



F E D E R A L
S T U D E N T A I D

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**Integration Partner Transition
Common Origination &
Disbursement (COD) Briefing**

May 2004

Project Overview

- The COD solution simplifies the process for schools to obtain financial aid for students. COD supports a common process, platform and record for FSA's participating schools to originate and disburse Title IV federal aid funds. Launched April 29, 2002 for the 2002-2003 award year.
- Replaced the Recipient Financial Management System (RFMS) and the Direct Loan Origination System (DLOS) with an integrated common system for the origination and disbursement of Pell Grant and Direct Loan funds.
- Established an integrated customer service call center.
- Launched a new website offering integrated views of school, student, program and disbursement data available 24x7.
- Consolidated sixteen flat files into one XML Common Record.
- Deployed new Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) technology for legacy interfaces (PEPS, CPS, NSLDS, DLSS, DCS, FMS, and SAIG).
- Converted millions of records from the legacy systems and retired those systems (August 2003).

Project Owners

- FSA COD Project Manager: Rosemary Beavers – (202) 377 – 3126
- System operations provided by Accenture

Business Functions

- **Schools**
 - Web-based draw down of funds to originate loans
 - Provides an integrated, streamlined process for multiple Title IV programs
 - Decreases the cycle time and resources dedicated to processing records on multiple platforms
 - Provides schools with integrated customer service through the use of one call center
 - Strengthens and simplifies reconciliation which leads to greater financial integrity
 - Creates flexibility and choices in how records are processed
- **Students**
 - Supports access to consolidated disbursement data
 - Provides quick turnaround on exceptions via real-time processing
 - Option to electronically sign master promissory notes using the Internet

Relationship to FSA's Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	Applicable to Project?	If yes, why?
Modernize & Integrate Systems	Yes	Streamlined loan processing capabilities Enabled the retirement of Recipient Financial Management System and Direct Loan Origination System
Improve Program Integrity	Yes	Improved substantiation rate on aid programs
Reduce Costs	Yes	Reduces operational expenses (including ongoing development and maintenance) Reduces customer service costs
Improve Products & Services	Yes	Simplified and timely delivery of funds to participating schools
Improve Human Capital	No	N/A

Relationship to FSA's 'Big Picture'

- Underlying business functions initiate contact with schools and provide information for other FSA processes.
- Origination and disbursement was defined as a business capability in the Enterprise Target State Vision, with the following high-level functional capabilities:
 - Award & Disbursement Processing
 - School Aid Payments
 - Funding Level Management

Delivery Process

- Utilized COD Steering Committee consisting of FSA program directors and managers to create initial conceptual design
- All requirements/design/testing are put through a standard SDLC methodology, with appropriate FSA approval points
- Utilized focus groups with participating schools to generate input on design process and future enhancements
- Participation at FSA Electronic Access Conferences and Software Developer's Conferences to share information and gather insight
- Testing of software included FSA User Acceptance Testing and Integrated System Testing with all trading partners personnel and contractors

Project Schedule

- System has been in production since 2002
- Annual COD releases in March of each year for the upcoming award year cycle, along with at least one other release of new functionality per year

Project Deliverables

- There are no 'deliverables' for the COD system
- FSA has access to system documentation
- Weekly status briefings are provided

Next Steps

- System is currently in operation mode with Accenture.
- The functionality served today by COD is functionality defined within scope of the Front End Business Integration procurement to allow for a streamlined application, origination and disbursement process.