



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

2135 RIMROCK ROAD • P.O. BOX 8901 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708-8901

FAX (608) 261-6226 • <http://www.dor.state.wi.us>

TRIP

News

Tax Refund Interception Program

**Maximize your collection efforts
through TRIP**

January 31, 2006

The “New” TRIP –Application Features

Besides an entirely new look and feel, the new TRIP system is structured differently than the existing system. For instance, if you have access to more than one agency account, it is not necessary to choose a specific account to work on immediately after logging on. Instead, you will make this choice as you are performing specific functions.

For example, when using the file maintenance worksheet, you can select the agency account number from a drop-down menu as data is entered for each debt. This allows work on multiple accounts from the same screen, or page, without having to log out of the current account and back into a new account as you work through your entire inventory.

The same concept holds true when viewing or receiving processed files or reports through the TRIP interface. You will be able to download file maintenance, balance verification, posting notices and account summaries for multiple accounts from one page in the application, without having to log out of one account and into another. This work will be much more efficient.

Perhaps the biggest difference in the new TRIP system will be the ability to query the DOR database and view up-to-date debtor information. You will be able to view specific debt balances, as well as a history of all the transactions posted against the debt from the date it was certified to the current date. This functionality will also be available to agencies that employ the state mainframe system and the CCAP interface.

Access to External Modules

Full Access Rights - The new TRIP system was designed to serve more than one type of user. Users of the current TRIP system will have full access to the external module of the system. This is where you establish new debts, change existing debt balances, and change the names and addresses of existing debtors. This functionality will be available through either an on-line file maintenance worksheet, or through a “Send File” page that allows you to upload a text file containing multiple file maintenance records.

In addition, users with full access will be able to view or download file maintenance, balance verification, and posting notices, much like you are able to do in the current TRIP system. As a full access user you will also be allowed to generate account inventories and query the database for information on specific debtors.

Query Access Rights - The other subset of TRIP users will be agencies currently exchanging data with DOR through the state mainframe system and the CCAP Step Server. Typically, these are state agencies that certify large numbers of debts to the agency setoff program, or county clerk of circuit court offices.

Staff from these agencies will be allowed to apply for query-only access that will enable them to generate account inventories and query for information on specific debtors. As a query-only user you will not be able to view, upload or download file maintenance, balance verification or posting notices.

The TRIP Web-page - The TRIP web-page has a new look, placing all information pertaining to the TRIP program in one place for easier navigation. Make sure to save this page to your favorites: www.dor.state.wi.us/ise/trip/index.html

The TRIP Listserv - Be among the first to receive TRIP News! Sign up to receive electronic notifications at www.dor.state.wi.us/html/lists.html. We will be sending reminders to check out the latest edition of the TRIP News as well as program specific information.

Legislation Update

Assembly Bill 211 was signed into law becoming 2005 Wisconsin Act 59 on December 16, 2005. The law change will result in changes to the Tax Refund Intercept Program as follows:

- Use of driver's license numbers: The Department of Revenue is working with the Department of Transportation to secure a data sharing agreement. We expect local governments will be able to refer debts using the driver's license by mid-year 2006.
- Administrative fee: The program's administrative fee will shift from the agencies to the taxpayer/debtor effective April 1, 2006. We will continue to send out quarterly reports for information purposes.

Other changes to the program are under consideration due to 2005 Wisconsin Act 59. The administrative fee is currently calculated as a percentage of the amounts intercepted for your agency. The department is strongly considering the implementation of a flat fee that would be charged to the debtor for each amount intercepted from their refund.

In addition, the department is considering the implementation of a minimum debt threshold so that once a debt falls below a certain amount it would no longer be considered for refund interception.

New Legislation Watch

Newly proposed Assembly Bill 538 would allow local governments to certify debts related to property taxes. An amendment to the bill was passed in September that clarifies the meaning of the phrase "debts related to property tax" as any interest and penalty charged as a result of the delinquency. To read this proposal, go to:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2005/proposals/sb538>

A letter to TRIP customers was mailed on January 25th with more details regarding the impact of these items of legislation. Go to the TRIP web-page and select January 25th letter to users:

www.dor.state.wi.us/ise/trip/index.html

Safeguarding Taxpayer Information

This program requires that state agencies and local governments exchange sensitive taxpayer information in order to achieve a debt match with Department of Revenue tax records.

We would like to remind our partners of the importance of keeping this information confidential. Make sure safeguards are in place to ensure that personal and financial information is kept confidential. Unauthorized disclosure or inspection of taxpayer information is a crime.

Contact Information

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

Program Contact:

Fred Bahr
WI Department of Revenue
Refund Interception Coordinator
(608)-266-8517
fbahr@dor.state.wi.us

Newsletter Contact:

Susan Dukes
WI Department of Revenue
Program & Planning Analyst
(608)-266-9397
susan.dukes@dor.state.wi.us

Past issues of TRIP News are available on the DOR Internet at:
www.dor.state.wi.us/ise/trip/index.html

<i>January 2005</i>	Introduction to TRIP redesign project
<i>April 2005</i>	WAMS logon protocol
<i>July 2005</i>	New reports and access information
<i>October 2005</i>	Implementation Delay