

Crossroads Universal Interface

Two states + Two EBT Processors + One MIS Developer = One Interface Control Document to be used by all stakeholders.

Approach

- The approach taken with Crossroads in relationship to the MIS to EBT interface implementation was to put as much functionality in the MIS as possible. Therefore VA and WV (EBT states within the Crossroads consortium) did not have a lot of choices to make with relationship to the MIS or EBT system as to where certain functions would reside.
- Crossroads uses one interface for two different EBT processors due to the use of the universal interface.

Items of Importance

- The universal interface for Crossroads is a artifact of the Crossroads system and as such is available to other states to use should they choose to implement Crossroads.
- The interface has been tested by two states using two different EBT processors (Xerox and CDP)
- If changes or updates need to be made all stakeholders (CSC, Crossroads states, CDP, and Xerox) meet and discuss to agree to change.
- The MIS developer is the owner of the interface on behalf of the states in the Crossroads Consortium.

Points of Interest

- Crossroads is currently not plug and play, meaning that the system has been tested with online EBT, it would require some changes to the Universal interface to use offline EBT.
- Should a state choose to use the Crossroads universal interface there would be some gap analysis that would need to be completed, for example Manage EBT cards is completed within the MIS system, so if a state wanted to have its EBT processor complete this function it could have this done by comparing the Crossroads ICD to the universal interface specification and determining the gaps.

Crossroads MIS to eWIC Interface Control Document (ICD)

- The WIC Universal MIS Interface Specification (WUMEI) was used as the guide through the most critical and common aspects of the EBT interface.
- Crossroads used with USDA approval version 3.3 of the WUMEI due to the timing of development of this interface, meaning that the interface is not based on the most current version of the interface specification.
- Once the specification was updated, each developer did internal testing and then the states conducted testing in their UAT environments.

Unique Implementation

- Virginia had a specific issue with commissaries with implementing EBT as we only authorize store brand cereals as a vendor cost containment measure and commissaries do not carry store brands, so this created an issue with the approved product list for EBT.
- To address this issue Virginia worked with Xerox to come up with the following solution:
 - The UPC upload process works the same, the UPC's are uploaded into Crossroads and sent to the Xerox EPPIC system via the normal batch file process.
 - Virginia's UPC analyst then logs into EPPIC, locates the UPCs that are commissary only and checks a flag

Unique Implementation - Continued

- Once the UPCs have been flagged a separate commissary APL file is created, at this point EPPIC will include those UPCs in the APL file for vendors in the commissary peer group.
- This allows commissaries to sell national brands as needed, and all other vendors in the state to only sell approved store brands of cereal as dictated by Virginia's cost containment.

Questions

- Should you have questions about the implementation of the Crossroads Universal Interface, please feel free to contact the Virginia Crossroads Project Manager, Sylvia Mitchem at Sylvia.Mitchem@vdh.virginia.gov