



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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TRIP

Tax Refund Intercept Program

News

**Maximize your collection efforts
through TRIP**

January 31, 2005

Changes to the intercept program

This is the First Edition of our new TRIP Newsletter. The intent is to communicate to you exciting new changes the program will be experiencing this year. We look forward to the new TRIP system and hope for a smooth transition as we move toward implementation. The end product will allow us to provide better customer service and support.

BACKGROUND

The current TRIP system has become outdated. The Agency Setoff Program was initially developed approximately 20 years ago. Although incremental improvements have been made through the years, we have found the system requires more Department of Revenue and client intervention to remain viable. As program participation increases, the base system has shown itself to be inflexible. We have determined that a system redesign is necessary to meet the needs of our clients.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

We listened and we hope to exceed your expectations. Our customer base consists of state agencies, counties, municipalities and the IRS. We are currently experiencing most of our growth from county and municipality participation. In working on the system redesign, the project coordinators took into account user requirements and expectations. Here are some of the improvements you will see:

- ◆ You will be able view specific debt balances on-line, and generate a summary report of your entire debt portfolio.
- ◆ The system will allow for alternative disbursement of intercepted money.
- ◆ You will have an increase in the ability to match refunds based on FEIN number and alias name.

- ◆ We will make the system friendlier to users by expanding the file to include a field for an agency-specific identification number.

Your customers, the debtors whose refunds are considered for offset, will also experience improvements to the system. The new system will reduce the amount of time required to determine whether a refund will be offset. Improvements will also eliminate the interception of refunds on amounts where Department of Revenue has been notified of a bankruptcy filing.

County Clerk of Courts offices currently using the CCAP interface with DOR will benefit from the new TRIP system as well. While you will continue to transmit and receive data via CCAP, you will also be able to access TRIP to generate reports and query the setoff program database for information on debtors.

TIMELINE

Work on the new TRIP system has already begun, with full implementation scheduled for October 2005. We hope to keep any impact on our users to an absolute minimum.

NEXT STEPS

Look forward to future editions of this newsletter. Publication dates will be, April 30th, July 31st, and September 30th.

Issues will be sent via e-mail as well as posted to the Internet at www.dor.state.wi.us. We will be sharing more information about the new system and your roll in the transition as this project moves forward.

April System Access and Logon Protocol

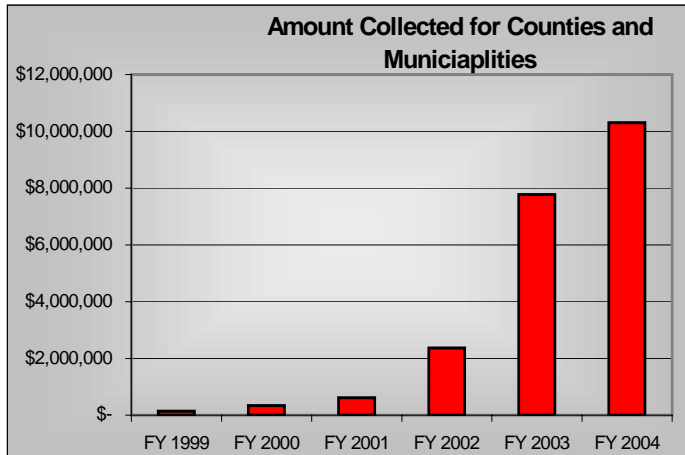
July Progress Report and Training Opportunities

September Implementation Details

January Post Implementation Review

Partners Experience Success

The Department of Revenue has seen the most growth in the TRIP program come from Counties and Municipalities.



More than 225 units of local government are working with the Department of Revenue to maximize their collections. Each year shows an increase in the amount collected for Wisconsin's counties and municipalities.

"As government at all levels experience budget constraints, TRIP makes good sense," says Vicki Siekert, Compliance Bureau Director.

Indeed, TRIP provides a valuable service to local government collections efforts, which in turn benefits all Wisconsin taxpayers.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I determine which debts are eligible for certification to the Department of Revenue?

Wis. Stat. 71.93, which applies to state agencies, defines a debt as "an amount owed to a state agency that has been reduced to a judgment" that exceeds \$20. Also, specific types of debts owed to the Department of Workforce Development, Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Family Services, and Department of Military Affairs are also eligible (please see the statute for these specific references).

Wis. Stat. 71.935, which applies to local governments, defines a debt as "a parking citation of at least \$20 that is unpaid and for which there has been no court appearance by the date specified in the citation or, if no date is specified, that is unpaid for at least 28 days; an unpaid fine, fee, restitution or forfeiture of at least \$20; and any other debt that is at least \$20, except debt related to property taxes, if the debt has been reduced to a judgment or the municipality or county has provided the debtor reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard with regards to the debt."

Participating state agencies and local governments are responsible for determining if their debts qualify for this program under these statutes. Only qualified debts may be certified to DOR for refund interception. The certifying agency is responsible for any appeals or legal actions contesting the interception.

What should I do if an individual pays off all or part of their debt?

If you receive full or partial payment toward a debt previously certified to the refund interception program, you should report the new balance to DOR using the "file maintenance" or "send file" functionalities in TRIP. DOR automatically reduces the balance of your debt whenever a refund interception occurs.

This newsletter is distributed electronically on a quarterly basis.

Copies can be found on our website at <http://www.dor.state.wi.us> in the government e-services section.