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Do Not Pay Digest Newsletter

BUREAU OF THE
Fiscal Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

FALL 2021

Would a "Stop Payment" Function in the DNP Portal Improve Your Eligibility Processes? Let's Talk About It!

The Do Not Pay (DNP) Portal provides agencies a central hub to match payees against a variety of data sources to determine payment eligibility. Ultimately, the agency is responsible for performing research in the Portal, as well as for determining next steps about whether or not to pay an individual/entity (according to their own internal controls). But what if, in an automated process, payments to matched payees in the Portal could be prevented from being disbursed to individuals/entities that are deemed ineligible to receive those payments?

The Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service) is currently exploring options and gathering agency feedback to support a Stop Payment functionality in the DNP Portal. This functionality would allow agencies to authorize stopping a payment intended for a recipient that is ultimately deemed ineligible to receive that payment, based on match results found in the DNP Portal. Stopping a payment to an ineligible recipient would help prevent payments from being improperly disbursed, saving agency resources from having to conduct costly pay-and-chase activities to recover improperly disbursed payments.

The Stop Payment functionality may need to rely on an agency's documented business rules to determine which payments would be eligible to be stopped. DNP may require an agency to document these rules and to authorize DNP to stop the payment from being disbursed.

DNP needs your help to develop the Stop Payment functionality into a tool that provides value and meets agency needs. We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, recommendations, and concerns for building and offering the Stop Payment functionality as a standard tool for agency use. To begin the conversation and share your expertise, please contact your Agency Lead and Agency Specialist (find your agency's contacts in the Contact List at the end of this newsletter) or email donotpay@fiscal.treasury.gov.

Goodbye DUNS Number...Hello Unique Entity Identifier!

The Data Universal Numbering System, or DUNS number, has historically been used by the federal government to identify and validate federal contractors. However, beginning on April 4, 2022, the DUNS number will be replaced by the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through System for Award Management (SAM) which will be viewable on SAM.gov. How will this transition impact agencies that use the Do Not Pay (DNP) Portal?

UEI's replacement of the DUNS number will help streamline the process that businesses and vendors must undertake to register for working with the federal government. Vendors and entities will be able to go to SAM.gov to request their UEI and register their business, make updates to their business name and physical address, as well as access customer support resources for UEI and registration issues.
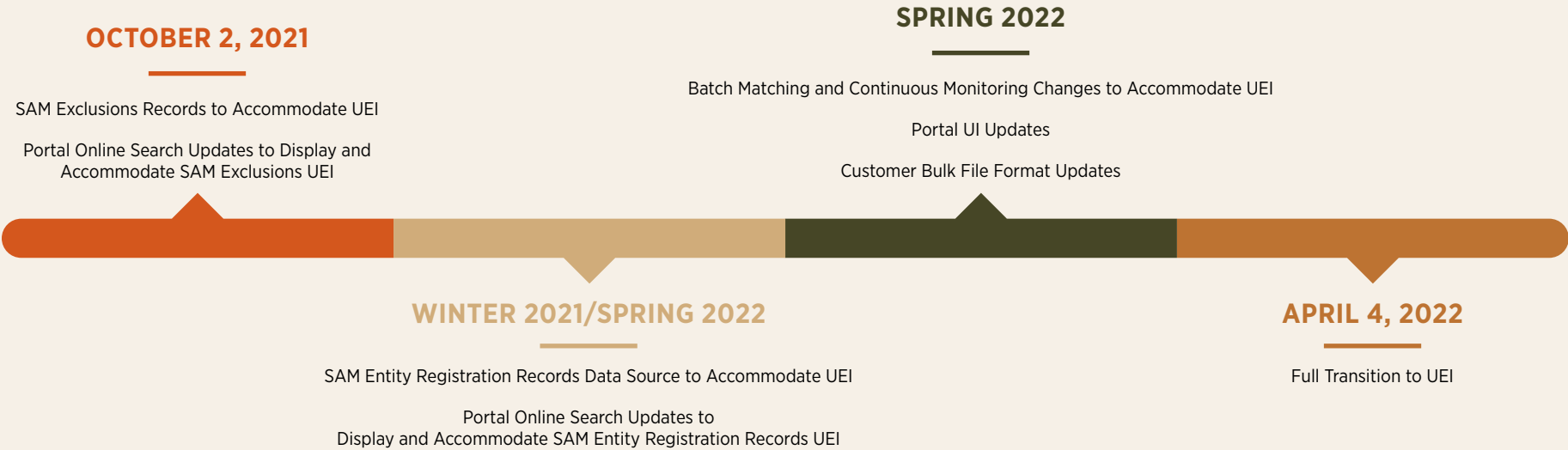
DNP is updating its own processes and functionalities to accommodate the changes required by the transition to UEI. These updates include:

