

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: FOSTER CARE

State: New Mexico

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
#1 State	4	
#2 Report Period Ending Date	4	
#3 Local FIPS Code	4	Some counties are grouped administratively.
#4 Record Number	4	State reports encrypted case numbers. Case numbers are unique to the person and remain with the person.
#5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date	2	<p>Frequency Report: 111 of 2703 records reported have a date in 2000 or earlier.</p> <p>Program code does contain a flag to prevent reporting dates on children who have been in care less than 7 months per AFCARS requirements. Program code used to select review dates has a check to prevent selection of dates greater than report end date.</p> <p>There is no program code that prevents dates from prior removals from being extracted. The program code must be modified to look only in the current removal episode.</p> <p>The State's attorneys verify the information that is on the legal screens and, if appropriate, will update the information or correct it.</p> <p><i>Test Case Finding:</i> This information was correct in the test file extract. The State reported this element as blank because the child had been in care for less than seven months. In the scenario there were reviews that were conducted. The State may want to consider modifying the code to capture review dates even if they occur prior to a child being in foster care for more than seven months.</p>
#6 Child Birth Date	4	<p>Frequency Report: No ages reported beyond 18. State does serve 18 to 19 year olds under title IV-E, including Chafee eligible youth over 18. Also, there is an even distribution across all years. State will re-evaluate.</p> <p>If date of birth is unknown State policy is to use 15th of month per AFCARS requirements. If the birthdate is not filled in at intake, workers are trained to complete. There is an edit that requires a date of birth when a placement is opened. (The State shared that the number of children abandoned are less than 5 per year in New Mexico.)</p>

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		<p>On the “maintain participant” screen, worker can select whether the child has been abandoned.</p> <p>The mapping document includes language to estimate DOB for age at adoption. State staff shared this will be removed.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit review: Completed</i></p>
<p>#7 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female</p>	4	<p>Online system now requires that a gender be indicated when creating an out of home placement – newly added edit check.</p>
<p>#8 Child Race</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p>State policy is if child or adult refuses, workers are to select “unable to determine” per AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>System contains a drop-down box to capture all possible race combinations, but it may not be fully utilized by all workers. System design/training issue possible.</p> <p>The State maps missing data to default of “unable to determine.” The State must map missing data to blank.</p> <p>State requested examples of other States methods of capturing race information.</p>
<p>#9 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	4	<p>There are “yes,” “no,” “unable to determine” options on screen. Workers trained on use per AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>There is an “ethnicity” drop-down box plus another drop-down box to check if person is of “Hispanic Origin”.</p> <p><i>Test Case Finding:</i> The State did not select “unable to determine” for this case when it was entered (the child was abandoned therefore this would have been the appropriate response). The extract showed a blank for this element.</p>
<p>#10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability?</p> <p>1=Yes 2=No</p>	2	<p>Frequency Report: 138 records are coded as “not yet determined.”</p> <p>State policy does require medical/psychological evaluations within a certain timeframe.</p>

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3=Not yet Determined		<p>This is a question for the worker to answer on the “Removal From Home Reasons” screen. If the worker selects the question this means the child has been clinically diagnosed with a disability. The worker then must select all the medical categories that apply. The program code only maps to “yes” or “no” based on the selection flag. State believes the cases that are “not yet determined” in the frequency report are records in which the worker did not indicate that a removal had occurred. See the notes regarding missing data in foster care element #19.</p> <p>There is a separate “certification of special needs” screen where workers again have to record the disability information. The screen contains two radio buttons, one for adoption and one for foster care, which identify the information accordingly. The State may want to eliminate the foster care selection from this screen since it does not reflect the information needed for foster care elements #10 through #15. The information actually is the information needed for adoption element #10.</p> <p>Current programming pulls from the flag set on the removal screen. The State incorrectly maps blanks as “no.” Missing data must be mapped to blank.</p> <p>The State should include the options for workers to select “yes,” “no,” and “not yet determined.”</p> <p>The method used by the State is providing false “no’s” in AFCARS. The AFCARS definitions for “no” and “not yet determined” are: No – Indicates that a qualified professional has conducted a clinical assessment of the child and has determined that the child has no disabilities. Not Yet Determined – Indicates that a clinical assessment of the child by a qualified professional has not been conducted.</p> <p>Release 3.1 will have new disabilities screens. Information will be entered only on medical information screens using more ICDM diagnosis codes and verification. The State plans the “roll-out” to occur in September. State should consult conversion table on AFCARS web site.</p>

