



Interstate Data Exchange Consortium

The Finder

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Dear Colleague,

With tightening budgets and resource shortages it is always good to get something of value for your expenditures. Oklahoma child support is just one of the many IV-D programs struggling to work with limited resources and get the best return on its investment. One such area with a good return on investment is Oklahoma's participation in the Interstate Data Exchange Consortium (IDEC).

Oklahoma is a full member of IDEC and has participated in its Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) program since 2000. Each quarter Oklahoma creates an inquiry file that is added to inquiry files belonging to the consortium's other 14 member states. This inquiry file is sent to over 4,000 financial institutions within the 15 member states of IDEC. At the conclusion of this matching process, each member state receives not only matches from its own financial institutions, but also matches belonging to its obligors residing in the other member states. The results from the quarterly IDEC matching process gives Oklahoma 100 percent of its FIDM matches (including multi-state FIDM matches) in the 15 states that participate in the consortium. This is definitely a solid return on our investment for acquiring FIDM matches.



Oklahoma takes advantage of the FIDM matches it receives from IDEC states by running the entire match file through its Auto FIDM Analyzer program. Matches from both instate and multi-state FIDM sources that meet all of the analyzer program's criteria automatically generate levies that are forwarded to the appropriate financial institutions. One of the analyzer program's steps is to verify in what state the matched account is located. If it is a state that allows for direct levy, and all of the other criteria are met, a levy is generated automatically to financial institutions in those states. Currently four member states of IDEC – Delaware, New Mexico, North Carolina and South Carolina – are direct levy states.

If the FIDM match does not qualify for automation, local office staff will conduct a further review to determine if any levy action is possible. Some of the matches are with financial institutions that will accept direct levies; in these cases the local office can manually generate levies and send them for processing. In situations where neither the state nor financial institution will allow for direct levies, Automated Enforcement in Interstate Cases (AEI) can be used. IDEC has developed a secure web-based application that provides an on-line collaborative platform for member states to initiate and respond to requests in the easiest manner possible. If a match is located in another member state and the levy criteria for that

state are met, Oklahoma can send out an electronic referral to request assistance in attaching those assets. Lastly, there is no additional charge for member states having access to IDEC's AEI system; the fee is already included in the FIDM pricing.

In Oklahoma the FIDM program is a very successful collection tool. Oklahoma's annual FIDM collections average \$2.8 million and overall FIDM collections total \$16.6 million. With the cooperation of the member states of IDEC we see continuing success with our FIDM program for many more years to come.

As was mentioned at the beginning of this article getting a good return on your investment is crucial. With the current fiscal tightening of the economy effecting more and more state budgets, it is now more important than ever for states to get the maximum value for their investments. And Oklahoma's membership in IDEC is doing just that.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Dart
Division Director
Oklahoma Child Support Services

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

IDEC is stated-owned and operated. States may join as either Full Members or as Limited Partners through a state contract containing a memorandum of understanding agreement administered by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) which serves as the "Seat Agency." [Read more.](#)

IDEConsortium Full Member States:
Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia,
Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico,
North Carolina, Oklahoma,
Pennsylvania, South Carolina,
South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia,
West Virginia



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