- Integrating UEI into the match results screens for SAM Registration Records and SAM Exclusion Records matches in Online Search

- Providing the ability to match based on a business's UEI

- DUNS +4 is being replaced by the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Indicator

Agencies that use the DNP Portal should be aware of these changes and the impacts to their workflows. Agencies that maintain a Batch Matching or Continuous Monitoring file with DNP will be required to make updates to their input file format to reflect the use of the UEI rather than the DUNS number. DNP has updated the input file layout for Batch Matching and Continuous Monitoring files. Please contact DNP if you need the new layout and if your agency is ready to send test files to verify the new format.

For additional information and background about how the UEI transition impacts DNP Portal activities and how agencies can best prepare for the transition, find a presentation from our recent Best Practices Forum about the UEI change here, or a Quick Reference Card here. Or, you can find more information on the GSA website.

OCTOBER 2, 2021

SAM Exclusions Records to Accommodate UEI

Portal Online Search Updates to Display and Accommodate SAM Exclusions UEI

SPRING 2022

Batch Matching and Continuous Monitoring Changes to Accommodate UEI

Portal UI Updates

Customer Bulk File Format Updates

WINTER 2021/SPRING 2022

SAM Entity Registration Records Data Source to Accommodate UEI

Portal Online Search Updates to Display and Accommodate SAM Entity Registration Records UEI

APRIL 4, 2022

Full Transition to UEI

How DNP Can Assist Your Agency with Year-End Reporting

As fiscal year (FY) 2021 financial reporting is underway and the new fiscal year begins, we want to remind our users how you can leverage Do Not Pay (DNP) to assist with your program's reporting needs. Users can log into the DNP Portal to create and download the Payment Activity Report (PAR). This document matches the Payment Automation Manager (PAM) data against the death data sources available in the Portal and summarizes the matches by Agency Location Code.

The PAR can assist with your agency's financial reporting by providing information on:

- the total number of payments and dollar amount matched to DNP death data sources at the time of payment disbursement

- the number of payments adjudicated in the Portal

- the number of payments stopped (if applicable)

- the number of matches to each death data source available in the Portal

Information is available at the aggregate level, and broken out by Agency Location Code, which can allow your agency to report on individual programs, if needed. The PAR can help your agency report on which programs are enrolled in the DNP Portal, which programs are adjudicating payment matches in the DNP Portal, and which programs have identified improper payments using the DNP Portal.

Agencies can also request custom data extracts from inputs to the Outcome section in the Portal, which is available in the Online Search, Batch Matching, and Continuous Monitoring functionalities. This information can be helpful with year-end reporting, as it contains data from the pre-award and pre-payment stages of the payment lifecycle on whether a match prevented an improper payment, the dollar amount of the improper payment avoided, the payment frequency, and the payment category. However, completion of the Outcome section is optional for Portal Users, and data extracts are only available if users populate and submit the Outcome information to DNP. It may be beneficial for your agency to require completion of the Outcome section, to obtain data to assist with financial reporting for FY2022.

You can contact your agency's appointed Agency Lead or Agency Specialist (see the Agency Contact List at the end of this newsletter) with questions on the PAR, Outcome section in the DNP Portal, or custom data extracts using information submitted via the Outcome section by your agency's users.