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		<i>Case File Findings:</i> Of the 37 cases reviewed, fourteen (38%) were found to be reported as “no” in AFCARS but should have been “yes.”
#11 Mental Retardation 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3 2	<p>The State staff shared that the frequencies appear low and that there may be an under-reporting of the disability information.</p> <p>Elements #11 - #15 are extracted from the “circumstances associated with removal” screen. The worker selects all that apply. There is an edit if diagnosis is checked. Then at least one of the conditions must be checked.</p> <p>The State has a new medical screen that will be implemented in September that will have a more extensive list of conditions.</p> <p>Because the State has two locations where workers can enter this information it may be contributing to the low numbers being reported. Workers may not be updating both screens and the program code only looks at the “circumstances associated with removal” screen. The State may need to provide additional training.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit note:</i> It appears in the program code that the edit that ensures that this element is correct will overwrite a workers’ response to whether a child has been clinically diagnosed from a “yes” to a “no” if none of the disability categories are selected. The edit is good, however, if there is a discrepancy the program code should mark this as an “exception” for follow-up. State should contact ACF to further discuss.</p>
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3 2	See notes in element #11.
#13 Physically Disabled 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3 2	See notes in element #11.
#14 Emotionally Disturbed 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3 2	See notes in element #11.

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#15 Other Diagnosed Condition 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3 2	See notes in element #11. <i>Test Case Finding:</i> The State entered “applies” for this condition and it should have been “does not apply.”
#16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	4 2	This is a question on the “maintain participant” screen for the worker to answer. The question is worded so that the worker only selects it if the response is “yes.” The worker does not have the option to select “unable to determine” in the event the child had been abandoned. The program code sets a blank response to “no.” The mapping documentation and the program code do not include “unable to determine.” The program code includes language to run the error routine when “other” is selected. The State needs to modify the screen to allow the worker to select “yes,” “no,” and “unable to determine.” The approach used by the State results in a false “no” as a response to this question.
#17 Age at Previous Adoption 0 = Not Applicable 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6-12 years old 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine	2	If the worker selects that the child was previously adopted, then they enter the age of the adoption, otherwise it is left blank. Missing information defaults to “5, unable to determine” instead of being mapped to blank. Correct default and address worker training.
#18 Date of First Removal from Home	3	The program code finds the earliest row with a removal flag. See notes in “General Requirements” regarding conversion. <i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 37 cases reviewed, there were 17 records (46%) in which the AFCARS date did not match what was in case file. Of those, 11 of the records (65%) indicated in AFCARS the conversion date of 7/28/1997. The actual date of removal ranged from 1988 to 1997. Of the remaining six, the reviewers found dates of first removal that preceded the date in the AFCARS file.
#19 Total Number of Removals from	3	Frequency report indicates 138 records as having zero removals.

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Home		<p>The program code counts all rows with a removal flag set.</p> <p>Possible worker training issue may account for the records with no removals. It may indicate that the placement is an emergency placement and not a removal (the worker should choose both emergency and removal on the screen). Law enforcement is allowed to remove children for 48 hours without consulting the child welfare agency.</p> <p>See notes in “General Requirements” regarding conversion.</p>
#20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode	3	<p>The program code looks for an “end date of placement” and a discharge flag of “yes.”</p> <p>See notes in “General Requirements” regarding conversion.</p>
#21 Date of Latest Removal	3	<p>See notes in “General Requirements” regarding conversion.</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 36 cases included in the analysis of this element, 16 cases (44%) did not match. Eleven of the cases had the date of conversion (7/28/1997) as the date of latest removal. Ten of the cases should have had the date of latest removal the same as that for the first removal. The remaining case had a date of removal of 11/11/1996.</p>
#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date	4	<p>Non-modifiable. System generated.</p>
#23 Date of Placement in Current Setting	2	<p>Program code looks for a placement begin date (placement dates not associated with a removal will not have the “removal flag” associated with them)</p> <p><i>Test Case Finding:</i> The extract had the date that the foster home was determined to be a “pre-adopt” home. The date should not have changed. The program code must be modified to not select a date that reflects a change in status if the foster family does not change.</p>
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	3 2	<p>State counts unique providers.</p> <p>See notes for “current placement setting,” element #41. State will need to modify</p>

