

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS – General Requirements

State: Kansas

Report Period Under Review: October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007 (2007A)

No.	Requirement	Findings/Notes	Rating Factor
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 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 (the Act) (Appendix A – SECTION II).</p>	<p>The title IV-B/IV-E single State agency is the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services (SRS).</p> <p>The State reports all children in the agency’s responsibility for care and placement.</p>	4
2	<p>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).</p>	<p>SRS has a title IV-E foster care agreement with the State’s Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA). JJA uses their own case management system from which their AFCARS data are extracted. JJA submits an AFCARS text file to SRS for inclusion in the State’s AFCARS submission.</p>	4
3	<p>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)).</p>	<p>The State does have four Federally recognized Indian Tribes. If SRS has placement and care responsibility of the Tribal child, then the child is included in AFCARS. In some instances, the Tribe will take custody of the child once notified.</p>	4
4	<p>For children in out-of-State placements, the State placing the child submits and continually updates the data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).</p>	<p>The State is correctly including those children under the agency’s responsibility for care and placement that are placed out-of-State. Children placed in Kansas from another State public agency are not included in the foster care reporting population.</p>	4
5	<p>Includes all children who have been in foster care at least 24 hours (Appendix A - SECTION II).</p>	<p>The State is correctly reporting only those children that have had a removal episode that is more than 24 hours.</p> <p>The State’s extraction of cases is based on the “plan type” that has been created for the case. The types used are “child custody care plan (CC)” and “foster care plan (FC),” which means the child has been removed from his/her home and is in a foster care setting. For situations in which the child’s removal</p>	4

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		<p>episode was 24 hours or less, neither a “CC” or “FC” plan is created. Therefore, removal episodes less than 24 hours will not be reported to AFCARS.</p> <p>The State is including children that are initially placed in a shelter setting.</p>	
6	Does not include children who are in their own homes under the responsibility of the State agency (Appendix A - SECTION II).	If the State has custody of the child, but the child has not been removed from his/her home and the State is providing in-home services, these children are correctly not included in AFCARS.	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).	<p>The State does return children to the home from which they were removed and maintains responsibility for care and placement. The State correctly includes these children in its reporting population.</p> <p>There is no specified policy on how long a “trial home visit” may last. See foster care element #56 and #58 for additional information on “trial home visits.”</p>	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).	<p>The State is incorrectly reporting individuals over the age of 19.</p> <p>The State does claim title IV-E funds for youth over 18 up to their 19th birthday, or graduation from high school, whichever comes first.</p> <p>The State is to implement a method to update all records that are reported of individuals over 18, or 19 as appropriate.</p>	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 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)).	The State includes children who were adopted from the State’s child welfare system. However, there are issues related to extraction of all adoptions (see item #17).	4

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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)). 	<p>The State does enter into adoption agreements with families adopting children with special needs through private agencies, and the child is special needs. These records are included in the AFCARS reporting.</p>	4
11	<p>For children adopted out-of-State, the placing State reports the adoption data (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(3)).</p>	<p>The State only reports the children it places out-of-state for adoption. Children placed in Kansas for adoption, unless through a private agency and the State has an adoption assistance agreement with the family, are not reported in the Kansas AFCARS file.</p>	4
12	<p>Voluntarily reports on all other adoptions. (Appendix B – Section II)</p>	<p>The State only reports those adoptions in which they are involved.</p>	
Technical Requirements			
45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1)			
13	<p>The data must be extracted from the data system as of the last day of the reporting period.</p>	<p>The State's AFCARS files contain dates that occurred after the end of the report period.</p>	3

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14	The data must be submitted in electronic form as described in Appendix C.	The State submits its data electronically.	4
15	The data must be in record layouts as delineated in Appendix D.	The State's files are in the correct record layout.	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.	<p><u>Test Deck Findings:</u> The program code extracts information that occurs in the next report period.</p> <p>The extraction code for several elements needs to be modified so that if the State resubmits a file, the information that was current for that report period (e.g., case plan goals, diagnosed conditions, placement dates, etc) is reported. Mostly, the corrections are in the affected data elements. The rating of a "3" for this item reflects the need for accurate data overall. The State should also assess whether the selection logic for the extraction program needs to be modified to distinguish "regular" files from "subsequent" files.</p>	4 3
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.	A flag indicator is used in the adoption file that indicates an adoption has already been reported. The State reports only those adoptions that are finalized during the reporting period. In cases when the finalized date occurs during the reporting period, but the data is entered into the State's system in the following reporting period, the case will never get reported to AFCARS. The State must modify either the system or the extraction code to ensure all adoptions are reported in AFCARS. The adoption can be reported in the following report period if it was not entered into the system in time for the "regular" submission.	2
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 ID.	4

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		The State uses the same person number for NCANDS, and encrypts it the same way as for AFCARS.	
Appendix C, 45 CFR 1355 Electronic Data Transmission Format			
19	Data file must be in ASCII format.	The data files submitted by the State are in ASCII format.	4
20	Elements must be comprised of integer (numeric) value(s).	The State's files are in integer values.	4
21	All records must be a fixed length.	The records are a fixed length.	4
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)).		
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 extracts records based on a removal date and plan end and plan start dates.	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.	Not applicable.	N/A
28	The information system has the capability of recording historical information. This should apply to both open cases in	Not applicable.	N/A

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	which historical information must be entered, and for closed cases that re-open after conversion and must be entered into the system.		