
ARC Monthly Bulletin – September 2014
Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. Fiscal Year 15 Administrative Agreements

As FY 15 approaches, we appreciate the cooperation of those customers who worked with us to review and sign their agreements. We are actively working with customers to ensure that all information and questions have been resolved so that the remaining agreements may be signed prior to the period of performance start date. We encourage all customers to reach out to their customer service representative to resolve any open issues.

For additional information, contact Michael Satterfield at 304-480-5527 or Michael.Satterfield@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

2. Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) Report

We received the SSAE 16 report from KPMG LLP that covers Financial Management Services, Procurement Processing and General Computer controls. The report indicated our controls were designed and operated effectively throughout the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. TFF-ARC has received 11 consecutive unqualified opinions for this type of engagement. The report is available at <https://arc.fiscal.treasury.gov/about-arc/quality-and-value/>.

For additional information, contact Heather Lewis at 304-480-8280 or Heather.Lewis@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

3. Shared Service Forum

We will be participating as an exhibitor at the Shared Service Forum September 16, 2014, at the Grand Hyatt Washington. The forum is a one-day event designed specifically around the questions and issues being addressed by the Federal Shared Services Community. Last year more than 450 attendees participated. To register for this event, visit the ACT-IAC website at <https://actiac.org/events/sharedservicesforum>.

For additional information, contact Michael Satterfield at 304-480-5527 or Michael.Satterfield@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

4. Opportunities for Collaboration

We are committed to fostering a partnership with our customers. We strive to share information and work effectively with you to ensure that our service lines deliver the high level of service your organization needs. We encourage you to meet with our personnel whenever possible. On-site visits to our Parkersburg, WV facility are an excellent way to get to know and collaborate with your service providers. Additionally, we offer several meeting tools including video conference for your convenience when travel is not possible. Our customer service representatives are available to assist you with coordinating any meetings or visits, as well as to answer any day-to-day questions you have about the services you receive.

For additional information, contact Michael Satterfield at 304-480-5527 or Michael.Satterfield@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

5. Personnel Action Workflow System (PAWS)

We continue to work toward more effective processes that provide increased value to you, our customers. The PAWS system will replace our current Classification and Recruitment Reporting System (CaRRS). Expected implementation will be November 1, 2014. Additional communication will be sent to you and other stakeholders that are involved with the staffing and classification processes as we get closer to the go live date.

For additional information, contact Mike Cundiff at 304-480-7130 or Michael.Cundiff@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

6. Phased Retirement Regulations Issued

Phased retirement is a new human resources tool that allows full-time employees to work a part-time schedule while beginning to draw retirement benefits. It allows agencies to retain employees who would have fully retired, but who are willing to remain on the rolls for a period of time on a part-time schedule while engaging in mentoring.

OPM issued the final regulations on Phased Retirement on August 8, 2014, and the new program will become effective November 6, 2014. Although OPM will begin accepting Phased Retirement applications as early as November 6, 2014, applications will not be processed until the applicant's agency has established their own individual policy for implementing Phased Retirement. Our Employee Benefits Branch will answer general questions concerning phased retirement at this time; however, we will not provide phased retirement estimates to employees until their agency has finalized their phased retirement policy.

OPM has provided a nice summary of information on Phased Retirement at this website: <http://chcoc.gov/files/Employment-as-a-Phased-Retiree-Q-and-A.pdf>.

For additional information, contact the Benefits Service Center at 304-480-8275 or Benefits@BPD.Treas.Gov.

7. Year-end Memorandum

During the July and August time period, accounting services personnel began preparing the year end memorandum. The memorandum identifies the relevant activities both the Administrative Resource Center and your agency will need to perform in order to ensure an efficient year-end close. The information contained in the memorandum includes the documents to be provided and the dates for which these items will be due. The memorandum has been placed on your customer page (<https://arc.fiscal.treasury.gov/login/>) and can be accessed by selecting "Financial Management" under the "Guidance/References" section. Our accountant for your agency has also provided a copy of the year end memo to the accounting Point of Contact at your agency.

For additional information, contact Damon Wren at 304-480-7166 or Damon.Wren@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

8. CARS Conversion Status

Intragovernmental Payments and Collections (IPAC)

As of September 1, we have transitioned 33 of our 34 full service financial management customer agencies to CARS IPAC reporter. One customer agency which has significant transaction volume, requiring the most collaboration with agency staff and federal trading partners, is targeted for CARS IPAC reporter transition on October 1.

Collections

As of September 1, we have transitioned 32 of our 34 full service financial management customer agencies to CARS collections reporter. One customer agency which has significant transaction volume, requiring the most collaboration with agency staff, is targeted for CARS collections reporter transition on October 1.

The remaining customer agency has unique collection activity reported in Treasury's Payment Information Repository (PIR) which cannot be transitioned to CARS collections reporter until Treasury's current central accounting system (STAR) is decommissioned, projected February 2015.

Disbursements

We are currently performing integration and user acceptance testing on various Oracle patches designed to deliver TAS/BETC functionality for disbursements. We are planning that the patches will allow all our eligible financial management customer agencies to transition to CARS disbursements reporter effective October 1 with the patches being applied to our Oracle production environment the first weekend of October. Since an agency cannot be both an SF-224 and CARS reporter for the same function in the same month, no payments will be disbursed the first three days of October. We are planning the first payment files containing TAS/BETC data for all our customer agencies can be created by our accounting system on Monday, October 6 and disbursed the following day.

We have one customer agency that has been in contact with Treasury, OMB and Legal Counsel to clear an outstanding Statement of Difference (SOD) related to a disbursement. Although our payment file format for this agency will be TAS/BETC compliant in October 2014, Treasury will not allow us to transition this agency to CARS disbursements reporter until the SOD related to the disbursement event is cleared by providing a valid Treasury Account Symbol.

TAS/BETC Patch

As noted in correspondence sent to system users on August 6 by our Oracle Support Team, Prism, Oracle Federal Financials and Discoverer will be unavailable beginning Friday, October 3 at 6PM and will again be fully functional no later than Monday, October 6 at 6AM. System patching will occur over the weekend for TAS/BETC patch deployment. Users will not be locked out of the applications but accessing them is at the user's own risk as the applications will be intermittently unavailable for various amounts of time.

For additional information, contact Dana Morr at 304-480-7071 or Dana.Morr@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

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