

AFCARS Assessment Review AIP: General Requirements  
State: Ohio

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Date	Notes
<b>Foster Care Reporting Population</b>						
1	<p>For the purpose of foster care reporting, each data transmission must include all children in foster care for whom the title IV-E agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision. (45 CFR 1355.40(a)(2)).</p> <p>The [foster care] population to be included in this reporting system includes all children in foster care under the responsibility of the title IV-E agency administering or supervising the administration of the title IV-B Child and Family Services State plan and the title IV-E plan; that is, all children who are required to be provided the assurances of section 422(b)(8) of the Social Security Act. (Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II--Definitions).</p>	2	<p><u>System/Program Code</u> 1) The selection logic does not differentiate between infants removed from a teen parent who is in foster care from infants who remain with the teen mother who is in foster care.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> The program code was corrected by adding the check for the runaway indicator field. See elements #18 and #21 for additional information regarding the start date of the removal episode.</p>	<p><u>System/Program Code</u> 1) Modify the program code to exclude the child of the minor parent from the foster care reporting population.</p> <p>1a) If the child is moved to a different setting, then the child would be entered into the reporting population.</p>		
5	<p>The reporting system includes all children who have or had been in foster care at least 24 hours. (Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II--Definitions).</p>	2	<p><u>Program Code</u> The program code does not correctly identify all records of children whose removal episode is 24 hours or less; it only excludes same day removal episodes.</p> <p>There appears to be a field for the worker to enter the time of custody. (The program code was not modified to check the time fields to determine the length of a removal episode. The program code is still checking if the</p>	<p><u>Program Code</u> 1) Identify the approach the State intends to implement in order to correctly identify records that are 24 hours or less.</p> <p>2) Modify the screen to implement the State's option.</p> <p>3) Modify the program code to correctly select and exclude records of children whose removal episode is for 24 hours</p>		

AFCARS Assessment Review AIP: General Requirements  
State: Ohio

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Date	Notes
			removal is less than one full day and only excluding those episodes.)	or less.		
6	<p>Foster care does not include children who are in their own homes under the responsibility of the title IV-E agency. (Appendix A to Part 1355--Foster Care Data Elements, Section II—Definitions).</p> <p>A removal is either the physical act of a child being taken from his or her normal place of residence, by court order or a voluntary placement agreement and placed in a substitute care setting, or the removal of custody from the parent or relative guardian pursuant to a court order or voluntary placement agreement which permits the child to remain in a substitute care setting. (CWPM, 1.2B.3 Question #4).</p>	3	<p><u>Program Code</u> If a relative is given temporary custody and the Department only has protective supervision, this is correctly not considered as a record that is to be included in the foster care reporting population. However, there were cases in the sample for the case file review where it was not clear, because of time to review the case and materials available, if the agency actually had care and placement of the child. The State needs to investigate further and ensure that if they never received care and placement of the child and the child went directly to a relative (and the relative's custody) these cases are not included in the AFCARS reporting population.</p> <p><u>Post-site visit findings:</u> The program code was modified to check if the provider relationship is "father" or "mother." This was added, according to the programmer notes, to exclude records of children who were removed from a custodial parent and directly placed with a non-custodial parent.</p>	<p>The State needs to investigate further and ensure that if they never received care and placement of the child and the child went directly to a relative (and the relative's custody) these cases are not included in the AFCARS reporting population.</p> <p>Provide the Federal team with the State team's results of the above investigation.</p>		
<b>Adoption Reporting Population</b>						
11	For the purposes of adoption	3	The State does enter into	There are tasks in the		

AFCARS Assessment Review AIP: General Requirements  
State: Ohio

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Date	Notes
	<p>reporting, data are required to be transmitted by the title IV-E agency ... on all adopted children for whom the 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)).</p> <p>The title IV-E agency must report on all children who are adopted in the State or Tribal service area during the reporting period and in whose adoption the title IV-E agency has had any involvement. ...reports on the following are mandated:</p> <p>(b) All special needs children who were adopted in the State or Tribal service area, whether or not they were in the public foster care system prior to their adoption and for whom non-recurring expenses were reimbursed; and</p> <p>(c) All children adopted for whom an adoption assistance payment or service is being provided based on arrangements made by or through the title IV-E agency. (Appendix B to Part 1355--Adoption Data Elements, Section I).</p>		<p>adoption assistance agreements with families adopting a special needs child that was placed by a private adoption agency and who was never in foster care.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u> The program code is only selecting records of children adopted from the State's foster care system.</p> <p>The program code was modified after the May, 2012 submission to include private agency adoptions. The record is identified by a private agency code on the child's adoption subsidy record.</p>	<p>adoption element improvement plan that address the entry and reporting of all adoption information for private agency adoptions, as well as, cases in which the agency is only paying the non-recurring fee.</p>		
<b>Technical Requirements</b>						
13	The data must be extracted from the data system as of the last day of the reporting period (45 CFR	3	<p><u>Program Code</u> Not all of the elements included logic to check for the information</p>	The data will be evaluated to ensure no "future" information is reported for an element and		

AFCARS Assessment Review AIP: General Requirements  
State: Ohio

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Date	Notes
	<p>1355.40(b)(1):</p> <p><u>For foster care information</u>, the child-specific data to be transmitted must reflect the data in the information system when the data are extracted. (45 CFR 1355.40(b)(2)).</p> <p>Report the status of all children in foster care as of the last day of the reporting period. (AFCARS Technical Bulletin #6, Data Extraction)</p>		<p>related to the report period being extracted. These were corrected during the post-site visit phase.</p>	<p>the program code re-evaluated to ensure all elements are compared against the report period being extracted.</p>		
<b>Data Quality</b>						
21	<p><b>General Data Quality</b></p> <p>For data to be considered “quality” it must be accurate, complete, timely, and consistent in definition and usage across the entire IV-E agency and State/Tribal service area. The quality of the AFCARS data is assessed by the agency on a regular and continuous basis in order to sustain a high level of quality data. The agency incorporates AFCARS data into its quality assurance/continuous quality improvement plan. The agency involves staff from every level of the organization, and other stakeholders from outside of the agency.</p>	3	<p>There are several areas noted in the element findings where the accuracy of the data need to improve. The agency needs to address how it will improve and maintain the accuracy of the AFCARS data.</p>	<p>1) Describe, develop, and implement a method to ensure the accurate and timely entry of the AFCARS data; including but not limited to supervisory oversight and management reports.</p> <p>1a) In the above plan, address the overall integration of the voluntary agencies’ data, as it relates to AFCARS</p> <p>2) Describe how the agency will incorporate the information collected in AFCARS as part of its monitoring and quality assurance process in order to ensure accuracy of the data.</p> <p>3) Describe how the agency will monitor the accuracy of AFCARS data, including</p>		

AFCARS Assessment Review AIP: General Requirements  
State: Ohio

No.	Requirement	Rating Factor	Findings	Tasks	Date	Notes
				<p>completeness of the data and timely entry of the data, over time.</p> <p>4) Include system and importance of data quality training in the agency's training for staff and include in the State's training plan (in the State's title IV-B, Child and Family Services Plan and Annual Progress and Services Report). There are specific training needs the State will need to address, such as:</p>		