

Reporting System (AFCARS) requirements mandated under section 479(b) of the Act and § 1355.40 of this part;

(2) Provide, for electronic exchanges and referrals, as appropriate, with the following systems within the State, unless the State demonstrates that such interface or integration would not be practicable because of systems limitations or cost constraints:

- (i) Systems operated under title IV-A,
- (ii) National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems (NCANDS),
- (iii) Systems operated under title XIX, and
- (iv) Systems operated under title IV-D;

(3) Support the provisions of section 422(a) by providing for the automated collection, maintenance, management and reporting of information on all children in foster care under the responsibility of the State, including statewide data from which the demographic characteristics, location, and goals for foster care children can be determined;

(4) Collect and manage information necessary to facilitate the delivery of client services, the acceptance and referral of clients, client registration, and the evaluation of the need for services, including child welfare services under title IV-B Subparts 1 and 2, family preservation and family support services, family reunification and permanent placement;

(5) Collect and manage information necessary to determine eligibility for:

- (i) The foster care program,
 - (ii) The adoption assistance program, and
 - (iii) The independent living program;
- (6) Support necessary case assessment activities;

(7) Monitor case plan development, payment authorization and issuance, review and management, including eligibility determinations and redeterminations; and

(8) Ensure the confidentiality and security of the information and the system.

(c) A system established under paragraph (a) of this section may also provide support in meeting the following program functions:

(1) Resource management, including automated procedures to assist in managing service providers, facilities, contracts and recruitment activities associated with foster care and adoptive families;

(2) Tracking and maintenance of legal and court information, and preparation of appropriate notifications to relevant parties;

(3) Administration and management of staff and workloads;

(4) Licensing verification; and

(5) Risk analysis.

(d) The system may also provide for interface with other automated information systems, including, but not limited to, accounting and licensing systems, court and juvenile justice systems, vital statistics and education, as appropriate.

(e) If the cost benefit analysis submitted as part of the APD indicates that adherence to paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section would not be cost beneficial, final approval of the APD may be withheld until resolution is reached on the level of automation appropriate to meet the State's needs.

(f) A Statewide automated child welfare information system may be designed, developed and installed on a phased basis, in order to allow States to implement AFCARS requirements expeditiously, in accordance with section 479(b) of the Act, as long as the approved APD includes the State's plan for full implementation of a comprehensive system which meets all functional and data requirements as specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, and a system design which will support these enhancements on a phased basis.

(g) The system must perform Quality Assurance functions to provide for the review of case files for accuracy, completeness and compliance with Federal requirements and State standards.

[58 FR 67945, Dec. 22, 1993, as amended at 60 FR 26839, Mar. 19, 1995]

§ 1355.54 Submittal of advance planning documents.

The State title IV-E agency must submit an APD for a statewide automated child welfare information system, signed by the appropriate State

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official, in accordance with procedures specified by 45 CFR part 95, subpart F. [58 FR 67946, Dec. 22, 1993]

§ 1355.55 Review and assessment of the system developed with enhanced funds.

- (a) ACF will, on a continuing basis, review, assess and inspect the planning, design, development, installation and operation of the SACWIS to determine the extent to which such systems:
 - (1) Meet §1355.53 of this chapter,
 - (2) Meet the goals and objectives stated in the approved APD,
 - (3) Meet the schedule, budget, and other conditions of the approved APD, and
 - (4) Comply with the automated data processing services and acquisitions procedures and requirements of 45 CFR part 95, subpart F.
- (b) [Reserved]

[58 FR 67946, Dec. 22, 1993]

§ 1355.56 Failure to meet the conditions of the approved APD.

- (a) If ACF finds that the State fails to meet any of the conditions cited in §1355.53, or to substantially comply with the criteria, requirements and other undertakings prescribed by the approved APD, approval of the APD may be suspended.
 - (i) The reason for the suspension,
 - (ii) The date of the suspension,
 - (iii) Whether the suspended system complies with criteria for 50 percent FFP, and
 - (iv) The actions required by the State for future enhanced funding.
- (2) The suspension will be effective as of the date the State failed to comply with the approved APD;
- (3) The suspension shall remain in effect until ACF determines that such system complies with prescribed criteria, requirements, and other undertakings for future Federal funding.
- (4) Should a State cease development of an approved system, either by voluntary withdrawal or as a result of

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Federal suspension, all Federal incentive funds invested to date that exceed the normal administrative FFP rate (50 percent) will be subject to recoupment. [58 FR 67946, Dec. 22, 1993]

§ 1355.57 Cost allocation.

- (a) All expenditures of a State to plan, design, develop, install, and operate the data collection and information retrieval system described in §1355.53 of this part shall be treated as necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan under title IV-E, without regard to whether the system may be used with respect to foster or adoptive children other than those on behalf of whom foster care maintenance payments or adoption assistance payments may be made under the State plan.
- (b) Cost allocation and distribution for the planning, design, development, installation and operation must be in accordance with §95.631 of this title and section 474(e) of the Act, if the SACWIS includes functions, processing, information collection and management, equipment or services that are not directly related to the administration of the programs carried out under the State plan approved under title IV-B or IV-E.

[58 FR 67946, Dec. 22, 1993]

APPENDIX A TO PART 1355—FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENTS

Section I—Foster Care Data Elements

Data elements preceded by “***” are the only data elements required for children who have been in care less than 30 days. For children who entered care prior to October 1, 1995, data elements preceded by either “***” and “****” are the only data elements required. This means that, for these two categories of children, these are the only data elements to which the missing data standard will be applied.

I. General Information

- **A. State _____
- **B. Report date ___ (mo.) ___ (yr.)
- **C. Local Agency (County or Equivalent Jurisdiction) _____
- **D. Record Number _____
- E. Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (If Applicable) ___ (mo.) ___ (day) ___ (yr.)

II. Child’s Demographic Information

- **A. Date of Birth ___ (mo.) ___ (day) ___ (yr.)
- **B. Sex _____