

NCFAST Data Exchange Overview

Information Exchange Package Documentation

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2. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the contents of NCFAST Application Interface Information Exchange Package. Each of the schemas will be broken down into the individual types and elements to show the relationships between these parts.

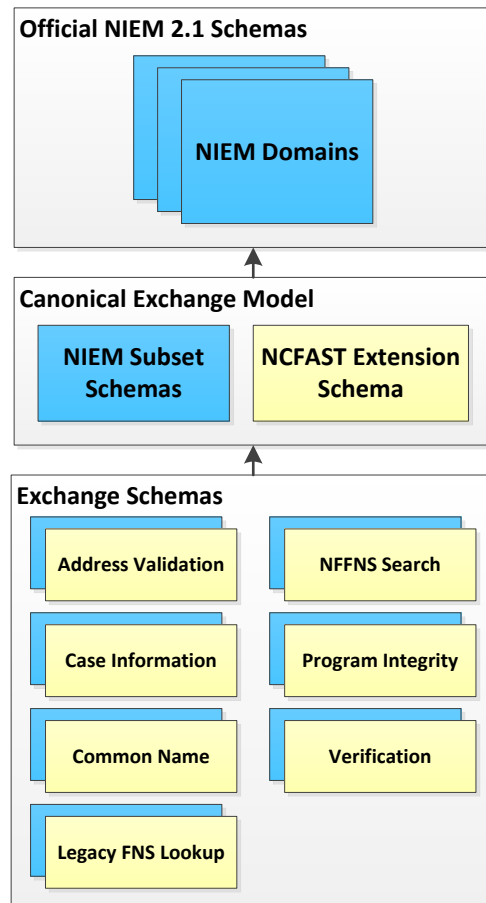


Figure 1 IEPD Schema Hierarchy

The diagram illustrates the hierarchy of the schemas included inside of the IEPD and to define the acceptable inheritance scenarios. For example it *is* appropriate for the NCFAST extension schema to inherit from the NIEM schemas, but it is not correct for the NCFAST extension schema to inherit from the exchange schemas. Essentially, the NCFAST extension schema has no knowledge of any exchange schema. Each of the schemas fits within one of the following categories:

Official NIEM 2.1 Schemas

These schemas represent all available subject area domains within the NIEM data model. The schemas in this category are maintained and exposed by the NIEM organization.

Canonical Exchange Model

The Canonical Exchange Model consists of NIEM subset schema and new components modeled for the NCFAST Services. The canonical model is referenced by exchange (interface) specific schemas to be used in a model-driven development approach. A subset of the NIEM 2.1 schemas was generated

using the Schema Subset Generation Tool (SSGT) available on the NIEM Tools website. The NCFAST extension schema contains data types and elements that can be shared across multiple exchange schemas.

Exchange Schemas

The data types and elements contained within these schemas are specific to the service in which they exist and are not expected to be shared outside of the exchange schemas. As such, the schemas within this category are maintained within the individual service and are not exposed outside of that scope.

There are two types of schemas within the exchange schemas. The exchange schema describes the root node and grouping nodes of the document that are used within the actual exchange of data and any other elements that are specific to that exchange.

Defining and using exchange specific data elements should be minimized since they cannot be reused across services. Some services in the exchange schema contain multiple exchanges, which could have been broken up into separate schemas, but are kept in the same schema to maintain the logical grouping.

3. NCFAST Data Exchange Overview

The NCFAST Program is designed to improve the way North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the 100 county departments of social services conduct business. NCFAST introduces new technological tools and business processes that will enable staff to spend less time performing administrative tasks and more time assisting families.

NCFAST exposes data to external consumers and partners via an Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) using well-documented standard interfaces and interface patterns. The concept of the ESB is an integration strategy that decouples an application's data from its implementation and "internal plumbing." The ESB strategically provides a mechanism that supports a one-to-many relationship; that is to say, build an interface once and re-use it many times. This strategy allows NCFAST to build interfaces to and from any application that can be re-used by other applications with little to no rework. Most of the rework is in the realm of the initial ingress point (e.g., secured web service or secured message queue), and in transforming the data into the native data format of the consuming application. Services included in this IEPD that are incorporated into the ESB by NCFAST include the following:

Address Validation

Simple service to validate a user entered address to confirm that the entered address is correct and well formed.

Case Information

Currently there are counties that maintain their own FNS case management system. However, NCFAST is the system of record, the only system that can make eligibility decisions, and the only system that can deliver benefits. Therefore, in order to minimize the duplicate entry of data by case workers, interfaces are established between the CCMS and NCFAST. The county case worker uses NCFAST to create and update client/case records as well as determine eligibility and benefit information. At any point in the process after the application is created and submitted in NCFAST, the case worker has the ability to login to the CCMS and invoke the NCFAST case information service to retrieve client/case data as well as eligibility information on a transactional basis by providing an NCFAST Application ID, Integrated Case ID or Product Delivery Case ID.

Common Name

Common Name Data Service (CNDS): The central repository of the client demographic data shared by multiple DHHS systems in which member agencies agree to use a common Person ID in an effort to avoid creating duplicate client entries. Interfacing NCFAST with CNDS provides users the tools needed to eliminate duplicate client records from NCFAST and identify and reconcile client demographic data in an effort to retain the integrity of the information in NCFAST. CNDS provides a number of different client-specific functions including generating unique client identifiers, searching, matching, merging, and cross-system publish updates. CNDS stores client demographic information, case information, case history information, and various other client and case details.

Legacy FNS Lookup

During the NCFAST rollout period, there is a period of months during which clients and users of FSIS (Legacy System) are migrated to the NCFAST system. While the NCFAST system and FSIS are both active (supporting different counties), the FSIS Data Bridge will provide the State a mechanism to search and identify clients that already exist (assigned to active cases) in both systems. This helps the State train case workers in waves while supporting business processes to minimize the chances of a client receiving duplicate benefits and correspondence. Once a client has been identified as being assigned to an active case in FSIS through CNDS, NCFAST will not allow the assignment of that person to a case in NCFAST. The case worker will be presented with the case and case client details in a pop-up screen. This lookup service provides the case worker some context of the client's case activity in FSIS to investigate or follow-up.

NFFNS Search

Various external agencies request verification data from NCFAST through the NCFAST On-Line Verification System (OVS). The request for verification data is routed through the ESB. The ESB receives an input request and routes this input request to NCFAST by invoking this NCFAST provided web service (NFFNS Search).

Program Integrity

Enterprise Programming Integrity Control System (EPICS) enhances North Carolina's ability to reduce the number of overpayment incidents and increase the amount of recoupment for claims substantiated as overpayment. EPICS supports functionality associated with the processing of referrals of fraud and overpayment incidents. This capability allows investigators to enter referrals into EPICS at the time they are reported and track the resulting claims through closure. EPICS serves as the repository for funds the state either has or needs to recoup from clients and the source for identifying disqualified individuals.

Verification

On-Line Verification System (OVS) has various programs administered by county departments of social services and supervised by NC DHHS require verification of information provided by applicants and clients of the programs. Each program has specific requirements concerning what information must be verified. To be eligible for benefits the information provided by the client must be verified. OVS is a web-based system that provides access to multiple systems across a number of organizational entities, unifying access and streamlining the approach for requesting and retrieving verification information within a single application. In order to provide the case worker a seamless view of what OVS provides today to process cases within NCFAST (without logging into OVS) NCFAST integrates with OVS and its ancillary systems.