Tech Debt | Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Project FAQ

This FAQ is a living document and will continue to be updated as more information becomes available. If you have a question not answered in this FAQ, please email Jeremy Alexander at jeremy.alexander@state.co.us.

General Information

1. What is the EBT Tech Debt Project?

EBT is the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) product (group of mainframe applications) that process benefits financial files transmitted by other CDHS products, including the County Financial Management System (CFMS), Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS), Low-Income Assistance to Parents (LEAP), Childcare Automated Tracking System (CHATS), and Colorado's Statewide Automated Case Management System (Trails) that interface with the vendor product, FIS ebtEDGE.

The primary goal of this project is to modernize the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) product currently hosted on the mainframe to increase its maintainability, security, and ability to interface with more up-to-date applications. Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) facilitates direct money transfers as part of eligibility and relief programs. This initiative aims to re-platform the existing systems' functionality while improving the system's capability.

2. Why is OIT doing this?

OIT is re-platforming the existing system from a host environment that has exceeded end-of-life support. Over the lifespan of the existing EBT system, numerous capabilities and features have been deferred. This migration and change will implement as-is capabilities and a prioritized list of desired new capabilities and features.

3. Who is affected?

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) depends on the mainframe for processing and transmitting files between the vendor FIS (FIS is an external vendor that distributes the funds to the recipients either ACH or through a card) in order to exchange Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) benefit files for payment and returns files for daily processing. Multiple systems are integrated with EBT, and modernization will affect them all.

With a modernization effort, integrations with the vendor, FIS, may also need to be revised and tested.

4. **When will this happen?**

The implementation will begin as part of the Mainframe Decommission Program. The project is expected to take 52 weeks to complete and is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

5. **Where will the services go?**

The EBT modernization project will allow for new architecture, applications and functionality. It will be Cloud-based rather than on physical servers after the modernization.

6. **How will it be completed?**

There will be more information once a vendor and solution are identified.