

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

September 10, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

TPSS

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: UPDATE ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (EBT) CASH ACCESS PLAN - (SYNOPSIS #92)

On January 8, 2002, your Board instructed my Department to request an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Cash Access Plan (CAP) from the State. The Cash Access Plan will outline each location by zip code where participants will have access to cash benefits under EBT. At that time, your Board also addressed several concerns regarding the feasibility and potential community impact associated with this project. This is the second of our bi-monthly updates regarding our ongoing EBT implementation activities and for addressing these concerns.

The State has started work on Los Angeles County's EBT Cash Access Plan. There will be three iterations (or versions) of the Cash Access Plan for Los Angeles County to evaluate. Each of the succeeding versions will incorporate the findings and comments from the previous evaluation. DPSS will work collectively with interested community groups throughout this evaluation process. The culmination of this process (targeted for late 2003) will be our recommendation to your Board regarding the use of EBT for cash benefits.

- DPSS has begun its development of the CAP evaluation criteria and is conducting ongoing meetings with community and state representatives for input. The evaluation criteria will define "reasonable access" by establishing set standards regarding cash availability, fees and location (with special consideration for densely populated areas). We will use this document to evaluate the viability of the State's Cash Access Plan as it relates to "reasonable access" for our participants.
- The State continues to recruit merchants and banking institutions for participation in the EBT cash project. The current listing of EBT Participating Cash Access ATM Acquirers (Attachment A) has been expanded to include "cash back limits" data from retailers who provide services to our participants.

The following are new developments regarding the general implementation of EBT:

- On August 6, 2002, your Board approved a Unisys contract amendment to proceed with necessary LEADER modifications for EBT. We have also received State approval for this contract amendment. State funding for this amendment is contingent upon final adoption of the State budget.
- The State's EBT pilot, in Alameda and Yolo counties, began on August 1, 2002. Thus far, the pilot is going well.
- DPSS will identify Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and agencies for outreach activities and for EBT training.
- DPSS is working with the State and advocacy groups to develop an EBT training plan for participants and staff. The plan will include how and where to access benefits, instructions on safety and theft related issues, and information regarding participants' rights and responsibilities.
- With EBT Cash, participants will have access to their benefits during the first three (3) calendar days of the month. Under our current LA FAIR system, cash and FS access is staggered over the first ten (10) days of the month. EBT Food Stamp access will continue to be staggered over the first ten (10) days of the month.

In conclusion, by working with community organizations and through outreach activities, we will continue in our efforts towards easing the transition from LA FAIR to EBT for our participants and ensuring its success within the community. My Department will continue to provide your Board with bi-monthly updates of our progress consummating with our final recommendation regarding EBT cash.

BY:sk

Attachment

- c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
Chief Information Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

California EBT Participating Cash Access ATMs and Stores

This document outlines the participating ATM owners and major chain stores providing cash back for the California EBT Project as of July 18, 2002.

Financial Institution or ATM Owner and Brand Name ¹	Type of ATMs ²	EBT Status ³	Surcharge Policy
American Express (Axis ATM)	Kiosk	Quest	No Surcharge
Amicus FSB (Safeway Select Bank)	Full Svc	Quest	No Surcharge
Amicus FSB (Xtra Cash ATM)	Kiosk	Quest	No Surcharge
Bank of the Orient	Full Svc.	Pending	No Surcharge
California Federal Bank	Full Svc.	Quest	No Surcharge
Cathay Bank	Full Svc.	Pending	No Surcharge
Citibank	Full Svc	Quest	No Surcharge
Exchange Bank	Full Svc.	Quest	No Surcharge
Moore West FCU	Full Svc	Pending	No Surcharge
Sacramento Postal Employees CU	Full Svc	Pending	No Surcharge
South County Bank (Orange County)	Full Svc.	Pending	No Surcharge
Washington Mutual Bank	Full Svc	Quest	No Surcharge
Yolo Federal Credit Union	Full Svc	Quest	No Surcharge
Bank of America	Full Svc	Quest	Surcharge \$1.50
Bank of the West	Full Svc.	Pending	Surcharge \$1.50
Bank One	Kiosk	Pending	Surcharge \$1.50
Co-op Network	Full Svc.	Pending	Surcharge \$1.50
First Northern Bank	Full Svc	Quest	Surcharge \$1.50
Fremont Bank	Full Svc.	Pending	Surcharge \$1.50
Golden 1 Credit Union	Full Svc	Quest	Surcharge \$1.50
Key Corp Bank (Arco AM/PM)	Kiosk	Pending	Surcharge
Patelco Credit Union	Full Svc	Pending	Surcharge \$1.50
Pueblo Bank & Trust (E*Trade)	Kiosk	Quest	Surcharge \$1.50
Pueblo Bank and Trust	Kiosk	Pending	Surcharge varies
River City Bank	Full Svc	Quest	Surcharge \$2.00
U.S. Bank	Full Svc.	Quest	Surcharge \$1.50
Union Bank of California	Full Svc	Quest	Surcharge \$1.50
Wells Fargo Bank	Full Svc	Quest	Surcharge \$1.50

¹ Brand Name: Some ATMs operate under a brand name that is different from the bank that is the acquirer. If so, that is noted.

² Type of ATM: ATMs are categorized as full service, which is a typical ATM on the premises of a bank, or kiosk, which is a smaller stand-alone ATM that may be found in convenience stores, gas stations and similar locations. Some bank owners may have both types of ATMs. The chart lists the prevalent ATM type.

³ Participation Status: A status of Quest means the bank is already certified to accept Quest transactions. Pending means the bank has indicated that it will accept California EBT transactions, but the acquirer agreement has not been executed yet.

Cash Back Limit from Participating Retailers

Chain Stores	Fee or Surcharge Yes/No	Cash Back Limit	Other Services
Albertson's Stores	No	\$200	Money Order
Food 4 Less	No	\$200	
K-Mart Stores	No	\$50	
Nugget Stores	No	Full Balance	
Pak 'n' Save	No	\$200	Money Order
Pavilion Stores	No	\$200	Money Order
Ralph's	No	\$200	
Safeway	No	\$200	Money Order
Stater Brothers Stores	No	Full Balance	
Target	No	\$40	
Trader Joe Stores	No	\$50	
Von's Stores	No	\$200	Money Order
Walgreen's Stores	No	\$100	
Wal-Mart Stores	No	\$100	