



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 selected to pilot test the MTS

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

2012: MTS Pilot ended

2013: EBCI begins installation as the first OCSE-supported tribe

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Happy Holidays from the MTS Team



Happy Holidays to you and your families on behalf of the Office of Child Support Enforcement!

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an overview of our Model Tribal System (MTS) nationwide implementation status for 2013. At the beginning of 2013, we completed the pilot tribe implementations with the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma and the Forest County

Potawatomi Community (FCPC). During 2013, we added the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and made some major enhancements to the system including Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) and Manual Bank Reconciliation.

In addition to the three tribes mentioned we are actively working with the following tribes on their installations:

Tribe	Installation Path	Estimated Implementation
Lac Courte Oreilles	Consortium – FCPC	2nd quarter FY14
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Consortium – FCPC	2nd quarter FY14
Suquamish Tribe of Washington	Consortium – EBCI	3rd quarter FY14
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Consortium – FCPC	3rd quarter FY14
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	OCSE Supported	4th quarter FY14

We are pleased with the progress made to date and thank all of these tribes for their hard work.

In addition to working directly with tribes, we have worked hard to build the infrastructure needed to maintain the implementation.

- Established the MTS Project Team and national implementation schedule
- Established the MTS Change Control Board to help guide future MTS improvements
- Developed user guides and manuals to support system training and use
- Developed the monthly MTS Flash to keep communications flowing between OCSE and the tribes
- Developed processes and procedures for an MTS Help Desk for OCSE Supported tribes
- Established the MTS Project email box to facilitate communication





Frequently Asked Questions



These questions address the MTS Implementation. If you have any questions you would like answered, please contact us at: MTSProject@acf.hhs.gov.

Question 1: Where can I find out more about the MTS, including functionality, technical documentation, news, and training presentations?

Answer 1: OCSE publishes a monthly newsletter, MTS Flash. Detailed descriptions of the MTS functionality, technical documentation, and all previous communications can be found on our [website](#). If you conduct a search for “MTS” on the OCSE website, you will find the complete list of all MTS documents. If there is something you cannot find, please contact us at MTSProject@acf.hhs.gov.

Question 2: What are the personal computer hardware and server configuration recommendations for use with the MTS?

Answer 2: The configuration recommendations for computers and server distributed to all tribes in [PIQT-13-01](#) are reviewed and updated regularly. The most recent versions can be found on our [website](#). It is important to consider these recommendations before purchasing [computers](#) and [servers](#). We created the recommendations to ensure that tribes have the latest technological equipment and software.

Question 3: How can our tribe see a demonstration of the MTS?

Answer 3: Send an email to MTSProject@acf.hhs.gov and OCSE will arrange a demonstration.

Question 4: What are the MTS implementation options available to tribes?

Answer 4: There are four options:

- OCSE Supported: Use OCSE support with installation, testing, and configuration activities (similar to our work with the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma and Forest County Potawatomi Community).
- Independently Supported: Receive the MTS system and use your own internal or contracted information technology resources to manage the installation, testing, and configuration activities.
- Tribal Organization Supported: Join a tribal organization such as a consortium or tribal services group. These groups are comprised of one lead tribe with several member tribes. We expect there will be several tribal organizations offering a range of services from training to comprehensive IT support.
- Self-Implementing: Receive/install, test, and configure the MTS using internal or contract information technology resources and then alter or expand it for your tribe’s unique business processes.

Each option has implications for your tribe. The chart below highlights a few of the major points that you should consider as you choose a path that fits your needs.

The first three options will allow you to receive and accept system updates from OCSE as the MTS continues to evolve and grow. OCSE gathers feedback from tribes to adjust the system and to add functionality in order to keep pace with the growing needs of the tribal child support program. If you choose the Self-Implementing path, although you will be able to make whatever changes you want, it will limit the amount of support you receive from OCSE in the future.



This is because your system may no longer resemble the original MTS, and any changes OCSE incorporates into the MTS may not be compatible with changes you may have made to your copy of the MTS as a Self-Implementing tribe.

Major implications of the implementation paths:

	Who provides technical implementation support?	Will your tribe have input on changes to the MTS?	Will your tribe obtain new releases?	Will your tribe obtain help desk support from OCSE?
OCSE Supported	OCSE (based on resources)	Yes, as members of the Change Control Board	Yes	Yes, during installation, very limited thereafter
Independently Supported	Tribal resources (internal or contractual)	Yes, as members of the Change Control Board	Yes	Very limited, based on available resources
Tribal Organization Supported	Lead Tribe	Yes, through the Lead Tribe who will serve as your representative on the Change Control Board	Yes, through the Lead Tribe	No, support is provided by the Lead Tribe
Self-Implementing	Tribal resources (internal or contractual)	No	Yes, but you will need to do extensive testing prior to using any new MTS releases	No, some limited initial technical support is possible

Meet the MTS Team: Joseph Bodmer



We are pleased to introduce Joseph Bodmer. Joe is the Director of the Division of State and Tribal Systems in OCSE and is certified as both a Project Management Professional (PMP) and Master Project Manager (MPM). With over 31 years of experience in project management, systems planning, procurement, and integration, Joe currently directs OCSE's delivery of technical assistance to states implementing child support enforcement systems. Joe also leads OCSE's collaboration and oversight efforts on automation issues with tribal programs, and serves as

the project director for the design, development and nationwide launch of the MTS. Lastly, Joe is the Director of the Administration for Children and Families' Interoperability Initiative Project: a collection of collaborative, interdisciplinary information technology projects designed to promote horizontal integration, facilitate shared services, and improve the exchange of data across the landscape of systems supporting health and human services programs.

Prior to joining OCSE in 1988, Joe held management and consulting positions in both the U.S. Navy and the private sector. Joe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island.

For more information or to offer article ideas

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www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/tribal-systems