

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

State: Washington

REQUIREMENT	FINDINGS/NOTES	RATING FACTOR
POPULATION REQUIREMENTS		2 3
<p>45 CFR 1355.40(a) Scope of the data collection system – foster care</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"> 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). 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). <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>No. The extraction program code excludes children that are in their own home, on runaway status, in juvenile rehabilitation settings, and detention centers. <i>Post-site visit analysis: The State has modified its extraction code to include children with the following placement settings: “birth/adoptive,” “birth adoptive non-custodial,” “on runaway,” “juvenile rehabilitation,” “detention center,” or “hospital” unless the placement is the only placement in the episode.</i></p> <p>The State has two signed title IV-E agreements with Indian Tribes and none with Juvenile Justice.</p> <p>The State includes Native American children that are in the State’s custody.</p> <p>The State does not report children from other States that are placed in its foster care system.</p> <p>The State <u>does</u> include children that have been in care for less than 24 hours. <i>Post-site visit analysis: The State modified the program code to exclude removals that begin and end on the same day.</i></p> <p>Children that are under the State’s protective custody</p>	

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<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 have been returned home while under the agency’s responsibility for care, placement or supervision (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1.3, AFCARS Reporting Population).</p> <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>that have never been removed from their homes are not included in the AFCARS population.</p> <p>The State provides respite services to families that receive intensive in-home family preservation services by placing the child in a foster home. A voluntary placement agreement is signed with the family allowing the agency to place the child in a respite foster home. Due to how the State designed CAMIS, these cases are entered into the system in order for a payment to occur. The State <u>excludes</u> these children in its AFCARS foster care population. <i>Post-site visit analysis: After further review of the State’s policy and the voluntary placement agreement, it has been determined that the State must include these children in the AFCARS population. The State has modified its extraction code to include children with a placement setting of “birth/adoptive” and “birth adoptive non-custodian” unless the placement is the only placement in the episode.</i></p> <p>Children returned home as an in-home dependency are <u>excluded</u> in the population extraction. The State codes “BA” and “BN” stands for “birth/adopt” and “non-custodial birth/adopt” and means the child is in his/her own home.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit analysis: See notes above.</i></p> <p>The State’s age of legal majority is 18 but the State includes youth up to age 21. Need to modify the program code to include only youth up through age 19 for which the State claims title IV-E reimbursement.</p>	

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Voluntarily reports on all other adoptions. (Appendix B – Section II).	N/A	
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS		2 3
<p>45 CFR 1355.40(b) Foster care and adoption reporting requirements</p> <p>The data must be extracted from the data system as of the last day of the reporting period (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1)).</p>	<p>The program code extracts dates that occur outside of the AFCARS report period. The State needs to modify its extraction code to pull data for activity that occurs prior to the end of the report period.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit analysis: The State has modified its program code to check for and extract dates that occur prior to the end of the report period.</i></p>	
<p>The data must be in record layouts as delineated in Appendix D (45 CFR 1355.40(b)).</p>	Yes	
<p>Appendix A, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care Data Elements and Appendix B, 45 CFR 1355 Adoption Data Elements</p> <p>State uses sequential numbering of the case record number or encrypts the record number.</p>	<p>State encrypts the record number. State uses the same key every report period. Also, the State uses the same encryption for NCANDS.</p>	
<p>Appendix C, 45 CFR 1355 Electronic Data Transmission Format</p> <p>The data must be submitted in electronic form as described in Appendix C (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1)).</p> <p>Data file must be in ASCII format.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	

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Elements must be comprised of integer (numeric) value(s).	Yes	
All records must be a fixed length.	Yes	
Technical Bulletin #2, File Format		
State uses correct file name for transmission.	Yes	
Data Extraction		
State extracts all records based on the transaction date of discharge (ACYF-PI-CB-95-09, Reissued May 23, 1995).	No. The State does not use the transaction date. State must modify the program code to extract the data based on the transaction date.	
	<i>Post-site visit analysis: The State has modified its program code to use the transaction dates for extracting the foster care file.</i>	
For children who were discharged during the period, information on the most recent episode is extracted.	Yes	
File Creation		
State attaches footnotes to files.	State does not use footnotes.	
State is using proper format for the creation of footnotes.	N/A	
State uses DCU and DQU on its data file.	State uses the DCU, but does not fully utilize the reports of the DCU or DQU.	
Data Conversion		
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.	Yes	

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<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>Information on the removals must be entered in a chronological order. If the worker does not enter in the history before entering the current removal, the system will not allow him/her to create the history information.</p>	