AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS – General Requirements
State: Idaho
Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005 (2005B)

No.	Requirement	Findings/Notes	Rating Factor
Foster Care Population			
1	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)). 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)(10) of the Social Security Act (the Act) (Appendix A – SECTION II).	Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) is the designated IV-B/IV-E agency. IDHW includes: - child welfare - children's mental health - adult mental health - screening & early intervention for infants & toddlers - substance abuse - Developmental Disabilities - two psychiatric hospitals & one facility for children and adults with severe disabilities The State includes in its AFCARS reporting population both child welfare and child mental health cases.	4
2	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 on whose behalf the State makes title IV-E foster care maintenance payments (Appendix A - SECTION II).	The State has no title IV-E interagency agreements with either juvenile justice or Tribes.	4
3	Includes American Indian children covered under section 422(b)(10) of the Act, on the same basis as any other child (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).	There are six Tribes located in Idaho. Some of the Tribes in Idaho do have their own courts. The State agency defers to jurisdiction of the Tribe when a child is a resident of the reservation. Both the State and Tribe can share joint custody. In these instances, the agency does include the Tribal child in the AFCARS report. If the agency has sole responsibility for the care, placement, or supervision of the Tribal child, the child is included in AFCARS.	4
4	For children in out-of-State placements, the State placing the	The State only reports those children it has placed out	4

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	child submits and continually updates the data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).	of State; not those placed in Idaho from another State.	
5	Includes all children who have been in foster care at least 24 hours (Appendix A - SECTION II).	The program code checks for whether the start and end date of the removal episode is on the same day and for the 24-hour indicator. If either of these conditions exists, the record is excluded.	4
6	Does not include children who are in their own homes under the responsibility of the State agency (Appendix A - SECTION II).	A judge may place a child under IDHW protective supervision. The child remains or returns to his own home under protective supervision of the agency. The State does not report children in protective supervision if the child has never been removed from his/her home.	4
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).	The State allows trial home visits and these children are included in the AFCARS report.	4
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).	The State's age of majority is 18. The State does not claim title IV-E funds on behalf of youth between their 18th and 19th birthday. The State does enter into voluntary agreements with youth over the age of 18 and the State incorrectly includes these youth in the AFCARS report. The State needs to modify the system/program code to allow case workers to discharge the case on the person's 18th birthday and end the removal episode. (See foster care elements #56 and #58.)	3
Adoption Population			
9	Data 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	The State includes in its AFCARS adoption report all children that were adopted that had been placed by the agency in foster care who were subsequently adopted.	4

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	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. (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)). 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. • Children 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 – Section II, paragraph (a)).		
10	Data are required to be transmitted by the State on all adopted children ..., 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. (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)). 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. • 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. • 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)).	The State does enter into adoption agreements with families that adopted a special needs child through a private agency. The State is correctly including these adoptions in its adoption file.	4
11	For children adopted out-of-State, the placing State reports	The State includes those children it placed out-of-State	4

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	the adoption data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)).	for adoption.	
12	Voluntarily reports on all other adoptions. (Appendix B – Section II).	No.	
Technical Requirements			
45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1)			
13	The data must be extracted from the data system as of the last day of the reporting period.		4
14	The data must be submitted in electronic form as described in Appendix C.		4
15	The data must be in record layouts as delineated in Appendix D.		4
45 CFR 1355.40(b)(2)			
16	For foster care information, the child-specific data to be transmitted must reflect the data in the information system when the data are extracted.		4
45 CFR 1355.40(b)(3)			
17	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.	The State has a psuedo transaction date that it uses to note which adoptions have been reported to ACF. If the date is not present, the case has not yet been submitted.	4
Appendix A, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care Data Elements and Appendix B, 45 CFR 1355 Adoption Data Elements			
18	State uses sequential numbering of the case record number or encrypts the record number.	The State encrypts the client identification number. The State wrote its own encryption routine. The same encryption key is used for every report period.	4
Appendix C, 45 CFR 1355 Electronic Data Transmission Format			
19	Data file must be in ASCII format.		4
20	Elements must be comprised of integer (numeric) value(s).		4
21	All records must be a fixed length.		4

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22	Inform the Department, in writing, of the method of transfer intended to be used by the State.		
Appendix D, 45 CFR 1355 Foster Care and Adoption Record Layouts			
23	Report the status of all children in foster care as of the last day of the reporting period (Section A.1.b(5)).		4
24	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)).		4
ACYF-PI-CB-95-09, Reissued May 23, 1995			
25	State extracts all records based on the transaction date of discharge or removal.	The State is correctly extracting the file based on the transaction date.	4
Technical Bulletin #2, File Format			
26	State uses correct file name for transmission.		4
Data Quality - Conversion			
27	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.		4
28	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