HHS PARIS Information Exchange Package Document – Business Document

InterState Output

Version 3.2
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1. Executive Summary

PARIS is a federal and state partnership that collects and matches public assistance eligibility information to improve program integrity among participating states. PARIS is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Data files are sent by individual states to ACF for data matching at least once per year, but many states submit the information each quarter.

Due to the complexity and importance of this information, HHS faces a challenge in transmitting and matching state and federal information. To explore potential solutions for this challenge, HHS engaged the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for support in learning more about the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) model. PM-ISE convened a Quick Start team to understand HHS's needs and create an Information Exchange Package Document (IEPD) – the basic element for storing and exchanging information in NIEM.

NIEM is an Extensible Markup Language (XML) based information exchange format that provides a standard language for exchanging information. NIEM is currently used around the U.S. Government, including as the data exchange format of choice for DHS. NIEM's value to HHS comes through its potential to provide a standard format for electronically transferring and matching information and data. The proposed information exchange described in this IEPD will facilitate the bidirectional transfer of information between participating states and PARIS.

2. HHS PARIS Information Exchange

2.1. Business Case

Initiated in 1993, PARIS is a set of computer matches that enable State Public Assistance Agencies (SPAAs) and federal agencies to share information about applicants for and recipients of certain benefits. The project provides a platform for participating SPAAs to exchange the previous quarter's eligibility files for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medicaid programs. Also, federal agencies such as the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have signed agreements to participate in the information exchange. As enacted, participation in PARIS was voluntary by states. However, as a result of the 1999 Q1 Funding Act, all states are required to sign an agreement to participate in the PARIS data exchange in order to receive Medicaid funding. PARIS remains voluntary with respect to SNAP and TANF.

States can use the PARIS data match to ensure individuals enrolled in Medicaid, TANF and/or SNAP in one state are not receiving duplicate benefits based on simultaneous enrollment in these programs in another state. In certain circumstances, PARIS may also be used as a tool to identify individuals who may be eligible for other federal or state programs based on their individual or family circumstances.

Further, PARIS interstate match provides SPAA a way to compare SPAA data against other states' Medicaid, TANF, and/or SNAP programs. The interstate match can also provide states with information about applicants for and recipients of workers compensation and child care benefits. States may also participate in one or more matches with federal agency data provided by the VA or Defense Department. The VA provides states with information on the eligibility of SPAA applicants and recipients for benefits under federal veterans' programs.

2.2. Business Process

Currently, the PARIS program provides three different options for the SPAA to match data:

- Interstate Match - Social Security Numbers of public assistance clients are submitted by participating PARIS states and compared with data from all other participating states to determine if clients are enrolled in more than one state.

- Veterans Match - Provides states with information on the eligibility of their public assistance clients for the Veterans Affairs benefits and also allows states to determine if these clients are receiving income or medical assistance payments from the VA.

