Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update
For Pell Grants

May 21, 2004

Pell Grants

COD News

Enhanced COD School Monitoring Process To Begin May 24, 2004 (05/20/04)
To improve the service that COD provides to schools, COD has enhanced the way that the COD School Relations Center notifies a school of the results of its proactive disbursement monitoring process. Previously, the COD School Relations Center sent multiple e-mails to a school at various intervals. Based on feedback from schools, the new process incorporates all of a school's monitoring process results for both the Pell Grant and Direct Loan programs into one password-protected e-mail that includes student/borrower-specific information.

COD will begin the new monitoring process on Monday, May 24, 2004. Further details about the new process have been posted to the IFAP web site at
http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0519EnhancedCODSchoolMon.html/.

IFAP Subscription Reminder (05/19/04)
As a reminder, COD encourages you to become an IFAP subscriber. IFAP subscribers can choose to receive a weekly or 48-hour e-mail informing them when publications have been posted to IFAP. The weekly e-mail provides you with all of the items posted to the IFAP web site within the last week. The 48-hour e-mail provides you with the latest postings and allows you to customize the list so that you are notified only of those programs or topics in which you are interested (including the latest postings to the FSA Schools Portal Calendar, www.fsa4schools.ed.gov/)

In order to subscribe to IFAP:

1) Go to the IFAP web site, www.ifap.ed.gov/.
2) Click on the *Member Services* link, located in the blue bar on the bottom left side of the IFAP web site. The next screen will display Username and Password fields.
3) Click on the *Click Here to Register* link located under the Login button. This brings you to the *IFAP User Registration* screen.
4) On the *IFAP User Registration* screen, enter your information into the required fields. Click on the Submit Registration tab at the bottom of the IFAP Registration screen.

Within 3 business days of registering, you will receive an e-mail that contains your username and a password. When you first log in as a subscriber, you will be prompted to change your password.

COD Processing Update
For Pell Grants

Upon registration, you will automatically receive the weekly notification. You can customize your notification by going back to the *Member Services* area of the IFAP web site and selecting the *Subscription Options* link to customize your subscription.

If you have any questions about the IFAP Subscription Notification, please contact the IFAP Customer Service Call Center at 800/433-7327 between 9 am - 5 pm Eastern Time. Questions can also be e-mailed to: fsa.customer.support@ed.gov.

Delay In Administrative Cost Allowance For The 2003-2004 Award Year (05/18/04)
A number of schools have asked when the first Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2003-2004 Award Year will be sent to schools. As explained in the COD Processing Update item entitled "COD Financial Screens Incorrect On COD Web Site", the Total Unduplicated Recipients figure is incorrect. This issue impacts COD's ability to calculate accurate ACA payment amounts.

COD is working to resolve this issue and anticipates that ACA payments will be sent to schools in early June 2004. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this delay causes for schools and thanks schools for their patience.

Federal Pell Grant 2004-2005 Initial Authorization For Advanced Funding Schools (05/17/04)
COD has processed the Federal Pell Grant Initial Authorization for the 2004-2005 Award Year, for schools receiving Federal Pell Grant funds under the advanced funding method. A school's Initial Authorization, known in the COD System as Current Funding Level (CFL), was determined based on a percentage of the disbursement data submitted and accepted during the 2003-2004 Award Year. Shortly, COD will generate an Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) listing the amount of the school's Initial CFL for the 2004-2005 Award Year and send it to the school's SAIG mailbox in the message class PGAS05OP.

Note: Schools participating in the Just-in-Time pilot and schools on Reimbursement, Heightened Cash Monitoring 1 (HCM1), or Heightened Cash Monitoring 2 (HCM2) have not received an Initial CFL. These schools are eligible for a CFL once actual disbursements have been accepted and posted. A new ESOA is sent to a school each time it's CFL amount changes.

For further details, see the Electronic Announcement that has been posted to the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0517InitAuthAdvFundingSchools0405.html/. If you have any questions about your school's Initial Authorization, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Current Issues

Mixed Person Records In COD (03/02/04 [Updated 05/20/04])
As you are aware, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD has discovered that primarily due to

COD Processing Update
For Pell Grants

inaccurate SSNs that have entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) have mixed with other COD records. Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers. COD has a dedicated team working to resolve the small number of records that have been mixed. COD would like to assure you that if your data has been affected by this rare problem it is not lost in the COD System and it will be corrected.

Specifically, COD has identified two scenarios related to this issue. In the first scenario, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. In the second scenario, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN.