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		<p>how the program code counts placements once “trial home visit” and “runaway” are added as options for worker to select.</p> <p>See notes in “General Requirements” regarding conversion.</p> <p>The following situations are not to be counted for this element:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial home visits, runaway, or respite placements. • Do not count when a placement setting changes its status (a foster home becoming a pre-adoptive home-the caretaker is staying the same) • If the payment changes because the level of care changes, then the number of placements does not change. • Do not count if a child returns to the same placement setting from a trial home visit or runaway. • Do not count short-term hospital stays. <p>If an agency is an umbrella agency (and has foster homes, group homes, etc.) the placement is the actual physical setting.</p> <p>The reference to “CD_IVE_12” does not pertain to eligibility. All children regardless of payment are being included.</p> <p>State asked if placement history for children continuously in care since 1997 has to be retrieved from legacy system. The State should have information on the number of placements in the current episode including those prior to 1997.</p> <p>For children in therapeutic foster care, there may be an under-reporting of the number of placements. The State does not record placement changes if the therapeutic provider agency remains the same. The State must collect and report on all placement information related to their contracts with private agencies providing therapeutic foster care. This requires the worker to enter the information on the placement so that the code can count all appropriate placements.</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 36 cases analyzed, 18 cases (50%) did not match. Of</p>

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		<p>the cases that did not contain the correct number of placement settings in AFCARS, one decreased in the count and 17 increased.</p> <p>Of the 11 records with the conversion date for the date of removal, all increased substantially in the number of placement settings.</p>
<p>#25 Manner of Removal From Home for This Episode</p> <p>1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined</p>	<p>2 4</p>	<p>Missing data is defaulted to “not yet determined.” Missing data should be mapped to blank. Same 138 children with no removal flags.</p> <p>Law enforcement is allowed to remove children for 48 hours without consulting the child welfare agency.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit review:</i> Default has been corrected, data in the 2001B file reflects change. State should re-submit 2002A data.</p>
#26 Physical Abuse	4	
#27 Sexual Abuse	4	
#28 Neglect	4	
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	4	
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	4	
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	4	
#32 Child Drug Abuse	4	
#33 Child Disability	4	
#34 Child's Behavior Problem	4	
#35 Death of Parent	4	
#36 Incarceration of Parent	4	
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope	4	
#38 Abandonment	4	
#39 Relinquishment	4	
#40 Inadequate Housing	4	
<p>#41 Current Placement Setting</p> <p>1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home (Relative) 3 = Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)</p>	2	<p>Frequency Report: The AFCARS frequencies indicate no children in “trial home visit” and “runaway” status. 13 records were blank.</p> <p>The system provides for “trial home visit” and “runaway” as placement setting options, but they are not currently used. Current practice is that workers select</p>