- Federal Match - Matches state data with information from the DoD and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to determine if clients are receiving income from any of these sources or are eligible for federal healthcare coverage.
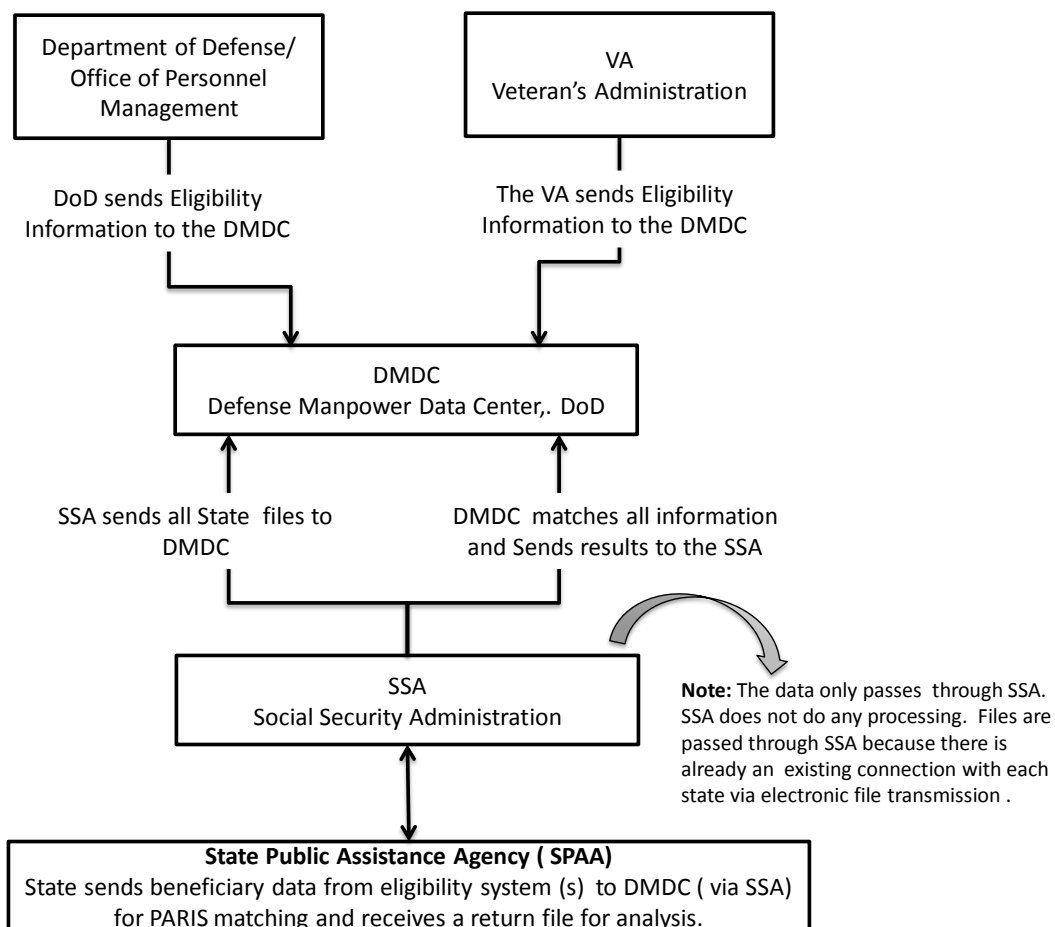
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┌─────────────────────────┐          ┌─────────────────────────┐
│  Department of Defense/ │          │           VA            │
│   Office of Personnel   │          │  Veteran's Administration│
│       Management        │          │                         │
└───────────┬─────────────┘          └───────────┬─────────────┘
            │                                     │
     DoD sends Eligibility              The VA sends Eligibility
     Information to the DMDC            Information to the DMDC
            │                                     │
            ▼                                     ▼
     ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
     │                        DMDC                           │
     │        Defense Manpower Data Center,. DoD             │
     └──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
            ▲                                     ▲
     SSA sends all State files to        DMDC matches all information
     DMDC                                and Sends results to the SSA
            │                                     │
     ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
     │                        SSA                            │
     │          Social Security Administration               │
     └──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
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Note: The data only passes through SSA. SSA does not do any processing. Files are passed through SSA because there is already an existing connection with each state via electronic file transmission .

State Public Assistance Agency (SPAA)
State sends beneficiary data from eligibility system (s) to DMDC (via SSA) for PARIS matching and receives a return file for analysis.

Figure 1: PARIS Information Sources and Recipients

All participating states submit eligibility and enrollment information for programs such as TANF, Workers Compensation, Medicaid, child care and SNAP to DMDC through SSA for PARIS matching.

The Defense Manpower Data Center within DoD facilitates the PARIS data matching process and provides the infrastructure to connect with Veterans Affairs and DoD data to pull information on veterans eligibility and employment related information. When states submit their information, there are specific request fields that can be turned on or off based on the type of information they want to receive from the PARIS data matching system.

3. Business Requirement

3.1. PARIS Exchange Business Requirement

The proposed information exchange will enable bidirectional transfer of information between the participating SPAAs and PARIS. The information exchange data elements will be mapped to existing elements used by the SPAAs for submitting information to the PARIS systems. In addition to the input data elements for the exchange, the output data elements will also be a one-to-one mapping to the existing PARIS output format.
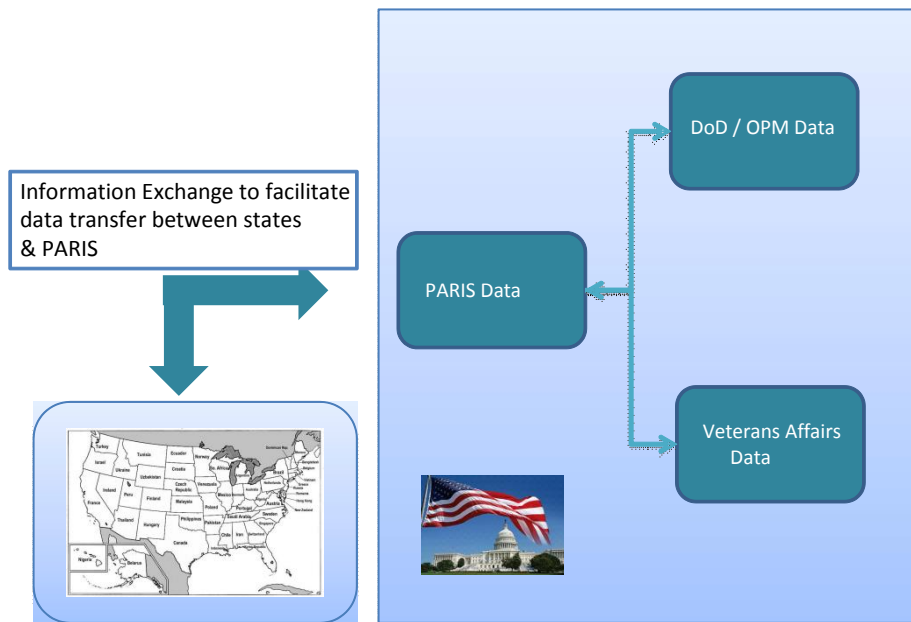

