



# COD Processing Update

June 3, 2011

## NEWS/UPDATES

- **2010-2011 National SMART Grant Deobligation Due To No Corresponding Pell Grant (06/01/11)**

On May 31, 2011, Federal Student Aid deobligated 2010-2011 Award Year National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) disbursements for students who did not have a 2010-2011 Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) actual disbursement recorded in the COD System. As noted in the warning message that Federal Student Aid sent to affected schools on May 31, 2011, these National SMART Grant disbursements were considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. This deobligation affected National SMART Grant disbursements at approximately 59 schools.

A school affected by the deobligation will receive or see the following information:

- Receive an SGTX file (SGTX11OP message class) in the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox indicating the number of students and total amount of the decrease
- Receive a system-generated negative disbursement file (CRND11OP message class/ND document type) in the school's SAIG mailbox
- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (SGAS11OP message class) in the school's SAIG mailbox that reflects the decrease, unless there are other offsetting increase adjustments
- See a change in the school's Current Funding Level (CFL) that reflects the reduced disbursement

### Notes:

- If all of the National SMART Grant recipients at a school had a corresponding 2010-2011 Pell Grant actual disbursement on May 31, 2011, the school was not affected by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deobligation process.
- Some National SMART Grant recipients do not have a corresponding 2010-2011 Pell Grant actual disbursement due to the documented full repayment of the Pell Grant as a result of a Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation. If a school informed the COD School Relations Center of the student records to which this exception applies, these student records were excluded from the May 31<sup>st</sup> deobligation process.

If you have any questions about the 2010-2011 National SMART Grant deobligation of disbursements due to no corresponding 2010-2011 Pell Grant actual disbursement, contact the COD School Relations Center.

## CURRENT ISSUES

### DIRECT LOANS

#### **Subsequent Direct PLUS Loan Request Issue- Some Borrowers Can't Move to Step 2 (05/20/11)**

Federal Student Aid has identified an issue in which some borrowers are not able to complete a Direct PLUS Loan Request via the [StudentLoans.gov Web site](#). After completing the required information for Step 1 of the process and clicking "Continue," the page reloads, but

**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@acs-inc.com](mailto:CODSupport@acs-inc.com).

does not advance to Step 2. The borrower receives no error message and is unable to complete the rest of the application.

Currently, this issue impacts a very limited number of borrowers who have Driver's License information that includes special characters accepted and stored on the COD System (the Driver's License information was likely populated when a Master Promissory Note was completed or when a Direct Loan award was submitted) and is then trying to complete a Direct PLUS Loan Request.



Federal Student Aid is working on a fix for this issue and plans to implement it as soon as possible. In the meantime, if a borrower reports this issue, the school should contact the COD School Relations Center for further assistance.

Federal Student Aid regrets any inconvenience to our StudentLoans.gov customers. If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

## GRANTS

### **RESOLVED - Prior Year (2009-2010 through 2010-2011) Pell Grant Awards Incorrectly Rejecting for Edit 67 (06/01/11)**

In May 2011, Federal Student Aid discovered an issue when a school submitted a maintenance record for a Pell Grant award that was previously submitted and accepted with the Additional Eligibility Indicator (AEI) set to "True." In those cases, if the AEI tag was not included in the maintenance records, the COD System would return COD Reject Edit 67 (Incorrect Disbursement Amount) in error.

Federal Student Aid implemented a code fix on May 26, 2011 and resolved this issue. A school can now submit maintenance records for a prior year Pell Grant award without the AEI tag.

## REMINDERS

### **COD Computer-Based Training (06/03/11)**

Federal Student Aid takes this opportunity to remind the community of the availability of the COD Computer-Based Training (CBT).

The COD CBT consists of component simulations and CBTs. The electronic files associated with each component, as well as information about downloading and navigating the COD CBT, are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. Under the "Tools for Schools" section on the home page, click on [COD Computer-Based Training](#).

If you have questions or comments about the COD CBT, 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@acs-inc.com](mailto:CODSupport@acs-inc.com). If you e-mail your question or comment, please include "COD CBT Question/Comment" in the subject line.

### **Sending Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries on the Common Record or the COD Web site (06/03/11)**

When submitting student or borrower addresses or address changes to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, it is important that the correct tags are used, particularly when the student or borrower address is located in a U.S. Territory or Foreign Country. If these addresses are not submitted correctly, important correspondence from the COD System and the federal loan servicers is delayed or not received.

- When a student or borrower address is located in a U.S. Territory it is considered a domestic address. Do not submit a Country Code.
- When a student or borrower address is located in a Foreign Country, it is treated as a foreign address.

See below for the correct procedures for submitting U.S. Territories and Foreign Country addresses via the Common Record batch submission or COD Web site.

### **Submitting Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries via the Common Record**

When creating or updating a person record via the Common Record batch submission, a school should send the address block with the following tags:

Schema Version	Included Tags for Domestic Address, including U.S. Territories	Excluded Tags for Domestic Address, including U.S. Territories	Included Tags for Foreign Addresses



3.0c or 3.0d	<AddressLine> <City> <StateProvinceCode> <PostalCode>	<StateProvince> <CountryCode>	<AddressLine> <City> <StateProvince> (Optional) <PostalCode> (Optional)  <CountryCode>
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**Submitting Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries via the COD Web site**

When creating or updating a person record on the COD Web site, a school should select the U.S. Territory from the dropdown box in the State/Province field. A school should select the Country field as “Blank”.

A complete list of State Codes (including U.S. Territories), Jurisdictions, and Country Codes are provided in Volume VI, Section 4 of the [2010-2011 COD Technical Reference](#). If you have questions about this information, contact the COD School Relations Center.