

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Executive Summary provides an overview of the *CSENet 2000 Interface Guidance Document* (IGD). The IGD is a comprehensive resource guide that states may refer to as they develop their functionality and use the CSENet 2000 system to conduct interstate child support enforcement (CSE) business activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, locating noncustodial parents, establishing paternity and support obligations, and enforcing support orders and collection of support funds.

The IGD provides information for a variety of professionals at the state level. While the primary audience is the IV-D agency technical staff, this document also contains useful information to assist state IV-D administrative and programmatic/policy staff in understanding the basic functionality of CSENet 2000.

CSENet 2000 Overview

The Child Support Enforcement Network (CSENet) 2000 system is designed to receive, validate and transmit standardized child support case transactions among state child support enforcement (CSE) systems. The CSENet 2000 system is an integrated system comprising the OCSE Network and the CSENet 2000 Application Suite. The CSENet system electronically connects state CSE automated systems. CSENet 2000 is a component of the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) automated system and provides states with the interstate case reconciliation (ICR) capability using the Case Status Information (CSI) transaction. This ICR method using the CSENet CSI transaction is referred to as ICR-CSI.

The OCSE Network

The OCSE Network uses frame-relay technology to connect the state CSE systems with a central server. Standardized transactions are retrieved daily by the OCSE server from a state and forwarded to another state's CSE system. The network provides a reliable, scaleable, and secure mechanism for all 50 states, three territories (Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam), and the District of Columbia. The primary processing site is located in Manassas, Virginia and a redundant disaster recovery site is located in Baltimore, Maryland.

The network also provides the capability for states to transfer wage-withholding orders electronically to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), and exchange of Interstate Case Reconciliation (ICR) files via the standard format. Information on OCSE Releases and the specification documents, Interstate Case Reconciliation (ICR) Data Exchange Specifications 01-018-V1.0 and Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Data Exchange Specifications 01-003-V1.0, are available on the OCSE Web site at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/newhire/library/reimgnt/reimgnt.htm>.

CSENet 2000 Application Suite

The CSENet 2000 Application Suite enables states to electronically transfer child support requests and information between state CSE systems via the OCSE Network. The application suite comprises custom-developed software and commercial off-the-shelf products that fully support states in areas such as state system interface software, Exchange Agreements, Testing Tools, Interstate Roster and Referral Guide, Transaction Validation, and Management Information Reporting.

Integrating CSENet 2000 in a State CSE System

There are high-level system implementation tasks states should consider as they plan for the integration of the CSENet 2000 application with their CSE systems. After these considerations have been examined and the programming for the state CSE system is complete, states may take advantage of available testing tools and software verification processes.

Transaction Structure

The system uses standardized transactions to exchange case data. The transactions are composed of structured data blocks that contain standard data elements. All transactions undergo a validation process that enforces a set of rules or requirements. These requirements have been developed with the active participation and contribution of the states.

Transaction Functional and Business Usage

The business activity of a transaction is determined by a combination of Function, Action, and Reason codes. The function of the CSENet 2000 transaction may be specified by one of seven predefined Function codes, such as Quick Locate (LO1), Case Information (CSI), Enforcement (ENF), Managing State Cases (MSC), Paternity (PAT), Establishment (EST), or Collection (COL).

The standardized functional and business usage associated with building and processing CSENet 2000 transactions facilitates automated generation of CSENet transactions by states. Many states have developed an automated process for building outgoing transactions and processing received transactions using triggers linked to specific data elements with a state CSE system. States are encouraged to maximize automation to reduce caseworker intervention.

Management Reports

CSENet 2000 provides Management Information reports to states upon request. These reports provide information such as states transaction volumes and communication exchange agreements.

Technical Support for States

Technical and functional support is provided to the states by specialized network, software and end-user support teams.

The network team monitors, tests and troubleshoots the network on an on-going basis to ensure sustained network connectivity between CSENet and the states.

The software team monitors and manages the daily data exchange activities of the CSENet Application Suite, using various monitoring mechanisms to detect data transfer issues.

The end-user support (EUS) team provides technical and functional support to the states, e. g., enabling or disabling communications, coordinating state testing, and providing information/analysis.

Appendices

The appendices provide information on data elements, business usage, error codes, resource tools, and examples to assist states in making full use of automated data exchange.