster care beyond the State's legal age of majority. If the State chooses to exercise the option in the future, the AAR IP will be modified accordingly.
8	Include all children who are in the placement, care, or supervision responsibility of the title IV-B/E agency that are on "trial home visits" (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1.3).	2 3	The State does report children that are returned home but still in the agency's responsibility for care and placement. Currently, the State will report the child as discharged at six months even if the child is still in the agency's responsibility for care and placement. If the judge continues the agency's responsibility for care and placement from one hearing to the next, or for a lesser time, then the child is to continue to be included in the reporting population. See foster care elements #56 and 58 for additional findings.
Adoption Reporting Population			
45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)			
9	[D]ata are required to be transmitted by the State on all adopted children who were placed by the State title IV-B/IV-E agency, and on all adopted children for whom the State agency is providing adoption assistance (either ongoing or for nonrecurring expenses), care or services directly or by contract or agreement with other private or public agencies.	4	The State is correctly reporting all children who had been in foster care under the agency's responsibility for placement and care.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: General Requirements

State: Nebraska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009 (2009B)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings
	All children adopted who 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 to Part 1355--Adoption Data Elements, Section II - Definitions).		
10	For a child adopted out-of-State, the State which placed the child submits the data.	4	
Appendix B to Part 1355--Adoption Data Elements, Section II--Definitions			
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> <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. 	2	Children that are adopted through a private agency from another State and on whose behalf Nebraska is paying a title IV-E subsidy are not included in the State's adoption population. Modify the extraction logic to include these records in the adoption reporting population.
	Reports on all other adoptions are encouraged but are voluntary.		The State team indicated they only report adoptions in which they are involved.
Technical Requirements			
45 CFR 1355.40, sections (b)(1) and (b)(2); Appendix D, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care and Adoption Record Layouts Section A.1.b(5)			
12	<p>The data must be extracted from the data system as of the last day of the reporting period and must be submitted in electronic form as described in appendix C to 45 CFR 1355 and in record layouts as delineated in appendix D to 45 CFR 1355 (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1)).</p> <p>For foster care information, the child-specific data to be transmitted must reflect the data in the information system when the data are extracted (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(2)).</p>	3	<u>For Subsequent Files:</u> The data must be reflective of the child's circumstances for the report period being submitted. The State needs to address corrections for time frames within specific data elements.
45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1) and section (b)(3) (Adoption)			
13	The State agency shall transmit semi-annually information on	4	The extraction code compares the current selected report file to the previous

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: General Requirements
State: Nebraska
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009 (2009B)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings
	<p>each child adopted during the reporting period.</p> <p>Adoption data are to be reported during the reporting period in which the adoption is legalized or, at the State's option, in the following reporting period if the adoption is legalized within the last 60 days of the reporting period. For a semi-annual period in which no adoptions have been legalized, States must report such an occurrence.</p>		(prior) report period file for duplicates. If the record has already been transmitted then it is not included in the current report file.
45 CFR 1355.40(b)(4) and Appendix D, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care and Adoption Record Layouts Sections A.2 and B.2			
14	<p>A summary file of the semi-annual data transmission must be submitted and will be used to verify the completeness of the State's detailed submission for the reporting period.</p> <p>The values for these data elements are generated by processing all records in the semi-annual detailed data transmission and computing the summary values for Elements 1 and 3-22. Element 2 is the semi-annual report period ending date. In calculating the age range for the child, the last day of the reporting period is to be used.</p>	4	
Appendix A, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care Data Elements and Appendix B, 45 CFR 1355 Adoption Data Elements			
15	State uses sequential numbering of the case record number or encrypts the record number.	4	The State encrypts the record number.
Appendix C, 45 CFR 1355 Electronic Data Transmission Format			
16	Data file must be in ASCII format.	4	
17	Elements must be comprised of integer (numeric) value(s).	4	
18	All records must be a fixed length.	4	
Appendix D, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care and Adoption Record Layouts			
19	Provide data for all children who were discharged from foster care at any time during the reporting period, or in the previous reporting period, if not previously reported (Appendix D, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care and Adoption Record Layouts Section A.1.b(5)).	4	
ACYF-PI-CB-95-09, Reissued May 23, 1995 and Technical Bulletin #13, AFCARS File Extraction			
20	State extracts all records based on the transaction date of	4	The initial preselect code that gets episodes is based on the transaction

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: General Requirements
State: Nebraska
AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009 (2009B)

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings
	discharge (foster care element #57) or the date of latest removal (foster care element #21), if the child has not been discharged.		date.
Technical Bulletin #2, File Format			
21	State must use correct file name for transmission.	4	
Data Quality – Conversion			
22	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 was open at the time of conversion, information on the number of placement settings was included.	3 4	There were errors from the case file review of incomplete data entry. The respective elements are noted in the element matrices. In general, the State does not have a lot of cases that are still open from prior to conversion to the new information system.
23	The information system has the capability of recording historical information. This should apply to both open cases in which historical information must be entered, and for closed cases that re-open after conversion and must be entered into the system.	4	