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<p>4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit</p>		<p>“trial home visit,” or “runaway,” as the prior placement end reason but not as current placement setting.</p> <p>State proposes to modify program code to pick up “trial home visit” or runaway reasons for placement end. Ensure that reporting will count “trial home visit” for unspecified period as discharge at 6 months.</p> <p>The mapping document includes the codes “17 – Guardianship (relative)” and “18 – Guardianship (non-relative).” These codes are not included in the program code. The State shared that these need to be added to the program code.</p> <p>The State contracts with providers for therapeutic foster care placement. The placement setting reported in AFCARS on the children placed in these settings may not accurately reflect the true placement setting. The contract agency does not have access to FACTS. The contract agency also does not provide the State information on the foster parents. State needs to implement a method to obtain information on the actual placement setting and the providers from the contract agency and to enter it into FACTS.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit question:</i> The mapping document includes codes “12 – 16” regarding JJD placement. These codes are not included in the program code and if they were used they would get mapped to blank. Are these settings actual selections the worker can choose? If so, and if they also would reflect placement of those child welfare children in a juvenile justice placement, they need to be included in the program code mapping. Please explain these codes and whether the State is including in the AFCARS population those foster children that are adjudicated delinquent, placed in a locked facility, but the expectation is that they will return to child welfare foster care placement. Or are these children discharged from the child welfare agency's care and placement responsibility?</p>
<p>#42 Out of State Placement 1=Yes 2=No</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p>System checks for whether the provider State code is anything but NM, then sets a flag. Frequency only shows four records that are out-of-State placements. The staff think these numbers are probably low. State needs to follow up on for possible data quality issue.</p>
<p>#43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>Frequency: 178 records with zero as value. Zero is not an acceptable AFCARS</p>

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<p>1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established</p>		<p>value.</p> <p>The State suggested that there are three possible reasons for occurrence of the zeroes:</p> <p>1) Planned permanent living arrangement maps to “emancipation” or “long-term foster care,” depending on the child’s age, however, some go to zero. The program code is not working correctly for the “planned permanent living arrangement.” <i>(This was supported by the case file findings.)</i></p> <p>2) Code 14 – “Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative” should be “Live with Other Relatives.” However, the program code is mapping to zero because this value is not included in the program code.</p> <p>3) Some reunifications are mapping to zero.</p> <p>Case plan goals of “remain in home,” “maintain at home,” and “relative placement” are inactive. These codes are currently in the program code and are mapped to “reunification.” Since new code structures are in place as of 1/8/01 the State should remove invalid codes from new version of AFCARS program.</p> <p>The program code defaults to “7 – not yet established.” The title IV-E regulations state that there must be a goal established within 60 days, the program code should set “not yet established” to missing at the end of 60-day window.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit notes:</i> The system should have the capacity for workers to actually record “emancipation” for those children who are in foster care that are over age 16. The system should not determine that just because the youth is over 16 the case plan goal is “emancipation” and that independent living services are being provided.</p>
<p>#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>The program code maps “other” and missing information to “unable to determine.” They should be mapped to blank.</p> <p>Situations such as same-sex couples should be mapped to “2 – Unmarried Couple.”</p> <p>For siblings – map to AFCARS values of “3” or “4.”</p>

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		<p><i>Post-site visit note:</i> Can workers select “unable to determine?”</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 37 cases reviewed, there were 11 (30%) that did not match. Eight of the cases were reported as “unable to determine” in AFCARS, but the reviewer found a marital status on all of the cases.</p>
#45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	4	
#46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	4	
#47 Mother's Date of TPR	2	<p>The State’s codes “13, request for termination of parental rights,” “14 and 15, motion for termination of parental rights” are no longer used on legal action screens. These codes are included in the program code. Also, the program code should not look for legal status of “22, post TPR/Freed for adoption” since only one of two parent’s rights may be terminated at a time. State is aware of issues and is working on changing program code.</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 37 cases reviewed, 19 (51%) did not match. All of the incorrect cases did not have a date of TPR in AFCARS, but the reviewer found a date either in the case file or on the system.</p> <p><i>Test Case Finding:</i> The TPR date was entered into the system but the extract produced a blank.</p>
#48 Father's Date of TPR	2	<p>The State’s codes “13, request for termination of parental rights,” “14 and 15, motion for termination of parental rights” are no longer used on legal action screens. These codes are included in the program code. Also, the program code should not look for legal status of “22, post TPR/Freed for adoption” since only one of two parent’s rights may be terminated at a time. State is aware of issues and is working on changing program code.</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 37 cases reviewed, 17 did not match. All of the incorrect cases did not have a date of TPR in AFCARS, but the reviewer found a date either in the case file or on the system. In one record the reviewer indicated the father was deceased.</p> <p><i>Test Case Finding:</i> The TPR date was entered into the system but the extract</p>

