









# Interstate Data Exchange Consortium

# **FAST LEVY UPDATE**

Federally Assisted State Transmitted Levy



Cathi Valdes New Mexico Deputy IV-D Director

There are two words that are almost always frowned upon in child support: **manual process**.

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) believes—along with its partnering agencies—that automation isn't the future: it's now! With this in mind, OCSE began an initiative to automate the exchange of information between state child support agencies and multistate financial institutions (MSFI) during the freeze and seize process. The Federally Assisted State Transmitted (FAST) Levy program will allow states and financial institutions (FI) to exchange information electronically and alleviate the need for a paper process.

FAST Levy will not affect information that states currently receive through the multistate financial institution data match (MSFIDM) program. States, OCSE, and MSFIs developed record layouts containing data elements required for MSFIs to respond to freeze/seize requests from states. OCSE will pick up files from states and send them to MSFIs. OCSE in turn will pick up files from MSFIs and send them to states. In other words, OCSE will be a "mailbox" for both states and FIs. The exchange process will be similar to the electronic income withholding order (e-IWO) program

The FAST Levy initiative began in 2011 and the pilot workgroup currently includes:

<u>State agencies</u>: California, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington

<u>Financial institutions</u>: JP Morgan Chase, U.S. Bank, Navy Federal Credit Union, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America

To date, OCSE has had over twenty meetings with the pilot states and FIs to discuss requirements, record layout, assumptions, and timeframes. To assist in the development of the record layouts, OCSE initially used the record layout for the electronic process in place between Washington and U.S. Bank—currently the only such process—as a

template. After careful deliberation and discussion between OCSE and the pilot participants, we're pleased to announce that the record layout was recently finalized.

Several states are coding for FAST Levy and will be working alongside OCSE for an August 2013 implementation.

FAST Levy will lessen the burden on both states and FIs when it comes to freezing and seizing assets. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Terry Bolger at <a href="terry.bolger@ssa.gov">terry.bolger@ssa.gov</a>.

## **ERICSA 2013**



Andrew Szymak Oklahoma FIDM Coordinator

The 2013 ERICSA conference was held in Orlando, Florida at the Disneyworld Resort on May 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. A good time was had by all attendees, and many interesting training sessions covering a wide variety of child support topics were presented, ranging from updates on establishment and enforcement to the latest news from Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Szymak, an IDEC Board Member and FIDM Coordinator for Oklahoma, was one of the many presenters at this year's conference. He presented two sessions: the first one was titled "Collecting Hard to Collect Earning: Finding the Right Tool for the Job." This session presented some of the latest collection tools available from OCSE, as well as ways that Oklahoma Child Support Services have put these tools to good use.

The second session that Andrew presented dealt with "Centralization Specialization of Services: Multiple States in a Consortium." This topic detailed the many benefits that can be derived from involvement and membership in a multi-state consortium, and between the two FIDM Consortiums. These consortiums work together to solve some of the challenging issues facing child support professionals, and include the sharing of bank and locate data across state lines.

## WICSEC 2013 in Fabulous Kansas City October 20 – 24, 2013

We're going to Kansas City, Kansas City Here We Come!

WICSEC will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Kansas City, a city that offers beautiful fountains, mouth-watering barbecue and a rich jazz heritage. But that's just the start of this Midwestern metropolis. Nicknamed the "Heart of America," Kansas City is a bi-state metropolitan area that straddles the Missouri-Kansas state line. Its location in the center of the country makes it very accessible. You'll find an easy-going spirit, and a people who are hard-working and warm and who display that signature Midwestern hospitality. The city's beauty sometimes surprises with its hilly terrain, spacious parks and wide boulevards—though with more working fountains than any other city but Rome, Kansas City's more than 200 fountains get the most attention.



#### **History**

You'll find a diverse cross section of American history in Kansas City. The city takes its roots from the Western frontier as the starting point for the Oregon, California and Santa Fe Trails. This Wild West heritage brought a large cattle industry, which has since moved on, but left a tradition of great steak and barbecue. Kansas City also has a rich jazz heritage, dating from the 1920s when the city ignored Prohibition and jazz musicians flocked there, creating an entertainment center with no equal during the era.

Famous names range from the outlaw Jesse James to Walt Disney, who opened his first animation studio here. President Harry Truman lived in nearby Independence, Missouri. Hallmark Cards is headquartered here, as are Sprint, H&R Block, Garmin and AMC Theatres, Russell Stover Candies, among others.

#### **The New Kansas City**

Today, you'll find a cosmopolitan city of 2 million people, featuring world-class attractions, fine dining, fantastic shopping and an eclectic art scene, not to mention KC's Midwestern hospitality, affordable prices and easy accessibility.

KC has been making national buzz. Here are just a few of things being said about the New Kansas City:

- "A Top 10 Destination for 2012" *Frommer's*, November 2011
- "A hotbed for high culture..." Budget Travel, December 2011
- "One of America's Best Downtowns" Forbes, October 2011

This excitement is thanks to a once-in-a-generation renaissance in Kansas City. More than \$9 billion in development has added major new attractions and revitalized the downtown area. Kansas City is in the national spotlight with several of these projects, and we invite you to experience them during your visit.

The heart of this revitalization is centered downtown, which has been transformed by the new eight-block Power & Light entertainment district and Sprint Center arena. You'll also find diverse neighborhoods like the Spanish architecture of the Country Club Plaza, African-American history at 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine and the art galleries of the Crossroads Arts District.

Kansas City offers a remarkable slate of museums including the National World War I Museum, American Jazz Museum, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. You'll find a vibrant arts scene, great shopping and numerous family friendly activities. The signature food is Kansas City-style barbecue, which is served up in more than 80 local restaurants. But you'll also find a diverse array of cuisine from innovative local chefs who are gaining national reputations.

#### **Host Hotel**

The 2013 WICSEC attendees will stay at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, which offers 724 guest rooms, a ballroom, health club, meeting facilities and The Brasserie restaurant. Inside the lobby, a spectacular 60-foot waterfall and garden is carved from the natural limestone hill into which the hotel was built and is one of the most-photographed spots in Kansas City. In November 2012, the property underwent an \$8 million renovation transformation, giving a facelift to the ballroom, meeting rooms and lobby.

### What's Nearby

Just steps away from the Westin are the international headquarters of Hallmark Cards and the three-level Crown Center Shops which offers something for everyone. Featuring more than 60 shops and restaurants, including the city's only Mobil Four-Star dining experience, The American Restaurant, Crown Center offers unique shopping and dining experiences. Three theatres are also housed inside Crown Center and include Broadway-style productions at the American Heartland Theatre, award-winning youth-oriented shows at The Coterie Theatre and innovative shows at the Off Center Theatre. Across the street are world-renowned family attractions – SEA LIFE Kansas City Aquarium and LEGOLAND Discovery Center Kansas City. Also at the complex is the Hallmark Visitors Center, which details the illustrious history of the world's leader in personal expression, while Kaleidoscope offers a creative art experience for children ages 5-12. All of this is connected to the shopping center by The Link, an elevated, climate-controlled pedestrian walkway!

#### Join us!

Please join us in fabulous Kansas City for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual WICSEC Training Conference. The dates are October 20 – 24, 2013 at the Westin Crown Center. For more information, visit our web site at <a href="https://www.wicsec.org">www.wicsec.org</a>.



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