



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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The Groundhog Did It!



Was the groundhog's prediction correct this year?

We won't know for sure if the groundhog was completely right until March (Groundhog Day plus 6 weeks), but it looks as though it was right on the money so far! News reports indicated that the official prediction was for six more weeks of winter and what followed in February was an amazing illustration that the prediction on February 2 was correct!

In spite of the extreme weather in many areas of the country, including areas that were not accustomed to harsh winters and so may have not been totally prepared for it, progress was definitely made on the Model Tribal System (MTS) project during this shortest month of the year. In spite of the holiday season winding down and facility closures and delays due to the extreme weather, we've seen several indications of continuing success.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), for example, had the first OCSE supported installation become fully operational since nationwide availability was announced on January 1, 2013. They are operating the latest available version of the MTS, including the Electronic Funds Transfer and Debit Card Processing enhancements. EBCI is expected to join the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC) as a tribal consortium very soon.

Several tribes, including Mille Lacs and Lac Courte Oreilles of the FCPC consortium and the Suquamish Tribe of Washington state, are currently in the process of installing the MTS, while Advance Planning Documents are pending from a number of potential consortium members. In addition, OCSE's next supported installation of the MTS will be with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, with project initiation expected to begin in March or April. Seems 2014 is shaping up as a very busy year.





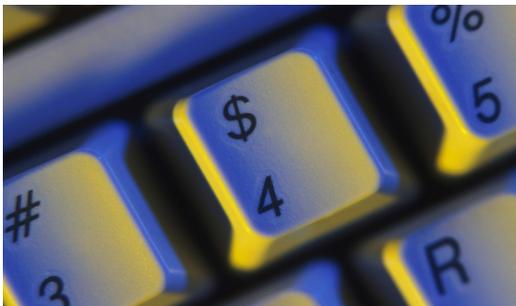
Status of MTS Nationwide Installations – *At-A-Glance*

As of February 25, 2014

Tribes	Status	Implementation Path	Installation Start Date	Expected “Operational” Date
Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC)	Operational	OCSE Supported	10/01/2012	03/31/2013
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (FCPC Consortium)	Installing	Tribal Organization Supported	06/01/2013	10/31/2013
Lac Courte Oreilles (FCPC Consortium)	Installing	Tribal Organization Supported	10/01/2013	12/31/2013
Winnebago Tribe of NE (FCPC Consortium)	APD Review In-Process	Tribal Organization Supported	TBD	TBD
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of NC (EBCI)	Operational	OCSE Supported	06/01/2013	12/11/2013
Modoc Tribe of OK (EBCI Consortium)	Operational	OCSE Supported	10/01/2012	03/31/2014
The Suquamish Tribe (EBCI Consortium)	Installing	Tribal Organization Supported	01/01/2014	03/31/2014
Cherokee Nation of OK (CNO)	APD Review In-Process	OCSE Supported	03/31/2014	09/31/2014

Note: Tribe names in **BOLD** denote current or pending MTS Change Control Board members.

Show Me The Money



This month’s edition of the MTS Flash highlights a key functionality of the MTS. In this article, we present the different methods of disbursing payments from the MTS.

Disbursing Funds from the MTS

Disbursing child support payments to clients is the main purpose of the MTS. The MTS has three distinct ways of getting payments to a client.

1. Check Print

The MTS Check Print function enables a financial worker to select and print paper checks. Multiple payments to the same payee are automatically combined into one check. The check stub shows the amount and source of each payment.



The appearance of the check is defined by the tribe through the MTS system configuration module. A tribal seal, an official signature, and/or a watermark may be added to the check in addition to payment information, bank information, and a magnetic-encoded check number.

A Check Register Report file in MS Excel spreadsheet format is automatically produced when checks are printed or when a check print process is canceled. The Check Register Report shows the status of each check currently being processed.

1	Report # 12		Check Register Report		01/27/2014
3	Check #	Name	Memo	Amount	Status
5	38	Denise Byrd	32	750000.00	Issued
6	36	Julia Gilbert	26	100.00	Issued
7	34	Kathryn Romero	22	50000.00	Issued
8	37	Katie Golden	30	44.34	Issued
9	35	Nathan Diaz	22	5.00	Voided
10	33	Rebecca Burke	20	105.00	Voided
11					

Checks can be previewed before printing. Checks that are lost or destroyed can be cancelled and reissued.

2. External Check Print

In many tribes, the child support agency does not have the authority to print checks, instead providing payment information to a tribal finance agency. The MTS also supports this process, which it calls External Check Print. If configured to do External Check Print, the MTS will not print checks, but will produce a more detailed Excel spreadsheet of all pending payments.

1	Full Name of the Payee on the check	Type of payee	Amount disbursed	Check Number	Check Status	Date of Check Print(mm/dd/yyyy)	Address Line 1 of the Payee	Address Line 2 of the Payee	PO Box or Suite Number	City	State
2	Nicole Marie Davidson	Participant	30.00	To Print		7/24/2012	73 Diaz St			Church	MD
3	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe ND SD	Foreign Tribe	50.00	To Print		7/24/2012	North Standing Rock Avenue	Change	PO Box D	Fort Y	ND
4	Cindy Hale	Participant	55.00	To Print		7/24/2012	114 Jones St			Moosil	AL
5	Zuni Test Tribe - Albuquerque	Tribal Child Suppo	20.00	To Print		7/24/2012	120 South St			Albuqu	NM
6											
7											
8											

The spreadsheet includes the amount due and the name and address of the payee and can be provided to the tribe's payment agency for them to disburse the funds according to the tribe's business process. The spreadsheet can be updated with payment status and reloaded onto the MTS so that it can maintain a record of successful disbursements.



3. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)



In addition to generation of paper checks, the MTS also supports disbursement through electronic payments. Electronic payments can be made to a client's bank account, an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, or to a state disbursement unit.

The MTS will produce an EFT file that can be uploaded to a participating bank's secure web site, providing a fast and secure transfer of funds. Using the MTS EFT capability reduces cost and paperwork, and eliminates lost and stolen checks.

Meet the MTS Team: Chinh Dao



This month we spotlight Chinh Dao. Chinh is a Senior IT Specialist in the OCSE Division of State and Tribal Systems (DSTS). Chinh has more than 29 years of experience in developing, implementing, maintaining and managing government computers and information systems. In 1988, Chinh started in the government as a computer specialist working on internal computer systems. In June 1999, Chinh moved to OCSE's Division of Consumer Services to help roll out a number of new computer programs. He has led the design, development and management of the security plans for many OCSE application systems, the website, and various electronic mailing lists. At present, Chinh is supporting work on the MTS application. He is reviewing and updating MTS user guide documents (ensuring 508 compliance) and managing the DSTS website to participate in the MTS rollout.

Prior to joining ACF in 1988, Chinh was with Unisys Corporation as a Computer Systems Analyst. Chinh holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Math from the State University of New York at Albany.

For more information or to offer article ideas

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