

October 25, 2012
FI\$Cal Forum Q & A

Q. - Are the reports/queries going to mirror our current/required annual reports to eliminate work redundancy, i.e. Cal Recycle, SB/DVBE, etc.?

A. - We will have some canned reports available. In Wave 3, we will roll out enhanced business intelligence and analytic capability tools and we will ensure you have the data available to complete the reports that are necessary for your department.

Q. - Wave 3 is January 2016. Will those departments have CalSTARS available to validate costs that occurred in the first six months?

A. - Those decisions will be made as we move closer to the Wave. We will ensure you have the tools necessary to continue to successfully manage your department requirements.

Q. - Will CalSTARS be phased out? If "yes", when?

A. - Yes. However, CalSTARS will not be phased out until all departments are using FI\$Cal.

Q. - Will the FI\$Cal System cause additional costs to each department once it's up and running?

A. - Most departments are CalSTARS departments, already paying a service charge for being part of CalSTARS. We will develop a Cost Allocation Plan once we're closer to implementation. It will likely be based on usage, similar to CalSTARS. You will be offsetting the costs paid to CalSTARS and the costs of maintaining your existing Legacy systems.

Q. - Will departments need to buy special IT equipment or licenses for this new system?

A. - Licenses for the software are part of our current contract. FI\$Cal will be purchasing licenses for 13,000 State employees. Our Tech Team will work with your technical liaison to validate that the equipment on your desktop is compatible with the new System. Buying new equipment for the departments is not part of the cost of the Project.

Q. - Please provide an update on all State agencies who participated in the FI\$Cal Project, what Wave they are and how many other agencies have not participated.

A. - We've reached out to many departments with our BPR/CRP sessions. The Wave Assignments are listed on our website, www.fiscal.ca.gov. All departments are participating. Deferred and exempt departments will interface with FI\$Cal to ensure we have a comprehensive financial picture of the State.

Q. - When will the Department Implementation Teams (DITs) be formed for Waves?

A. - We have established DITs for Pre-Wave departments and will be establishing DITs for Wave 1 departments in the coming months; about 18 months out from Wave 1 for Go-Live. DITs for all other Waves will be formed about one year from their Go-Live implementation dates.

Q. - Will there be a Graphical User Interface (GUI) for desktops?

A. - Yes, it's a web-based application. Access to the System will be through a portal.

Q. - If you have made Chart of Accounts (COA) changes already, when will they be shared?

A. - We are currently conducting workshops with participants to assist us in designing what the new Chart of Accounts will look like. It has not yet been finalized. It is anticipated to be completed by Spring/Summer 2013.

Q. - Will you make the presentation available on your website?

A. - Yes. You can access the presentation at our website, www.fiscal.ca.gov under the "Project Archive" tab, "FI\$Cal Forum Presentations".

Q. - Will FI\$Cal have performance management ongoing?

A. - We won't be configuring specific performance standards for each department. However, departments will have the capability to access reports and queries to attain your desired performance measures.

Q. - Will FI\$Cal be flexible to handle Zero Based Budgeting and Performance Based Budgeting?

A. - FI\$Cal has the flexibility to address Zero Based Budgeting and Performance Based Budgeting, if required by the State in the future.

Q. - Where are the Training Labs going to be?

A. - The decision has not yet been made. It will depend on the Wave and the location of the departments. We will determine the best location(s) for the user labs based on location(s) of departments in the Wave.

Q. - What is the role of very small agencies that contract with DGS Office of Fiscal Services?

A. - We are currently coordinating with DGS. You will have a role just as you now have a role in accounting and budgeting. We will coordinate both with DGS and the agencies to ensure you have all aspects of your financial management covered.

Q. - Is the integration of budgets and accounting going to include an "automated" Fund Condition Reconciliation?

A. - We are currently working through 77 business processes through our Business Process Reengineering (BPR) sessions. Those decisions will be made as part of our design sessions.