

Division of Public Assistance
Current Status of Computerized Electronic Eligibility Verification System
Senate Finance Medicaid Subcommittee Meeting
Feb. 17, 2016

The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) is currently utilizing two computerized eligibility systems, ARIES (Alaska's Resource for Integrated Eligibility System), Release 1; and the older Eligibility Information System (EIS). These two systems are to be combined into one ARIES, Release 2, during 4th quarter of 2016. Deloitte, Inc. is the third party contractor for ARIES, responsible for deployment, ongoing maintenance, and operational needs.

- ARIES currently has three "verification" interfaces: Master Client Index (MCI), Finalist, and Minimal Essential Coverage (MEC check). MCI is used for verifying if the client exists in the legacy EIS and Finalist to verify an individual's mailing address against USPS standards. MEC check is an interface where other agencies (mostly the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services), has the ability to determine if an individual is covered within the Alaska Medicaid program. This is used by the Federal HUB and other agencies to make sure they don't double issue coverage.
- ARIES also has limited eligibility verification interface features primarily used by other agencies such as Center for Medicaid Services, the Division of Health Care Services, and the Child Support Services Division) for verification of DPA provided eligibility information.

Release 2 ARIES will utilize a wide variety of "verification" interfaces listed below to verify client eligibility from sources within the department, the state, Federal agencies and external agencies:

- Within the Department of Health and Social Services, ARIES will be implementing an interface with the Bureau of Vital Statistics for Citizenship and Date of Death information.
- Externally with the Dept. of Revenue/PFD for PFD applicants and address verification;
- Dept. of Labor for Wage, Unemployment Insurance Benefits and AlexSys registration information;
- Social Security Administration (SSA)
 - BENDEX (Beneficiary Data Exchange) provides Social Security and Medicare entitlement information for recipients;
 - SDX (State Data Exchange) provides Social Security Income data for the aged, blind and disabled;
 - SVES (State Verification and Exchange System) provides SSN verification for SSA and SSI beneficiaries;
 - BEERS (Beneficiary Earnings Exchange Record) provides IRS earnings and employer data. Please note that access to the data severely restricted;

- SOLQI (State On-Line Query-Internet) provides real-time access to SSA's SSN verification service. This interface is similar to SVES but is a real-time service allowing the state to rapidly obtain information needed to determine/qualify individuals for federally funded programs;
- IRS
 - IEVS (Income and Eligibility Verification System) provides unearned income from the IRS via tax returns to Federal, State and Local agencies. Please note that access to the data severely restricted;
- FNS
 - Treasury Offset Program (TOP) for address verification associated with outstanding claims;
 - eDRS (Electronic Disqualified Recipient System) provides SNAP participants who have been found guilty of Intentional Program Violations (IPVs). This interface is a batch interface in EIS, will be moving to real-time in ARIES;
- ACF (Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services)
 - PARIS (Public Assistance Reporting Information System) provides on recipients who are receiving duplicate benefits in two or more states;
- Equifax
 - This vendor provides wage verification services;
- CMS recently required all states to develop and submit a plan to implement an "Asset Verification System" (AVS) which will require DPA to contract out to a vendor for this system and interface with our ARIES system later next year.
- The Division plans on releasing a Request for Information (RFI) this spring to begin identifying potential AVS vendors for this work so a Request for Proposal (RFP) can be developed.