Figure 2: PARIS Data Flow Model

This future information exchange is perfectly suited for the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). NIEM is a joint U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ), Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Health and Human Services framework used by thousands of organizations to share information. These organizations include federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments as well as the private sector who share information pertinent to over a dozen NIEM domains.

As a national program, NIEM offers a proven mechanism and supporting best practices for sharing information having already demonstrated value within all levels of government for a broad set of mission areas that include justice, homeland security, international trade, human services, and cyber. Large, well established communities of interest currently use NIEM to ensure that when information is

exchanged between different systems, it is done in a standardized, commonly understood language. This enables quicker consumption and action on information.

NIEM also enables mapping of each stakeholder's internal vocabulary to a new standard – thus generating the information in commonly accepted language facilitating communication with any other stakeholder who has also implemented their own mapping. Additionally, NIEM acts as a universal information translation engine, accelerating the business value of sharing by reducing the cost and risk in building a system. The common language framework removes the need for organizations to go through standard definitions for information transfers as NIEM already accounts for this.

3.2. PARIS Data Flow Requirement

States submit information related to residents collecting federal aid to PARIS for matching by DMDC. The data will be used by PARIS to do inter-state matching to identify potential clients that are collecting aid from multiple states.
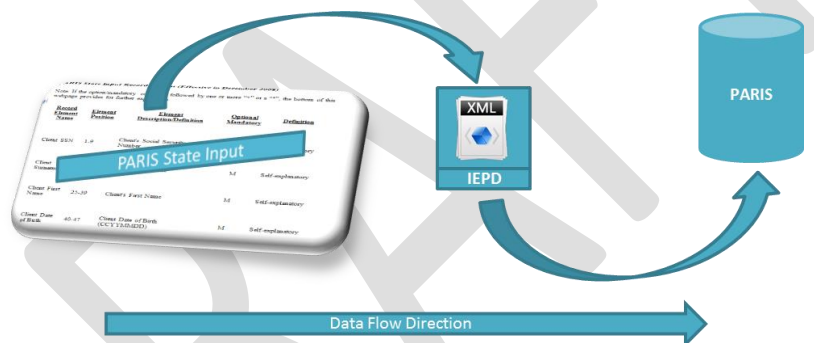

Figure 3: SPAA to PARIS Exchange Data Flow

The current lists of elements that are sent by the state to the PARIS database are as follows:

Case
      Case Number
      SSN Verification Indicator
      Fraud Indicator
      Fugitive Felon Indicator
      Probation and Parole Violation Indicator
      Drug Related Felon Indicator
Contact Official
      MA Contact Person Information
Transactional Information
      File Date
      State Name
      State Optional Data
      VA Match Request Code
      State Match Request Code
      FED Match Request Code
Person
      Client Surname
      Client First Name
      Client Date of Birth
      Client SSN
      Gender
      Marital Status
Contact
      Contact Supported: Phone
      Contact Supported: Fax
      Contact Supported: E-mail
      Contact Person Phone Number
      Contact Person Phone Number Extension
      Contact Person Fax Number
      Contact Person Email Address

Location
      Client Locator Code
      Address (Line 1)
      Address (Line 2)
      Address (City)
      Address (State)
      Address (Zip Code)
Benefit History
      TANF Months Eligibility
      Cash Last Paid Amount
      FS Last Paid Amount
      Last EBT Access Date
      Filler
Eligibility
      TANF Indicator
      General Assistance Indicator
      Food Stamp Indicator
      SSI Indicator
      Medicaid Indicator
      Child Care Indicator
      Worker's Comp Indicator
      Filler
Food Stamps
      Food Stamps Eligibility Start
Date
      Food Stamps Eligibility End Date

TANF
      TANF Elig. Start Date
      TANF Elig. End Date
Medicaid
      Medicaid Elig. Start Date
      Medicaid Elig. End Date
SSI
      SSI Elig. Start Date
      SSI Elig. End Date
Gen Assistance
      Gen. Assist. Eligibility Start Date
      Gen. Assist. Eligibility End Date
Child Care
      Child Care Elig Start Date
      Child Care Elig End Date
Workers Comp
      Worker's Comp Elig Start Date
      Worker's Comp Elig End Date
      Worker's Comp Pay Amount

