



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 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: MTS Launch planning begins

MTS Implementation



We are pleased to announce that the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) will be our next OCSE-supported installation, followed by the Cherokee Nation. We are currently working with EBCI on the Advance Planning Document (APD) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process. Their implementation is planned to begin this month and be completed by the end of 2013. We are grateful to all of the tribes that responded to our Dear Tribal Leader Letter about the MTS implementation. Now the hard work begins as EBCI prepares to work through the beginning stages of their implementation and we move forward with the broader implementation of the MTS.

MTS at the National Tribal Child Support Association (NTCSA) Conference



Joseph Bodmer, MTS Project Director, will be speaking at the *13th Annual Training Conference and Membership Meeting: Ensuring Our Children's Well-Being Through Financial & Emotional Support for the Next 7 Generations* being held on June 23-27. This year's meeting, hosted by the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, will feature

two information sessions on the MTS led by Joe.

The first session will be on the APD process to assist those tribes who are currently going through the process or are interested in doing so. This session is designed to answer all of your questions regarding the content and format of an APD and its subsequent approval process. Tribes will learn about the importance of the MOU and the role it plays in the application process.

The second session will focus on the national launch of the MTS. This session will provide a broad view of the implementation and next steps for OCSE and tribes. You will also find out more about the upcoming EBCI implementation and the current enhancements being added to the MTS.

In addition to the two information sessions, there will also be an MTS booth set up in the exhibit hall where you can try out the MTS for yourself. We will walk you through the system and showcase its many features.

As always we are honored to be a part of the NTCSA conference, and we are looking forward to talking with you. So be on the lookout for Joe's sessions and bring along any questions you may have.

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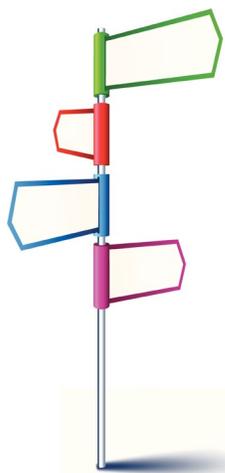


Deciding which Automated Solution is Right for You

According to 45 CFR Part 310, there are four basic options for tribes who are seeking federal funding for their automated solutions:

1. Office Automation
2. Implement an existing tribal system
3. Implement an existing state system
4. Implement the MTS

If you are on the fence regarding your decision, here are some questions that may help guide your thinking:



- Do you have an existing child support system, and is it meeting your needs?
- How old and complex is your existing system?
- How long has your program been operating?
- What is your annual child support budget?
- How many staff do you have?
- Do you have multiple offices?
- How many cases do you manage?
- How much is your caseload expected to grow?
- Do you have geographical challenges with getting IT support?
- Are your program processes and procedures sufficiently documented?
- What is the level of expertise of your existing IT support?
- What are your other tribal priorities?

If you are a small tribe with a limited number of cases, office automation can be the perfect solution. It would provide a framework for your processes and could be built around existing Microsoft Office products like Excel and Access. For those tribes who are interested in truly implementing a new system (tribal, state or MTS) you need to make sure you are prepared technologically and financially to give the project the priority it will need.

MTS Enhancements



As we ramp up for the EBCI implementation, we are also pleased to announce that the system design has been completed for the new Automated Clearing House (ACH) for direct deposit/debit card enhancement to process payment transactions on the system. The ACH enhancement will allow a tribe to disburse payments to a client's bank account via electronic direct deposit. It will also allow a tribe to disburse payments to a client via direct deposit through a state disbursement unit (SDU). We have assisted in the completion of the project plan and are working with EBCI to develop and test the ACH modifications.

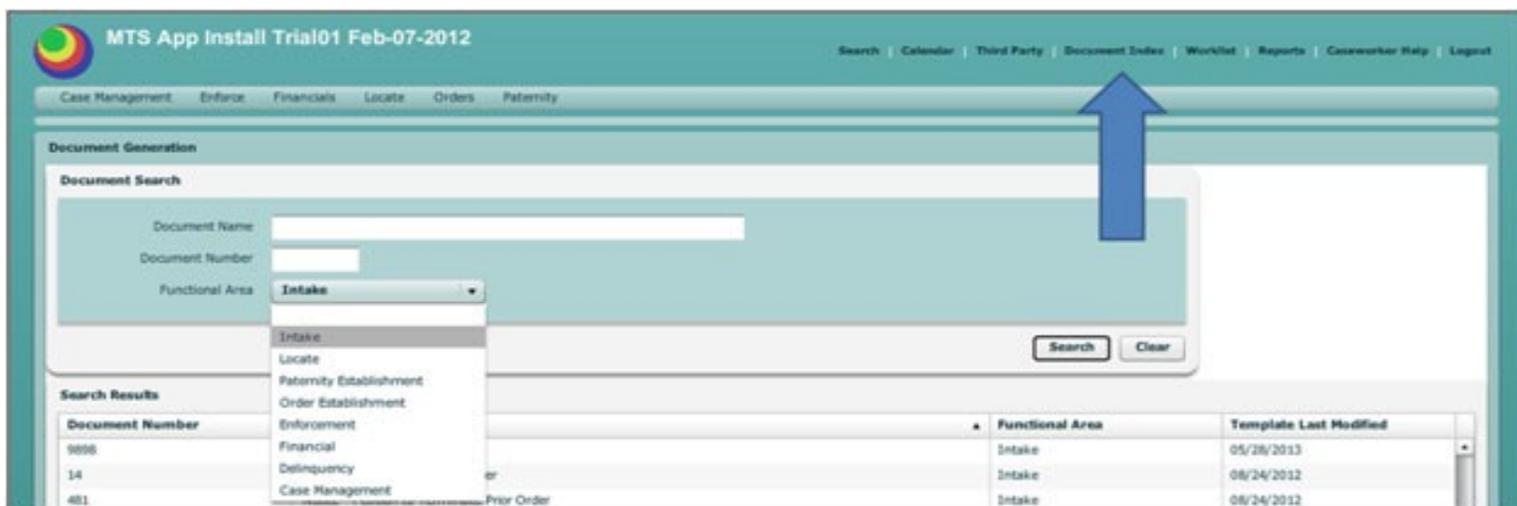
We are also beginning work on a second enhancement to the system that will allow for enhanced management of the bank reconciliation process. Manual bank reconciliation is designed to enhance the automated reconciliation currently provided with the MTS. This enhancement will allow the user more flexibility to manage all financial transactions that fall outside of the automated function. We are beginning the initial discussions with the Forest County Potawatomi Community on this enhancement and we will keep you updated as the work progresses.



New Tool for Tribes: Advance Planning Document (APD) Template

The new APD Template with a draft MOU is now posted for your use. The new template has a lot of examples to use when developing your APD. You can find the template at: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/tribal-apd-template.

MTS Spotlight: Document Generation



The MTS has over 130 document templates embedded in the system. The document generation function uses these templates to create letters, notices, motions, orders, and other documents. Each document is tied to a specific functional area of case processing and can be accessed by both caseworkers and financial workers.

Each document is then customized to the specific case and can be printed and previewed in either Rich Text Format (RTF) or Portable Document Format (PDF). When created, the new PDF document becomes part of the case record. When an RTF file is generated, it can be edited and saved in Microsoft Word.

The actual templates for your tribe will be created as part of the system implementation. Systems Administrators on the MTS can customize the templates and create new ones that are specific to your needs. Tribes will select which document templates will be used or created as part of any implementation of the MTS. If you have any questions on this (or any other MTS functions), please contact us at: MTSProject@acf.hhs.gov.

For more information or to offer article ideas

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