COD Processing Update
May 2, 2014
NEWS/UPDATES

- **Import Capability for Direct Loan Rebuild File for DL Tools Users Available Late June 2014 (4/30/14)**

  As noted in an April 2, 2014 Electronic Announcement, Federal Student Aid added 12 additional fields to the Direct Loan (DL) Rebuild File as part of the April 11-14, 2014 COD System implementation. As a result, any DL Rebuild files produced after April 14, 2014 cannot be imported in to DL Tools for Windows, Release 13.0 because that version of the software does not include the additional fields. (Due to changing implementation schedules, the COD System update for the DL Rebuild File was implemented earlier than the DL Tools update.) Schools using DL Tools to import the DL Rebuild File can begin to do so when DL Tools, Release 14.0 is available in late June 2014.

  Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may cause schools. If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **COD System Operational Notice – Direct Loan Origination Fee Percentages Will Change for FY 2015 (4/24/14)**

  On April 24, 2014, Federal Student Aid posted an Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site that provides notice about upcoming Direct Loan origination fee percentage changes for federal fiscal year (FY) 2015.
  As explained in previous guidance issued by the Department of Education, the loan origination fee percentages for Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans (for both parent borrowers and graduate and professional student borrowers) will change each FY that the Budget Control Act of 2011 (sequester law) is in effect. Because the sequester law is still in effect, mandatory sequester changes for FY 2015 will be required effective October 1, 2014. Accordingly, there will be a change in the Direct Loan origination fee percentages for loans that are first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015.

  The announcement informs schools that a Dear Colleague Letter and another operational announcement will be posted shortly. Schools are strongly encouraged to refrain from submitting origination records to the COD System for Direct Loans that will be first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 until the operational guidance has been posted. Any such loan records that are submitted prior to that operational guidance will need to be corrected.

  To view the complete COD System operational notice regarding the Direct Loan origination fee percentages for FY 2015, refer to the April 24, 2014 Electronic Announcement.

Contact Information: If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center at 800/474-7268 for Grants or 800/848-0978 for Direct Loans. You may also e-mail CODSupport@ed.gov .

- **Pell Grant LEU Information Posted – New Pell Grant LEU Dispute Portal Tool Available on COD Web Site (4/22/14)**

  In an April 18, 2014 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, Federal Student Aid explains a change in how schools initiate a Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) dispute escalation on behalf of a student. The change was recently implemented with functionality that supports Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) processing for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

  The circumstances in which a Pell Grant LEU dispute will be considered by the Department of Education (the Department) are not altered by the recent system update. It is only the method by which the dispute will be recorded within the COD System that has changed. For this reason, it is important to review Federal Student Aid's earlier guidance about Pell Grant LEU dispute escalations (Dear Colleague Letter GEN-13-14 and June 27, 2013 Electronic Announcement) in addition to the April 18th Electronic Announcement.

  For complete information, refer to the April 18th Electronic Announcement.

- **Upcoming EDExpress for Windows 2014-2015 Releases and Direct Loan and TEACH Grant Functionality (3/28/14)**

  In advance of the mid-April 2014 posting of EDExpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 2.0, Federal Student Aid has posted an Electronic Announcement that highlights the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant functionality that a school can **use** in Release 2.0 and clarifies the software features a school will need to **defer** using until it installs EDExpress 2014-2015, Release 3.0, currently scheduled for posting in June 2014.

  For complete information, refer to the March 27, 2014 Electronic Announcement posted to the IFAP Web site.

CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

There are no Direct Loan-related issues at this time.

GRANTS

There are no Grant-related issues at this time.

REMINDERS

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (5/2/14)

We remind schools and third party servicers that contact information in the COD System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for us to be able to reach the right people at the school, particularly about program-specific issues. The e-mail addresses for the President, Financial Aid Administrator, Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer, and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer are used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.

Contact Information: If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center at 800/474-7268 for Grants or 800/848-0978 for Direct Loans. You may also e-mail CODSupport@ed.gov .

Having current contact information for the Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer is most critical for a school that is an additional location to a main campus. The information allows us to contact those officers directly at the additional location rather than needing to contact the main campus.

For more information on updating School Contact Information, please refer to the December 20, 2012 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.