Based on the requests from states, PARIS provides three types of output 1) Interstate Match Output 2) Federal Output 3) Veterans Benefits Output.
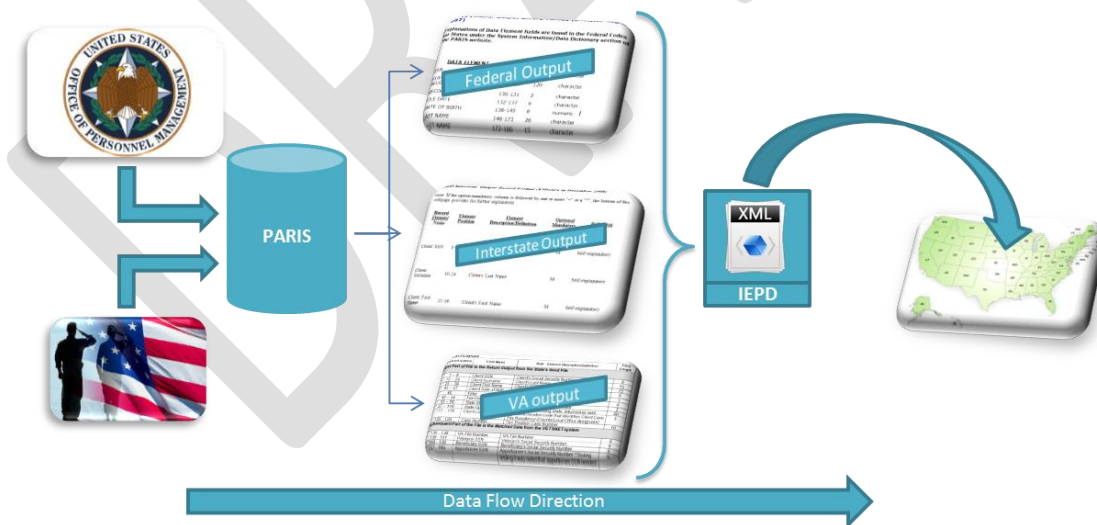

Figure 4: PARIS to SPAA Exchange Data Flow

4. Business Rule

PARIS gets input from the SPAAs on citizens that are receiving aid from federal agencies. The three input flags in SPAA submission forms 1) VA Match Request Code 2) State Match Request Code 3) FED Match Request Code helps PARIS provide the proper output files to the requesting states. The possible values for the three flags are **'Y'** "perform match" and **'N'** "do not perform match."

	Flag Values	Flag Definition
Interstate Match		
	Y	Perform Interstate Match
	N	Do not Perform Interstate Match
Federal Match		
	Y	Perform Federal Match
	N	Do not Perform Federal Match
Veterans Match		
	Y	Perform Veterans Match
	N	Do not Perform Veterans Match

Domain Model

Paris Exchange Model

5. Testing & Conformance

Testing and conformance will conform to PARIS specifications as published:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/paris/system

The NIME ConTesa tool was used to verify conformance to NIEM standards.

6. Tools & Methodologies

Eclipse with NIEM plugin

NIEM IEPD create tool

7. Appendix A: Participating State Public Assistance Agencies (SPAA's)

1. Alabama Medicaid Agency
2. Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
3. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
4. Arkansas Department of Human Services
5. California Department of Health Care Services
6. Colorado Department of Human Services
7. Connecticut Department of Social Services
8. Delaware Health and Social Services
9. District of Columbia Department of Human Services
10. Florida Department for Children and Families
11. Georgia Department of Community Health
12. Hawaii Department of Human Services
13. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
14. Illinois Department of Human Services
15. Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
16. Iowa Department of Human Services
17. Kansas Department for Children and Families
18. Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Families Services
19. Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
20. Maine Department of Health and Human Services
21. Maryland Department of Human Resources
22. Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
23. Michigan Department of Human Services
24. Minnesota Department of Human Services
25. Mississippi Department of Human Services
26. Missouri Department of Social Services
27. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
28. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
29. Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
30. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
31. New Jersey Department of Human Services
32. New Mexico Human Services Department
33. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
34. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Resources
35. North Dakota Department of Human Services
36. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
37. Oklahoma Department of Human Services
38. Oregon Department of Human Services
39. Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
40. Puerto Rico Administration for the Socioeconomic Development of the Family
41. Rhode Island Department of Human Services
42. South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
43. South Dakota Department of Social Services
44. Tennessee Department of Human Services
45. Texas Health and Human Services Commission

46. Utah Department of Workforce Services
47. Vermont Agency of Human Services
48. Virginia Department of Social Services
49. Washington State Health Care Authority
50. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
51. Wisconsin Department of Health Services
52. Wyoming Department of Family Services