



## Tribal Access to FPLS



In September 2014, Public Law 113-183 authorized tribal access to the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS). OCSE is currently conducting an analysis

of tribal access to key FPLS functions using a secure Internet access via the Child Support Portal.

The FPLS was authorized by Congress in 1975 to help state child support agencies locate the physical whereabouts, earnings, income, and assets of parents for the purpose of establishing paternity and support obligations, collecting child support, and enforcing child support financial and medical obligations.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 expanded the FPLS to include the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) and the Federal Case Registry (FCR). PRWORA also authorized the Financial Institution Data Match program that was further simplified by the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998.

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 expanded OCSE's authority, through the FPLS, to operate the Insurance Match program to compare information on individuals owing past-due child support with information maintained by insurers (or their agents) concerning any insurance claims, settlements, awards, and payments.

We are analyzing our FPLS capabilities and assets to determine the best approach to delivering FPLS access to tribes. Technical analysis takes time and will require further conversations and consultations with tribes to ensure we are being thoughtful about the processes involved.

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*The MTS Flash is a bi-monthly publication of the Division of State and Tribal Systems (DSTS), in full collaboration with other divisions in the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.*

We will schedule at least one conversation to talk about the access capabilities and requirements, as well as about the implications and responsibilities of access. Stay tuned.

## Reawakening NIEM in the Division of State and Tribal Systems



HHS has identified the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) as a potential framework for effectively enhancing the interoperability and standardization of health and human services data exchange. NIEM offers a

proven approach for developing standardized, reusable information exchanges and has been adopted across federal, state, and local government. In order to support standards-based human service information



sharing across exchange partners, ACF has established the NIEM Human Services (HS) Domain and serves as the NIEM HS Domain Steward.

NIEM is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and HHS. It is designed to develop, disseminate and support enterprise-wide information exchange standards and processes that can enable jurisdictions to effectively share critical information in emergency situations, as well as support the day-to-day operations of agencies nationwide.

NIEM enables information sharing, focusing on information shared among organizations as part of their current or intended business practices. The NIEM methodology results in a common semantic understanding among participating organizations by using data formatted in a consistent manner. NIEM will standardize the format and content of data being shared, as well as provide tools and manage processes.

ACF provides voting membership to the NIEM Business Architecture Committee and is a member of the NIEM State, Local and Tribal (SLT) Outreach subcommittee. The mission of this subcommittee is to foster and support domain outreach to the SLT community to increase NIEM awareness, understanding, adoption and participation. If you have a conference or other event where there is interest in NIEM, consider having a representative from the NIEM community as a speaker. Please contact us at [interoperability@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:interoperability@acf.hhs.gov).

Stay tuned for future MTS Flash newsletters that will provide more about NIEM and its benefits to tribes using the Model Tribal System. In the meantime you can stay up-to-date on NIEM activities at [www.NIEM.gov](http://www.NIEM.gov) and at the ACF Interoperability Initiative website at [www.acf.hhs.gov/about/interoperability#chapter-2](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/about/interoperability#chapter-2).

## APD Conditional Approval Letters

In the September 2014 issue, we described the standard process for drafting and submitting an Advance Planning Document (APD) -- the means by which potential MTS users provide schedule and budget details and request funding for the initial installation and start of MTS operations.

That article provided the standard steps to meet all requirements and implement the schedule within a given fiscal year.

Our DSTS staff has always been there to assist with APD development and facilitate a smooth transition for interested tribes implementing the MTS at their sites as individuals or members of a consortium. To that end, many recent APD submittals have resulted in a conditional approval letter from the OCSE Commissioner. The conditional approval letter clearly outlines the steps or minor corrections that need to be made in a timely manner for full approval of the APD. The conditional approval letter asks for a revised APD or appropriate change pages to address any minor issues with the original APD. Even before the conditional approval letter is generated, there will have been several discussions and coordination between the tribal representatives, the MTS development team and OCSE staff that will mitigate any major stumbling blocks before final approval by the OCSE Commissioner. By addressing agreed upon issues and concerns in a timely manner, you will soon realize all the benefits of installing and using the MTS.