Expanded Capabilities Help State Partners Find Improper Payments

The Do Not Pay (DNP) Business Center has recently expanded our suite of services for state agencies to help meet their eligibility verification needs. The **Eligibility Verification & Risk Solution** uncovers risks associated with eligibility requirements by applying robust matching methods and performing data quality and integrity analyses. The resulting insights allow you to assess existing payment processes and can help to pinpoint areas of opportunity where controls could be strengthened. Additionally, it returns records that are at risk of improper payments which warrant further research. This solution is ideal for state oversight agencies or state agencies that administer or review funds for Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs, Child Health Insurance Programs, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families beneficiaries. It can also benefit federal agencies that administer or oversee payments issued to beneficiaries as well.

DNP has a proven track record of providing actionable insights to state partners. Through partnerships with several state offices, DNP has leveraged its capabilities to identify more than $6.1M potential improper payments issued by federally funded, state-administered programs.

DNP has a variety of capabilities that help state partners meet payment integrity related needs:

- Determining Eligible Recipients – DNP leverages a variety of eligibility data sources to ensure program participants and/or providers meet eligibility requirements.

- Verifying Data Quality – Poor data quality can negatively impact a program's ability to effectively screen recipients, which could compromise payment integrity. DNP runs a series of tests to evaluate which records are at risk of poor quality.

- Identifying Risky Records – DNP uses techniques to identify anomalies, such as potential duplicate payments and possible fraud risk, including risks stemming from composite identities.

- Validate Internal Controls – Collectively, these insights can be used to assess the strength of existing controls as well as identify areas of improvement via an external, independent review.

- Customer-Centric Approach – We focus on understanding your needs, such as business, technology, and timing to recommend a solution that best fits you.

DNP takes pride in being your trusted advisor on improper payments. We have a dedicated staff who will consult with you to understand your business challenges, identify which DNP service best fits your needs, and guide you through the onboarding process. To schedule an overview of our services and discuss your agency's needs, please contact the DNP State Agency Lead, Jon Ortiz, at Jon.Ortiz@fiscal.treasury.gov or 202-874-9579.

Engaging with DNP Will Help Mitigate Pandemic Relief Disbursement Risks

With the passing of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (2020), the Coronavirus Response and Consolidated Appropriations Act (2021), and the American Rescue Plan (2021), federal and state agencies were provided funds to distribute direct economic assistance for American workers, families, small businesses, and industries. Agencies have been tasked with allocating the $5T in funds efficiently and effectively. The volume of funds and the speed in which funds were made available can present serious oversight challenges for agencies responsible for being effective stewards of taxpayer funds. This is where Do Not Pay (DNP) can assist.

The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA) defines improper payments as any payment that should not have been made or that was made in an incorrect amount, including an overpayment or underpayment, under a statutory, contractual, administrative, or other legally applicable requirement. According to paymentaccuracy.gov, an estimated $206B were identified as improper payments for fiscal year (FY) 2020. This is an increase of $32B compared to FY2019. DNP, which is authorized and governed by PIIA, and several OMB memoranda and circulars, provides a variety of data matching and data analytics services to support agency programs in their efforts to prevent and detect improper payments.

DNP can assist in the determination of eligibility for individuals and entities through pre-award and pre-payment checks. Using DNP's bulk file matching functionality can be a quick and efficient solution to verify the large volume of funds set to be disbursed, and ensure it is okay to pay an individual or entity before you start to pay. The bulk matching functionality also allows an agency to continuously monitor eligibility throughout the time the individual or entity is set to receive payments. Additionally, bulk matching can save time by providing next day results to assist agencies in their eligibility determinations.

As solutions may vary in accordance with each agency's business needs, DNP also offers several data analytics services to assist with improper payment identification. DNP Analytics acts by analyzing agency data to provide insights on strategies, identify areas for focus based on risk and dollar loss, identify areas for process improvements, and provide general consultation services. The DNP Analytics Team accomplishes these tasks by using several techniques, such as: data matching, data modeling, risk assessment and advanced algorithms. Through DNP Analytics, Pandemic Relief Funds can be reviewed to ensure they meet eligibility requirements.

