

Inside the Vaut State Agency Edition

Business Continuity Reminder

Treasury continually evaluates processes to ensure that critical statewide cash management needs are met in the event that normal business is disrupted by disaster or other incident. As we head into the winter months, even inclement weather can limit the access and availability of staff at Treasury or within agencies. Weather-related closures of agency offices around the state can create havoc in the short term for agencies that move funds via either ACH or wire transfer. In addition to weather–related staffing issues, vacation plans, holiday plans, and flu season may impact staffing over the coming months. While Treasury has plans in place to keep business moving in those scenarios, it is essential that adequate coverage exists at agencies for important cash management processes to continue.

On a broader scale, if a major disaster or other critical business interruption were to impact Treasury, please note that it could take 48 to 72 hours for us to restore systems and to begin to provide normal cash management services to agencies. Treasury would maintain limited outgoing wire capacity to support critical (Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Holidays

Due to Christmas, Treasury, the Federal Reserve, and Oregon banks will be closed Friday, December 25. Customer statements and files will not be produced for December 25 due to the closures. In addition, ACH files sent to Treasury after the deadline on Thursday, December 24, will be sent to the bank on Monday, December 28, and must have an effective date of December 29 or later.

Additionally, Treasury, the Federal Reserve, and Oregon banks also will be closed Friday, January 1, due to New Year's. Customer statements and files will not be produced for January 1 due to the closures. In addition, ACH files sent to Treasury after the deadline on Thursday, December 31, will be sent to the bank on Monday,

January 4, and must have an effective date of January 5 or later.



Interest Rates

Average Annualized Yield November

0.75%

Interest Rates November 1–30

0.75%

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statewide disbursement needs. It is important for agencies to evaluate their business continuity plans and processes in the event that Treasury or other partners suffer such an interruption in service.

If your agency has not already done so, it would be prudent to discuss your business continuity plans to ensure that your agency is well prepared. Questions to consider when discussing your plan may include the following:

- Does your agency have an updated Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) authorized signers list (Form C-9) on file at Treasury?
- A How will you initiate and authorize transactions if necessary individuals are not in the office?
- Is your staff able to conduct business from a remote location, if necessary?
- Are your desk procedures up-to-date and well-defined in case individuals are required to provide coverage in areas of business that are unfamiliar to them?
- What are the most critical functions that absolutely have to be performed on a daily or weekly basis, and what functions may be delayed for a period of time?
- If you agency sends ACH Origination files to Treasury via Secure FTP connection, are you able to recreate ACH files if needed?
- Does your agency have automated "jobs" to access Treasury systems at predetermined times throughout the day? If this connection is not available, do you have the ability to manually connect at a later time?
- What would happen if you were unable to make timely ACH payments to third parties, whether they are customers, vendors, federal government, etc.? Would the delay in payment result in customer hardship, fines for past due payments, contract default, or other impacts?
- Do you have adequate staff available to cover daily operations or troubleshoot any issues that might arise?

Please contact Treasury at <u>CustomerSolutions@ost.state.or.us</u> if you have questions or concerns about your agency's role as it relates to banking and cash management. We can help you identify the minimum staff required and help provide options for unexpected emergencies, as well as discuss payment and distribution criticality for potential broader continuity needs.

Signing & Submitting Cash Management Forms

With many state employees working from home to support social distancing, Treasury recognizes that agencies may face challenges signing and submitting certain cash management forms. To assist agencies, we have revised our wire transfer and account transfer forms to accommodate electronic signatures. The revised forms, and instructions on how to complete them, are now available on our <u>website</u>.



Service Spotlight

Account transfer is a method of transferring funds between accounts at Treasury, including Local Government Investment Pool accounts. Depending on the types of accounts involved, agencies can initiate an account transfer through Treasury-provided systems, agency-provided systems, the Statewide Financial Management Application (SFMA), or via paper form. If you are interested in evaluating your business needs and available options, or have questions regarding electronic payment methods generally, contact Customer Solutions at <u>CustomerSolutions@ost.state.or.us</u>.

Updating Signature Authorization Forms

<u>Treasury Policy 02.18.10</u> requires that agencies submit annually, each January, new signature authorization forms for each Treasury Account (formerly Suspense Account). Treasury also will be requiring agencies to update electronic funds transfer (EFT) authorized signers. These updates ensure that Treasury is able to process your transactions in a timely manner, especially while so many state employees are working from home.

Treasury will send instructions soon to existing authorized signers explaining how to update these forms. Failure to submit the required forms by the deadline could result in revocation of disbursement authority and otherwise delay your payments. Director of Finance Cora Parker 503.378.4633

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Check Stock Testing Ashley Moya 503.373.1944

Fed Wires/ACH Origination Shannon Higgins 503.378.5043

Local Government Investment Pool

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Merchant Card/U.S. Bank Nikki Main 503.378.2409

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