## Installation Status

We are pleased that the OCSE Commissioner has conditionally approved the APD for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As soon as those conditions for final approval are met, the tribe can begin installing and using the MTS through its membership in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Consortium.

DSTS has also received and performed initial assessments on APDs from the Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boys Reservation, an updated APD from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and APDs from the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho of Wyoming. We look forward to having these tribes join the MTS family at the end of the review and approval process.

Tribe	Status	Implementation Path	Installation Start Date
<b>Forest County Potawatomi Community of WI (FCPC)</b>	Operational	OCSE Supported	10/01/2012
Lac Courte Oreilles (FCPC Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	10/01/2013
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (FCPC Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	06/01/2013
Winnebago Tribe of NE (FCPC Consortium)	On Hold	Under Review	TBD
White Earth Nation (FCPC Consortium)	Installing	Tribal Organization Supported	10/01/2014
<b>Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)</b>	Operational	OCSE Supported	06/01/2013
Modoc Tribe of OK (EBCI Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	03/01/2014
Suquamish Tribe (EBCI Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	01/01/2014
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (EBCI Consortium)	Installing	Tribal Organization Supported	02/01/2015
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys Reservation (EBCI Consortium)	APD in Review	Tribal Organization Supported	TBD
<b>Cherokee Nation of OK (CNO)</b>	APD in Review	OCSE Supported	TBD
<b>Northern Arapho of Wyoming</b>	APD in Review	OCSE Supported	TBD

Status as of March 20, 2015.



## Meet the MTS Team: Raghavan Varadachari



Raghavan Varadachari joined the DSTS team in October 2014 as a Senior IT Specialist. Raghavan is certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and holds certification as a Six Sigma Green Belt. He has over 22 years of IT experience and has developed and managed multiple systems as a developer, database administrator and senior project manager.

Prior to joining OCSE, Raghavan was the Supervisory Branch Chief for Program Office support at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) responsible for managing enterprise-wide systems and Plum Book (a Presidential mandate and a book published by the U.S. Senate and House). He managed systems and projects that involved legislative mandates and delivery across the federal government using latest tools and technologies including open source. Prior to OPM, Raghavan worked in the private sector in senior project management and contracting/consulting positions at Department of Labor, Department of Education and the National Institute of Health.

He enjoys reading, music and gardening. During the weekends, he captains for the USTA/Montgomery Tennis team with his twin boys and other high school kids.

### A NOTE FROM COMMISSIONER TURETSKY:

We would be remiss not to bid a fond farewell to Joe Bodmer, who is retiring at the end of May after 35 years of service with the federal government. Joe has worked tirelessly on the MTS. He conducted workgroup meetings to gather information on the systems requirements; held countless meetings showcasing the system and providing demonstrations; and provided guidance on the APD process, and training and technical assistance for those using the MTS. Joe truly helped the automation of the tribal child support programs move forward.

**THANK YOU, JOE! See you in cyberspace!**

Raghavan Varadachari will be Joe's successor as the MTS Project Lead.

## MTS History



**2000:** Interim final rule for tribal child support programs published

**2002-2005:** Tribal Systems Workgroup studied feasibility of automating tribal child support programs, developed essential system requirements, and created the general system design

**2004:** Final rule for tribal child support programs published (45 CFR Part 309)

**2006:** Feasibility study, market study and cost-benefit analysis for MTS completed

**2007:** Concurrence of ACF Assistant Secretary to build MTS; software development begins

**2009:** Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC) selected to pilot test the MTS

**2010:** Modoc Tribe joins pilot testing; tribal system regulations published (45 CFR Part 310)

**2012:** MTS Pilot ended

**2013:** Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of NC (EBCI) begins installation with OCSE support

**2014:** Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) functionality is added to the MTS. Installations continue for two consortium member tribes.

**2015:** Chippewa Cree, Cherokee Nation, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho submit Advance Planning Documents for funding to install the MTS.

For more information or to offer article ideas:

Raghavan Varadachari, MTS Project Lead  
MTSProject@acf.hhs.gov

Paige Hausburg, Tribal Coordinator  
Paige.Hausburg@acf.hhs.gov

