

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**  
**State: West Virginia**

REQUIREMENT	FINDING/NOTES	RATING FACTOR
<b>POPULATION REQUIREMENTS</b>		2
<p><b>45 CFR 1355.40(a) Scope of the data collection system – foster care</b></p> <p>Must include all children in foster care for whom the agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All children who are required to be provided the protection of section 422(b)(10) of the Social Security Act (the Act) (Appendix A – SECTION II).</li> <li>• All children supervised by or under the responsibility of another public agency with which the title IV-B/E agency has an agreement under title IV-E and the State makes title IV-E foster care maintenance payments (Appendix A - SECTION II).</li> </ul> <p>Includes Native American children covered under section 422(b)(10) of the Act, (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).</p> <p>Out of State placements. The State making the placement submits the information on the child (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).</p> <p>Includes all children who have been in foster care at least 24 hours (Appendix A - SECTION II).</p> <p>Does not include children who are in their own homes under the responsibility of the State agency (Appendix A - SECTION II).</p> <p>Include all children who are in the placement, care, or supervision responsibility of the title IV-B/E agency that are on “trial home visits” (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1.3, AFCARS Reporting Population).</p>	<p>No. The State’s extraction logic does not look for placements of “runaway.” This is not an option for the workers to select. State will change population extraction code to ensure that these children are included.</p> <p>Not applicable because the State does not have inter-agency agreements with other agencies.</p> <p align="center">Yes</p> <p>If the child enters care on one day but exits on the next, even if less than 24 hours, the child is incorrectly included in the extraction population.</p> <p>The State does not include children that have never been removed from their home, but are under the responsibility of the State agency.</p> <p>Partially correct. The State defines a removal episode from the time the agency receives custody to when the State no longer has custody of the child. This includes those children returned home under the agency’s responsibility for care and placement. If the child is returned home for six months, the</p>	

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<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>	<p>agency considers the child discharged from care at the end of six months, even if the specified period of time is longer than six months..</p> <p align="center">Yes</p>	
<p><b>45 CFR 1355.40(a) Scope of the data collection system – adoption</b></p> <p>Includes all adopted children placed by the agency, and all adopted children for whom the State agency is providing adoption assistance (either ongoing or for non-recurring expenses), or for whom care or services are provided directly or by contract or agreement with other private or public agencies (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on all children adopted in the State during the reporting period in whose adoption the State has had any involvement. All adoptions after 10/1/94 that meets the criteria below must be reported. Criteria (Appendix B – Section II): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Children who had been in foster care under the responsibility and care of the agency.</li> <li>b) 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.</li> <li>c) Children adopted for whom an adoption assistance payment or service is being provided based on arrangements with the State agency.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Adoptions prior to 10/1/94, with title IV-E adoption subsidies, report aggregate data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)).</p> <p>For children adopted out-of-State, the placing State reports the adoption data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)).</p> <p>Voluntarily reports on all other adoptions. (Appendix B – Section II).</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p> <p align="center">Yes</p> <p align="center">Yes</p> <p align="center">No</p>	

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<b>TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS</b>		4
<b>45 CFR 1355.40(b) Foster care and adoption reporting requirements</b>		
The data must be extracted from the data system as of the last day of the reporting period (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1)).	Yes	
The data must be submitted in electronic form as described in Appendix C (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1)).	Yes	
The data must be in record layouts as delineated in Appendix D (45 CFR 1355.40(b)).	Yes	
<b>Appendix A, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care Data Elements and Appendix B, 45 CFR 1355 Adoption Data Elements</b>	State encrypts the case record number.	
State uses sequential numbering of the case record number or encrypts the record number.	The extract code needs to be updated, has sequential listed in one place. See 1 <sup>st</sup> page of FCARDET.CPY	
<b>Appendix C, 45 CFR 1355 Electronic Data Transmission Format</b>		
Data file must be in ASCII format.	Yes	
Elements must be comprised of integer (numeric) value(s).	Yes	
All records must be a fixed length.	Yes	
<b>ACYF-PI-CB-95-09, Reissued May 23, 1995</b>		
State extracts all records based on the transaction date of discharge.	Yes	
<b>Technical Bulletin #2, File Format</b>		
State uses correct file name for transmission.	Yes	

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<p><b>Data Extraction</b></p> <p>For children who are in care on the last day of the reporting period, information as of the last day of the period is extracted.</p> <p>For children who were discharged during the period, information on the most recent episode is extracted.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p> <p align="center">Yes</p>	
<p><b>File Creation</b></p> <p>State attaches footnotes to files.</p> <p>State is using proper format for the creation of footnotes.</p> <p>State uses DCU and DQU on its data file.</p>	<p align="center">State does not use footnotes.</p> <p align="center">N/A</p> <p>The State uses the DQU as a report for the adoption file. The State is working on developing a user-friendly format for the DQU output. Virginia has modified a utility developed by North Dakota and has given it to West Virginia for its use.</p>	
<p><b>Data Conversion</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>State transferred data on all open cases. A memo was later issued to instruct workers to enter appropriate data on closed cases that re-opened. State had a comprehensive conversion plan.</p> <p align="center">Yes</p>	