COD continues to work on further detailed instructions that will assist you in avoiding these scenarios and, if necessary, in correcting them. If you have any questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly [01/06/04 (Updated 05/13/04)]
COD has found that COD Edit 116 (SSN, Date of Birth and/or Last Name have not been updated in the COD System) is not working properly. This edit is a warning that is returned when changes to the Student Identifier information are submitted and the reported CPS Transaction Number and Award Year combination is not greater than the combination that currently exists in COD.

Because this edit is not working correctly schools are unable to submit new 2003-2004 originations or make online changes when previous award year information is different for a student in COD. Testing a solution is underway, and COD anticipates that the testing will be completed by the end of May. COD will provide updates after testing has been completed.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD (05/06/04 [Updated 05/11/04])
COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, duplicate disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed). COD is analyzing the issue and will provide updates as they become available.

Duplicate Drawdown Amounts In COD (04/28/04 [Updated 05/11/04])
COD has discovered that there are duplicate records of drawdown amounts dated from the week of March 15, 2004 on the COD database. These amounts will appear on the COD web site's Cash Activity screen and on various summary screens and financial reports. This issue affects approximately 166 schools. The COD development team continues to analyze the issue, and updates will be provided as they become available.

COD Processing Update
For Pell Grants

COD Edit 115 Not Working Correctly [04/06/04 Updated (05/06/04)]
COD has identified an issue where COD Edit 115 (Student Referred to DCS but repayment schedule not established, no further disbursements can be accepted for this student for this award year) is being returned incorrectly to schools that attempt to increase/decrease an actual disbursement (DRI=True) for a student that has been referred to DCS for collection of a Pell Grant overpayment.

Additionally, the Pell Grant referral amount and payment amount collected are not being updated correctly in the Pell Collection Referral Amount and Pell Collection Amount Collected fields on the COD web site's Award Detail Information screen. The COD development team is researching the code fix for these issues, and COD will provide updates as they become available.

Issue Resolving COD Edit 025 (05/05/04)
Schools have reported to COD that they are experiencing an issue when correcting a record that has rejected for COD Edit 025 (Duplicate Match On CPS). Records that reject for COD Edit 025 can only be corrected on the COD web site by selecting the correct CPS match from a list on the CPS Report Selection screen. Detailed instructions for resolving this edit via the COD web site are available on IFAP at:
http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0320UpdatedCODEdit025Proc.html/.

However, in some instances the COD web site is returning only one match or none at all. This may prevent schools from correcting the records in COD as described above. The COD development team has identified the root cause and is working on implementing the code fix. COD will provide updates as soon as they become available.

Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site [12/11/03 (Updated 05/05/04)]
COD has identified an issue where disbursements/adjustments are being processed in COD, but are not appearing on the Disbursement List screen. However, the accepted disbursements are appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools. Also in some cases, sequence numbers for the disbursements are not appearing on the History screen.

COD has determined the cause of the problem. The data was not populated in the COD database correctly when the disbursements/adjustments were processed, resulting in the disbursements not appearing on the web site. COD has identified two different code fixes and cleanups that need to take place to resolve the problem.

The first code fix has been migrated, and COD is in the process of cleaning up the affected records. COD is still testing the second code fix and will notify schools when testing has been completed. In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing; these transactions have already been acknowledged back to schools.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD (05/03/04)
COD has identified an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records are accepted in COD, however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by

COD Processing Update
For Pell Grants

the school are not displaying on the COD web site's Person Information screen. The COD web site is reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records are not displaying on the Person Information screen as well. COD is researching the root cause of this issue, and COD will provide updates as they become available.

COD Web Site Response Time [03/19/04 (Updated 04/22/04)]
COD has learned that COD web site users are experiencing poor response time and receiving log errors when performing searches between the hours of approximately 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM eastern time.

COD has identified several potential causes of the issue and is in the process of evaluating the causes. COD ask users to continue to be patient. In the meantime, please continue to e-mail screen shots of any error messages received while performing a search to the COD School Relations Center at CODSupport@acs-inc.com.

COD Financial Screens Incorrect On COD Web Site [05/05/03 (Updated 03/19/04)]
As previously reported, the COD web site financial screens are displaying incorrect information. The "Summary Financial Info" screen is not displaying correct figures in the fields of "Disbursement Amount", "Disbursement Adjustment Amount" and "Ending Cash Balance".

Additionally, COD has found the Total Unduplicated Recipients field on the "Funding Information" screen is not displaying the correct figure. Schools can refer to the "Yearly Totals" screen to view the correct figure for the Total Unduplicated Recipients.

COD is working to resolve these discrepancies. In the meantime, schools should refer to the "Funding Information Screen" for correct figures (with the exception of the Total Unduplicated Recipients). COD is asking schools to be patient regarding progress on this issue. Resources are focused on other items at this time, so progress will continue to be slow. If you have any questions regarding your funding in the meantime, please contact the COD School Relations Center.