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<p>#49 Foster Family Structure 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>produced a blank.</p> <p>Frequency: All records indicate “not applicable.” The State identified that the program code is not accurately extracting the data. The State will provide updated program code.</p> <p>The program code includes “49, unable to determine” and “other.” Both are mapped to AFCARS “not applicable.”</p> <p>The State contracts with placing agencies for therapeutic foster care placements. The contract agency does not have access to FACTS. The contract agency also does not give the State information on the foster parents. State needs to implement a method to obtain this information from the contract agency and to enter it into FACTS.</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 37 cases reviewed, 31 (84%) did not match. All of the records were marked as “not applicable” and there were only six cases where the child was either in a group home or an institution. In one case the foster parent was with an agency that the State contracts with for placement.</p> <p><i>Test Case Finding:</i> “Married couple” was selected for the marital status of the foster family, but the extract produced a blank.</p>
<p>#50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p>Information is entered on the “provider” window and is also re-entered in the “person maintenance” screen. The State may wish to consider whether the data can be entered once and automatically populated to subsequent screens.</p> <p>Issues related to lack of data on therapeutic foster parents apply here.</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the 37 cases reviewed, 31 (84%) did not match. Of those marked as “not applicable” in element #49, 24 had a date of birth in the AFCARS file for this element; seven were blank. In two cases the reviewer noted “ARCA home.”</p>
<p>#51 2nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p>Information is entered on the “provider” window and is also re-entered in the</p>

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		<p>“person maintenance” screen. The State may wish to consider whether the data can be entered once and automatically populated to subsequent screens.</p> <p>Issues related to lack of data on therapeutic foster parents apply here.</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of those marked as “not applicable” in element #49, 19 had a date of birth in the AFCARS file for this element; five were blank. In two cases the reviewer noted “ARCA home.”</p>
<p>#52 1st Foster Caretaker's Race</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p>b. Asian</p> <p>c. Black or African American</p> <p>d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</p> <p>e. White</p> <p>f. Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>State policy is if an adult refuses, workers are to select “unable to determine” per AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>System contains a drop-down box to capture all possible race combinations, but it may not be fully utilized by all workers. System design/training issue possible.</p> <p>The State maps missing data to default of “unable to determine.” The State must map missing data to blank.</p> <p>State requested examples of other States’ ways of handling capture of race information.</p> <p>Issues related to lack of data on therapeutic foster parents also apply here.</p>
<p>#53 1st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable</p> <p>1 = Yes</p> <p>2 = No</p> <p>3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">3</p>	<p>Issues related to lack of data on therapeutic foster parents also apply here.</p>
<p>#54 2nd Foster Caretaker's Race</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p>b. Asian</p> <p>c. Black or African American</p> <p>d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>State policy is if an adult refuses, workers are to select “unable to determine” per AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>System contains a drop-down box to capture all possible race combinations, but it may not be fully utilized by all workers. System design/training issue possible.</p> <p>The State maps missing data to default of “unable to determine.” The State must</p>

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e. White f. Unable to Determine		map missing data to blank. State requested examples of other States' ways of handling capture of race information. Issues related to lack of data on therapeutic foster parents also apply here.
#55 2nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	3	Issues related to lack of data on therapeutic foster parents apply here.
#56 Date of Discharge	3	Frequencies: There are 59 records with dates of discharge but no reason for discharge. Need to address training to ensure that the workers select the option that closes all placements for discharged cases.
#57 Date of Discharge Transaction Date	4	
#58 Reason for Discharge 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child	3	Need to address training to ensure that the workers select the option that closes all placements for discharged cases, and selects a discharge reason.
#59 Title IVE Foster Care	4	
#60 Title IVE Adoption	4	
#61 Title IVA	4	
#62 Title IVD Child Support	2	The SACWIS plan addresses lack of title IV-D interface. Frequency shows all

