



MTS Supports Sending Electronic Payments to States



In 2014, the MTS was modified to allow for the creation and management of electronic payment accounts for individual

participants and state child support agencies, including interstate payments between State Disbursement Units (SDUs). This provided state or participant payees the option of having their disbursements processed via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

EFT is a system of transferring money from one bank account directly to another without any paper money changing hands. Examples of EFT include direct deposit of payroll, credit card transactions, ATM transactions, and point of sale transactions. EFT may be used for both credit transfers and debit transfers. These transactions are processed by banks through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network. Corporate Trade Exchange (CTX) type ACH transactions support debit or credit of funds between corporate entities. CTX is used to send payments to state child support agencies. A few benefits of using electronic payments to states include:

- cost savings by not printing checks, including delivery, postage, and labor costs;
- faster delivery, convenience, and ease of use;
- safer and more secure than carrying checks; and
- a green alternative to processing and mailing hundreds of paper checks.

Prior to 2015, North Carolina was the only state receiving electronic payments from MTS. Because of the variations in SDU processing—required fields and format of the CTX file differs for each state SDU—OCSE worked with states individually to ensure compatibility with MTS.

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The MTS Flash is a quarterly publication of the Division of State and Tribal Systems (DSTS), in full collaboration with other divisions within OCSE.

This year, OCSE implemented and validated compatibility of CTX format files with six states resulting in a total of seven states that are receiving electronic payments via MTS: Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. OCSE has received requests for California and Wyoming to be implemented and tested, and plans to work with other states in the future.

Interested in sending electronic payments to a state not already validated? OCSE will assist. Send a request to OCSE through your consortium lead (if applicable), directly to the MTS help desk at MTSProject@acf.hhs.gov, or through the Change Control Board bi-weekly meetings.

Installation Status

We are pleased that the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation installed and is using the MTS through its membership in the EBCI consortium. Additionally, Eastern Shoshone completed its installation and is currently using MTS. Following OCSE approval of an updated Advance Planning Document (APD) from Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, they are currently installing MTS through their EBCI consortium membership.



The Division of State and Tribal Systems (DSTS) has also received and performed initial assessments on APDs from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma 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. We congratulate White Earth, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and Eastern Shoshone for completing their installation this year and welcome them to the MTS family.

Tribe	Status	Implementation Path	Installation Start Date	"Operational" Date
Forest County Potawatomi Community of WI (FCPC)	Operational	OCSE Supported	01/01/2012	10/01/2012
Lac Courte Oreilles (FCPC Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	08/01/2013	02/01/2014
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (FCPC Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	02/01/2014	10/01/2014
White Earth Nation (FCPC Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	10/01/2014	04/01/2015
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of NC (EBCI)	Operational	OCSE Supported	06/01/2013	12/11/2013
Modoc Tribe of OK (EBCI Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	01/01/2012	07/18/2012
Suquamish Tribe (EBCI Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	02/01/2014	08/01/2014
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (EBCI Consortium)	Operational	Tribal Organization Supported	02/01/2015	07/23/2015
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys Reservation (EBCI Consortium)	Installing	Tribal Organization Supported	09/01/2015	02/01/2016 (Expected)
Eastern Shoshone of Wyoming	Operational	OCSE Supported	04/01/2015	10/19/2015
Cherokee Nation of OK	Awaiting Revised APD	OCSE Supported	TBD	TBD
Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming	Awaiting Revised APD	OCSE Supported	TBD	TBD

Status as of December 5, 2015. Consortium leads are bolded.



Meet the MTS Team: Natalie Njoku



Natalie Njoku joined the DSTS team in July 2015 as a Senior Analyst. She currently supports OCSE's delivery of technical assistance to states implementing child support systems and the MTS development, implementation, and roll-out. Natalie has 12 years of industry and government systems engineering experience, and is known for delivering secure and effective software applications to major government customers on schedule and within budget. She has demonstrated proficiency in high-profile contract project management, systems development life cycle management, systems analysis, release management, systems security, requirements management, and test management. Natalie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Georgia State University and a Master of Science degree in Quantitative Software Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. Natalie enjoys travelling with her family, dancing, reading, and a good TV show, movie, or political debate.

David Jibodu



David Jibodu joined the DSTS team in November 2015 as an IT Specialist. David currently supports the MTS National roll-out, and MTS security assessment and operations. He has 16 years of experience with diverse IT functions, such as software application development, systems architecture, security assessments, and operations management. A greater part of his career has focused on developing and managing complex IT projects, such as the Executive Schedule C System at the Office of Personnel Management used to store information on federal employees, a web-based collaborative workspace system and an intranet portal for the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration that supports regional offices, and the Chief Information Officers Council website. David earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems from Strayer University. David enjoys attending his son's and daughter's football and soccer games and walking his three dogs. In his spare time when he's not coding, David works on his cars and motorcycles.

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 Model Tribal System (MTS) completed

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

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

2010: Modoc Tribe joined pilot testing; final rule for tribal system regulations published (45 CFR Part 310)

2012: MTS pilot ended. FCPC and Modoc installed MTS with OCSE support. Modoc became the first tribal child support program to install and run operational MTS with FCPC going live two months later.

2013: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of NC (EBCI) installed with OCSE support. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) functionality added to the MTS.

2014: Installations continued for two consortium member tribes with LaCourte Oreilles, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and Squamish Tribe installations completed.

2015: White Earth, Eastern Shoshone and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation completed installation of MTS. Chippewa Cree begins installation with EBCI's consortium support.

For more information or to offer article ideas:

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