§ 205.36 State plan requirements.

A State plan under title IV-A of the Social Security Act shall, at the option of the State, provide for the establishment and operation, in accordance with an (initial and annually updated) advance automated data processing planning document approved by SSA, of an automated statewide management information system designed effectively and efficiently, to assist management in the administration of an approved AFDC State plan. The submission process to amend the State plan is explained in §201.3. This system must be designed:

(a) To automatically control and account for—

(1) All the factors in the total eligibility determination process under the plan for aid, including but not limited to:

(i) Identifiable correlation factors (such as social security numbers, names, dates of birth, home addresses, and mailing addresses (including postal ZIP codes), of all applicants and recipients of AFDC and the relative with whom any child who is an applicant or recipient is living).

(A) To assure sufficient compatibility among the systems of different jurisdictions, and

(B) To permit periodic screening to determine whether an individual is or has been receiving benefits from more than one jurisdiction.

(ii) Checking records of applicants and recipients of such aid on a periodic basis with other agencies, both intra and inter-state, for eligibility determination, verification and payment as required by other provisions of the Social Security Act.

(2) The costs, quality, and delivery of funds and services furnished to applicants for and recipients of such aid.

(b) To notify the appropriate State officials of child support, food stamp, social service, and medical assistance programs approved under title XIX whenever a case/recipient for aid and services becomes ineligible or the amount of aid or services is changed.

(c) To electronically refer and exchange information with programs under titles IV-D and IV-F for purposes of assuring that benefits and services are provided in an integrated manner.

(d) To provide for security against unauthorized access to, or use of, the data in the system.


§ 205.37 Responsibilities of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

(a) ACF shall not approve the initial and annually updated advance automatic data processing planning document unless the document, when implemented, will carry out the requirements of the law and the objectives of title IV-A (AFDC) Automated Application Processing and Information Retrieval System Guide. The initial advance automatic data processing planning document must include:

(1) A requirements analysis, including consideration of the program mission, functions, organization, services, constraints and current support relating to such system;

(2) A description of the proposed statewide management system, including the description of information flows, input data formats, output reports and uses;

(3) The security and interface requirements to be employed in such statewide management system;

(4) A description of the projected resource requirements including staff and other needs; and the resources available or expected to be available to meet these requirements;

(5) A cost benefit analysis of alternative systems designs, data processing services and equipment in terms of qualitative and quantitative measures.
The alternative systems considered should include the advantages of the proposed system over the alternatives and should indicate the period of time the system will be operated to justify the funds invested. ACF certified systems that are already in place in other States must be included in the alternatives to be considered and evaluated;

(6) A plan for distribution of costs, containing the basis for rates, both direct and indirect, to be in effect under such a statewide management system;

(7) An implementation plan with charts of development events, testing description, proposed acceptance criteria, and backup and fallback procedures to handle possible failure of a system; and

(b) Evidence that the State's system will be compatible with those of the FSA to facilitate the exchange of data between the State and Federal system.

(b) ACF shall on a continuing basis, review, assess, and inspect the planning, design, and operation of, statewide management information systems, with a view to determining whether, and to what extent, these systems meet and continue to meet the requirements under these regulations.

(c) If ACF finds that any statewide management information system referred to in §205.38 fails to comply substantially with criteria, requirements, and other undertakings prescribed by the approved advance automatic data processing planning document, approval of such document shall be suspended. The State will be given written notice of the suspension. The notice of suspension will state the reason for the suspension, whether the suspended system complies with the criteria for 90 percent FFP under 45 CFR part 95, the actions required for future Federal funding, and the effective date of the suspension. The suspension shall state the reason for the suspension, whether the suspended system complies with the criteria for 90 percent FFP under 45 CFR part 95, the actions required for future Federal funding, and the effective date of the suspension. The suspension shall remain in effect until ACP makes a determination that such system complies with prescribed criteria, requirements, and other undertakings for future Federal funding. Should a State cease development of their approved system, either by voluntary withdrawal or as a result of Federal suspension, all Federal incentive funds invested to date that exceed the normal administrative FFP rate (50 percent) will be subject to recoupment.

(d) ACF shall provide technical assistance to States as is deemed necessary to assist States to plan, design, develop, or install and provide for the security of the management information systems.

(e) Approvals of the systems by ACF under the provisions of this section will be undertaken only as a result of State applications for increased matching. The requirements of 45 CFR part 95, subpart E and subpart F apply.

§205.38 Federal financial participation (FFP) for establishing a statewide mechanism.

(a) Effective July 1, 1981 through March 31, 1994, FFP is available at 90 percent of expenditures incurred for planning, design, development or installation of a statewide automated application processing and information retrieval system which are consistent with an approved ADP. (Beginning April 1, 1994 the match rate available for development of title IV-A automated systems is 50 percent.) The 90 percent FFP includes the purchase or rental of computer equipment and software directly required for and used in the operation of this system.

(b) ACF will approve the system provided the following conditions are met—

(1) ACF determines that the system is likely to provide more efficient, economical, and effective administration of the AFDC program.

(2) The system is compatible with the claims processing and information retrieval systems used in the administration of State plans approved under title XIX, and State programs where there is FFP under title XX.

(3) The system meets the requirements referred to in §205.36.

(4) The system meets criteria established in the title IV-A (AFDC) Automated Application Processing and Information Retrieval System Guide.