



UFMS NEWSFLASH: January 15, 2003

In this edition...

1. Finalizing UFMS Requirements: REMINDER
2. What's the Fuss About Changing the "CAN"?
3. "Behind the Scenes" in UFMS: We're Moving!
4. Coming Up: Addressing the Needs of Program Management

1. Finalizing Unified Financial Management System (UFMS) Requirements: REMINDER

From Jan. 14-24, the team will hold requirements review sessions for each of the following functional and technical areas: (1) budget execution, (2) accounting for commitments and obligations, (3) accounts payable, (4) accounts receivable, (5) general ledger, (6) cost management (Oracle projects module), (7) regulatory and HHS common reporting requirements, and (8) core financial management system technical requirements.

These sessions are an important part of the project process, and are the last opportunity for review from the experts and representatives in OPDIVs and STAFFDIVs before the baseline requirements are approved by the UFMS governance committees. See <http://www.hhs.gov/ufms/> and click on "Calendar of Events" for more information or updates.

2. What's the Fuss About Changing the "CAN"?

"A CAN by any other name is still a CAN." So why is UFMS talking about the "BACS"? UFMS will retain the basic concept of using certain codes to identify HHS accounts. The CAN (Common Accounting Number) will become the BACS (Budget and Accounting Classification System) number. But regardless of the name and structure, the idea is still a lynchpin of the new UFMS as it is with current HHS accounting systems. The new BACS numbers will be based on the CANs, but will enhance financial management and offer greater reporting flexibility in UFMS.

It is critical that the information attached to the old CAN system be fed into the new BACS. The UFMS team has been holding workshops throughout 2002, and continues in January to meet with OPDIV representatives on BACS. The team is now in the process of determining the requirements for converting data from the feeder systems into UFMS and back again.

For more information, contact Barbara King at Barbara.King@hhs.gov.

3. Behind the Scenes" in UFMS: We're Moving!

The UFMS Team will be relocating to Rockville during the last two weeks in January. Despite phone and address changes, **E-MAIL ADDRESSES WILL REMAIN THE SAME**, so the best way to contact anyone on the UFMS Team will be through e-mail. Phone numbers and addresses will be updated in the Outlook directory as soon as they have been confirmed at the new location. The overall address is

UFMS
12300 Twinbrook Parkway
Suite 550
Rockville, MD 20852



Remember, to reach any UFMS team member, use the individual's **E-MAIL address**.

4. Coming Up: Addressing the Needs of Program Management

Stay tuned to this space for more about UFMS and program management needs! The UFMS initiative is analyzing how future enterprise system developments across HHS can meet the needs of HHS programs. Some potential system approaches to supporting program management - such as the use of a data warehouse - are not in the scope of UFMS. However, future efforts may include such solutions. To that end, the UFMS team will work with OPDIVs to learn more about program needs in the near future.