
ARC Monthly Bulletin – December 2009

Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. Development of the FY 2011 Interagency Agreement and Pricing Packages Underway

ARC has begun the process of updating service descriptions, and calculating prices for FY 2011 and estimates for FY 2012 customer agreements. We began in October by requesting customers to provide expected service level changes by the end of December and expect to deliver all customer agreement packages by the end of March 2010. We plan to contact each customer in March to schedule agreement reviews and are striving to finalize FY 2011 agreements by the end of May 2010. We sincerely appreciate your agency's cooperation and participation in improving our annual agreement renewal process. For more information on this effort, please contact Jason Hill at 304-480-7227 or jason.hill@bpd.treas.gov.

2. No Changes to the TSP Contribution Limits for Tax Year 2010

The TSP regular contribution limit for tax year 2010 will remain at \$16,500. For Federal agencies paid through the National Finance Center – including all of ARC's HR customers – the 2010 tax year spans from December 20, 2009, through December 18, 2010. To distribute \$16,500 over the entire tax year, employees should elect to contribute \$635 per pay period to the TSP. Employees should make this election between December 6 and December 19, 2009, for the change to begin with the new tax year.

Employees who will be age 50 or older during 2010 may again contribute up to an additional \$5,500 in tax-deferred "catch-up" contributions – only if regular contributions for the tax year will total \$16,500. To distribute the \$5,500 over the entire tax year, employees should elect to contribute \$212 per pay period to the TSP. This election should also be made between December 6 and December 19, 2009.

If you miss the window between December 6 and December 19, 2009, or have other calculation questions, the TSP's elective deferral calculator can be found at <http://www.tsp.gov/calc/contributions/index.html>. You can also read more about the TSP annual contribution limit at <http://www.tsp.gov/forms/oc91-13.pdf>. For instructions on changing your TSP

contribution amount, contact Jennifer Thompson at 304-480-8275 or send an email to benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

3. Upcoming Changes in Take Home Pay

Many employees will notice changes in their net pay during the upcoming months for a variety of reasons. Federal, state, and local tax changes and the 2010 annual pay adjustment could impact the amount of your take home pay in the coming weeks. In addition, there are a number of other factors that could impact your net pay, including changes in your Flexible Spending Account (FSA), Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB), Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) contributions.

A more detailed description of changes in take home pay will be posted in early January on your agency's ARC customer web page at https://arc.publicdebt.treas.gov/customer_access_pages.htm. Please contact Jennifer Thompson at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov if you have questions about these changes.

4. Acquisition Planning – Assistance Available

It's never too early to start acquisition planning, and ARC is eager to assist you today. ARC's Procurement cut-off dates for 2010-2011 will be the same as those set for 2009-2010. Additional information is posted on your customer access pages at https://arc.publicdebt.treas.gov/customer_access_pages.htm under 2010-2011 Cut Off Dates. We are aware of the numerous challenges that agencies are facing trying to meet OMB's mandate to reduce spending by 3.5 percent and eliminate higher risk contracts by 10 percent this year. Please contact your procurement support team leader at 304-480-7137 so we can share ideas to help you meet the OMB mandates.

5. IPP Pilot Begins

ARC and FMS have collaborated to begin a pilot of Internet Payment Platform (IPP). The pilot began in early November, and select vendors have been submitting invoices electronically for three ARC customers. The pilot is scheduled to run through March 2010 and is expected to provide ARC and FMS with opportunities to assess overall readiness, validate processes and procedures, and test the success of our vendor registration strategy. If you have questions about IPP, please contact Dana Strecker at 304-480-8460 or dana.strecker@bpd.treas.gov.

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