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		<p>records as “does not apply.”</p> <p>The worker can enter this information on the child’s assets screen. It would require receiving information from the Child Support Office that a payment had been received. Recommend the State develop process to receive this information until the interface is completed. The AFCARS information is required regardless of the status of the interface.</p>
#63 Title XIX Medicaid	<p align="center">2 4</p>	<p>Numbers look under-reported to the State staff. State aware of problem in the program code, correcting it to use the “date effective to.”</p> <p><i>Post-site visit note:</i> The program code has been corrected to read the “date effective to.” The data in the 2001B file reflects change. State should re-submit 2002A data.</p>
#64 SSI	<p align="center">3</p>	<p>Numbers reported look under-reported to the State staff. May be a training issue, gets entered on the eligibility screen, but not on the assets screen. Code pulls only from assets.</p>
#65 None of the Above	<p align="center">4</p>	
#66 Monthly Amount	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>If partial, calculates full monthly payment. Should only report most recent full monthly (calendar month) payment on behalf of child. If partial, should be a 0. If setting changes, and no full monthly payment for it, report as 0.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW ON-SITE FINDINGS: ADOPTION

State: New Mexico

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
#1 State FIPS Code	4	
#2 Report Period End Date	4	
#3 Record Number	4	
#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	State does not report those adoptions in which they have no involvement. The response to this element will always be “yes.”
#5 Child Date of Birth	4	
#6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	4	
#7 Child Race a = American Indian or Native b = Asian c = Black or African American d = Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander e = White f = Unable to Determine	2	<p>State policy is if child or adult refuses, workers are to select “unable to determine” per AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>System contains a drop-down box to capture all possible race combinations, but it may not be fully utilized by all workers. System design/training issue possible.</p> <p>The State maps missing data to default of “unable to determine.” The State must map missing data to blank.</p> <p>State requested examples of other States’ ways of handling capture of race information.</p>
#8 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	4	
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs? 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	There is not an option on the screen for the worker to select “yes” or “no.” This is a derived field, it is dependent on an entry being made on the “certification of special needs” screen. If there is a response listed for “primary basis,” then this is set to “yes.” Otherwise, the response is set to “no” in the program code.
#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background	4 2	The “certification of special needs” screen has the capability to collect the basis of special needs (element #10) specifying a primary, secondary, etc., basis. This information can be used to populate the response to element #9. The existing program code is going to this screen for the information.

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State: New Mexico

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other		<p><i>Post-site visit finding:</i> The mapping documentation and program code includes the following: When CD-PRIM-BASIS = 7 set element #10 to 4. The State's code "7" is "medically fragile." If there is not a specific medical condition associated with this, then "medically fragile" should be mapped to AFCARS value "5, other."</p> <p>The State's program code includes "9, other" and it is mapped to medical conditions, etc. "Other" may need to be further broken down on the selection screen into actual reasons, which are mapped to the appropriate AFCARS value.</p> <p><i>Post site-visit note:</i> The program code appears to set element #10 to medical, etc. if it finds any of 11-15 as "yes," regardless of what the worker selected as the primary basis, thus over riding it. If this is true, then the State must remove the code and not have a hierarchy set by the system to determine the primary basis of special need.</p>
#11 Mental Retardation	3 2	<p>State may be under-reporting data. See findings for foster care elements #11-15.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit finding:</i> The State code "6, mental disability and/or learning disability" is incorrectly mapped to this element. "Mental disability" should be mapped to AFCARS element #14, and "learning disability" should be mapped to element #15.</p>
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	3	<p>State may be under-reporting data. See findings for foster care elements #11-15.</p>
#13 Physically Disabled	3 2	<p>State may be under-reporting data. See findings for foster care elements #11-15.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit finding:</i> The program code maps "medically fragile" to "physically disabled."</p>
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	3 2	<p>State may be under-reporting data. See findings for foster care elements #11-15.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit finding:</i> "Mental disability" should be mapped to AFCARS element #14</p>
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	3 2	<p>State may be under-reporting data. See findings for foster care elements #11-15.</p> <p><i>Post-site visit finding:</i> The program code includes a default that if medical conditions, etc. is selected, and categories in elements #11 – 14 are zero, then</p>