DNP has many solutions that have been proven to work. In FY2020 alone, there are 47 agencies with over 2,400 users who identified $12.2M in improper payments. Additionally, there have been over $31M of improper payments stopped before they were issued. DNP has many solutions that are dedicated to assisting agencies in identifying, reducing and/or eliminating their improper payment amounts in an effective and timely fashion. Please take advantage of DNP's free services by contacting the DNP mailbox at donotpay@fiscal.treasury.gov.

DNP Can Provide Solutions to Business Problems Spanning Across Agencies

Does your agency report estimated improper payments due to "Inability to Authenticate Eligibility: Inability to Access Data"? Do your resource limitations prohibit your agency from entering into an annual Computer Matching Agreement (CMA) with a fellow agency to share data needed to accurately compute an award or benefit? Do Not Pay (DNP) Analytics may be the solution for your agency!

DNP will work with your agency to:

- fully understand requirements for identifying potential cross-government award overlap;

- create a definition of award overlap; and

- outline solutions to allow your agency to identify potential cross-government overlap more efficiently and effectively.

DNP can partner with your agency in an initial custom analytics project to analyze payment overlap and identify potential improper payments. DNP can also assist your agency if they are entering into a CMA with DNP or in drafting a CMA Waiver Request, if required. Please contact your agency's appointed DNP Agency Lead or Agency Specialist (find your agency's contacts in the Contact List at the end of this newsletter) for more information.

DNP Delivers Quicker Eligibility Results to Empower Customers

Do Not Pay (DNP) continues to design and develop new products to meet our customers' ever-changing needs. DNP's previous analytics projects have been successful at helping customers identify improper payments. As more programs, agencies, and audit groups hear of DNP customer successes, DNP is receiving more requests from customers seeking immediate assistance to address their improper payment issues. To meet this increased demand from customers for quick, actionable results, DNP has pioneered new analytics solutions that provide customers with the same quality of results from traditional analytics projects, but in less time.

Over the past year, the analytics team at DNP has developed a new analytics solution for customers requiring expedient analyses of their payment data. This new approach leverages the same types of analyses as a traditional analytics project but takes advantage of automated processes to produce faster results. This approach harnesses the power of the DNP Portal in conjunction with other data quality and data integrity analysis to help customers identify improper payments and assess the quality and integrity of their data.

This combination of the Portal results with data analyses has enabled DNP to provide customers with results similar to a full-scale analytics project, but in less than half the time. DNP customers that have used this combination for their improper payment needs have been able to uncover hundreds of deceased individuals within their payment file and identify potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars in improper payments. These customers have also benefited from receiving these results quickly, enabling them to take immediate action by stopping future payments to these individuals and reclaiming previous payments wrongly disbursed.

The success from DNP's hybrid-type analytics projects has prompted the DNP Analytics Team to develop an even more sophisticated product called the Eligibility Verification & Risk Solution. The Eligibility Verification & Risk Solution Tool will conduct data-matching as well as data integrity and quality analysis and will be available for customers in early 2022. DNP plans to keep building the tool to include other components of larger analytics projects that DNP's customers will benefit from, such as providing automated written reports and data matching to other data sources (like debarment data), and other customizations. Please contact your Agency Lead and Agency Specialist (find your agency's contacts in the Contact List at the end of this newsletter) to discuss engaging with DNP for analytics solutions for your agency's payment integrity.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Survey

Help us improve the Dige$t by taking this short survey!
We want to make sure this publication is helpful in achieving your goal of identifying, preventing, detecting, and reducing improper payments.

Click HERE.

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For Non-CFO Act Agencies, please email the Do Not Pay (DNP) mailbox at donotpay@fiscal.treasury.gov to request the names of your contacts.