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AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		“other diagnosed condition” is set to “yes.” This should be set to blank.
#16 Mother's Birth Year	2	<p>Frequencies show no mother’s or father’s year of birth. Until recently system was unable to generate link to foster care case to get data on biological mother’s year of birth. Cannot be seen in field, but available behind the scenes.</p> <p>Mothers’ date of birth comes from the “Special Needs” section of the foster care case. Otherwise, the program code will go to case participant table and get mother’s demographic data.</p> <p>ACF will look for data on subsequent submission (2002A).</p> <p><i>Case File Finding:</i> Of the nine cases reviewed, all of the records submitted to AFCARS had a blank for the mother’s birth year. In five records (56%) the reviewers found a date of birth.</p>
#17 Father's Birth Year	2	See adoption element #16.
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<p>State’s code of “unknown” represents abandoned children and is properly mapped to AFCARS value “3.”</p> <p>“Undetermined” should be mapped to blank according to AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>This information can also be entered on the "Special Needs" screen in the foster care record. When the State implements the case-link, they may want to have any information entered in foster care populate the adoption record. This will reduce duplicate data entry and reduce chances for errors.</p>
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	4	Should be able to populate automatically using new case link.
#20 Date of Father’s TPR	4	See note in adoption element #19.
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	4	Note: State should make sure a finalized adoption closes out the foster care case with reason for adoption. State shared the response should be better matched in release 3.1
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	4 2	<i>Post-site visit finding:</i> In the mapping documentation and program code, the State is mapping the value “46, other” to the AFCARS value “unmarried couple.” The State staff shared that “other” generally is always used for same-sex couples. The State should remove “other” as an option and instead include the marital status that most accurately reflects the family structure. Otherwise, “other” should be

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AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		mapped to blank.
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	4	
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	4	
#25 Adoptive Mother's Race a = American Indian or Alaskan Native b = Asian c = Black or African American d = Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander e = White f = Unable to Determine	2	<p>State policy is if an adult refuses, workers are to select “unable to determine” per AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>System contains a drop-down box to capture all possible race combinations, but it may not be fully utilized by all workers. System design/training issue possible.</p> <p>The State maps missing data to default of “unable to determine.” The State must map missing data to blank.</p> <p>State requested examples of other States’ ways of handling capture of race information.</p>
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	4	
#27 Adoptive Father's Race a = American Indian or Al. Native b = Asian c = Black or African American d = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander e = White f = Unable to Determine	2	<p>State policy is if child or adult refuses, workers are to select “unable to determine” per AFCARS requirements.</p> <p>System contains a drop-down box to capture all possible race combinations, but it may not be fully utilized by all workers. System design/training issue possible.</p> <p>The State maps missing data to default of “unable to determine.” The State must map missing data to blank.</p> <p>State requested examples of other States’ ways of handling capture of race information.</p>
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	

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AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
3 = Unable to Determine		
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child – Stepparent 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	4	
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3	Need to train workers on the fact that more than one selection may be made and on how to record the information consistently.
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3	Only one foster parent reported in frequency – training issue in that workers are only selecting one value.
#32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies	3	Need to train workers on the fact that more than one selection may be made and on how to record the information consistently.
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	4	
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	4	<i>Post-site visit finding:</i> The State’s program code and mapping include “business,” which is mapped to “private agency.” Please explain. Also, the program code includes “other public agency,” which is mapped to “public agency.” What are these other agencies?
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy 1=Yes 2=No	2	State currently only looks at IV-E payments. Program code should be modified to pick up Medicaid-only cases and other sources of funding (e.g., State funds).
#36 Monthly Amount	2	Should be agreed-upon monthly subsidy amount. No calculation is required; program code should pull the agreed monthly subsidy amount.

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AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Comments/Notes
		<i>Case File Finding:</i> Eight records had a response of “yes” for element #35 and all were blank for the monthly amount in AFCARS. There were four listed as questionable because “yes” was the response for element #35 and zero amount for the monthly amount. The reviewers did not note if there was a monthly amount.
#37 Adoption Assistance 1=Yes 2=No	4	