External Data Interface Standards (EDIS) Exchange

Collaboration Session #4

May 19th, 2010

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

EDIS Exchange Meeting Agenda

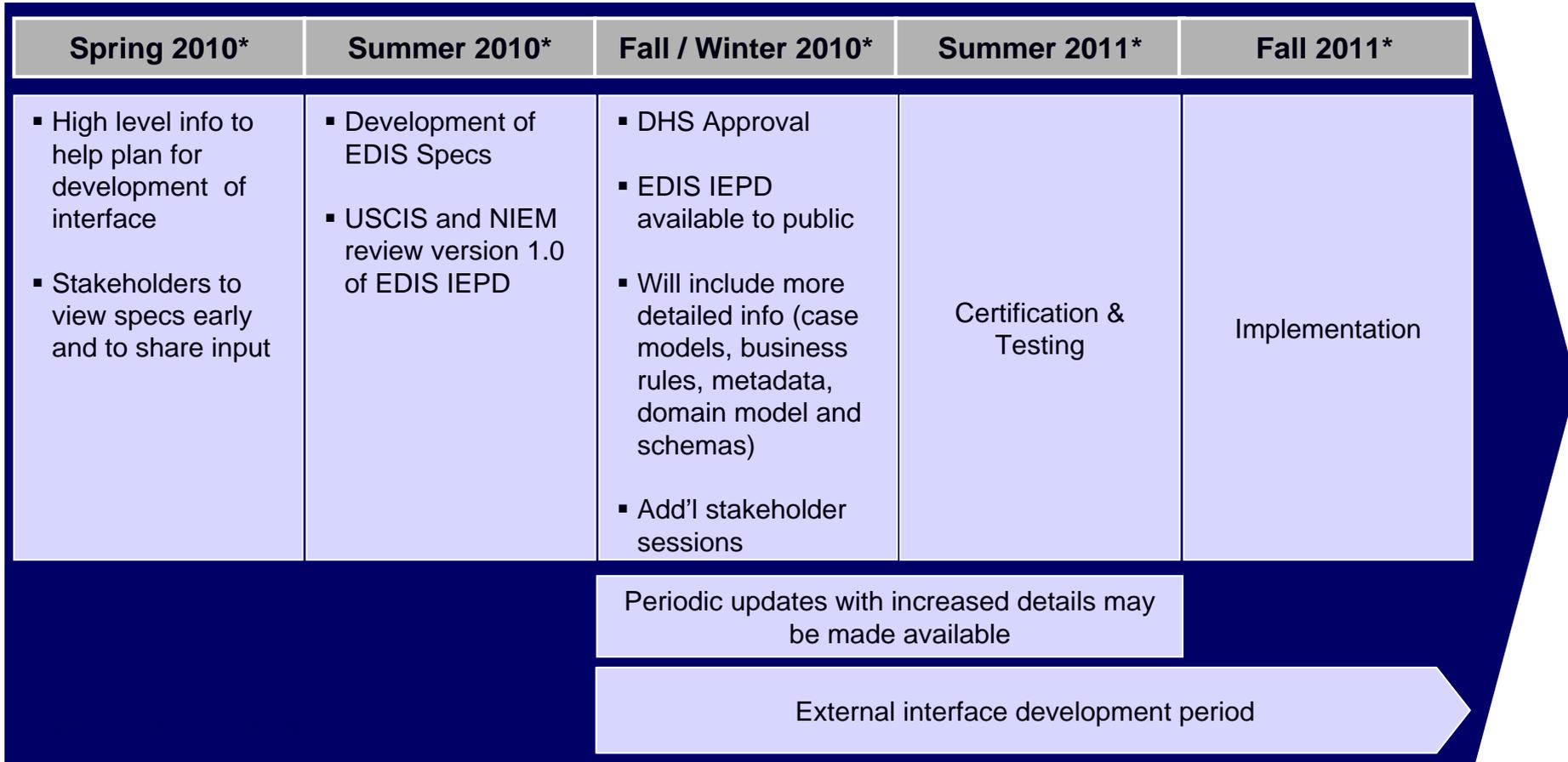Ms. Courtney Winship, Office of Public Engagement

- Updated Timeline of EDIS

- Artifacts of the EDIS IEPD

- Status of Business Domain Model

- Electronic Signatures

- Payment Processing

- Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding

- Meeting Wrap Up

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

EDIS Timeline
Ms. Paula Ycong, Transformation Program Office

Spring 2010*	Summer 2010*	Fall / Winter 2010*	Summer 2011*	Fall 2011*
▪ High level info to help plan for development of interface ▪ Stakeholders to view specs early and to share input	▪ Development of EDIS Specs ▪ USCIS and NIEM review version 1.0 of EDIS IEPD	▪ DHS Approval ▪ EDIS IEPD available to public ▪ Will include more detailed info (case models, business rules, metadata, domain model and schemas) ▪ Add'l stakeholder sessions	Certification & Testing	Implementation

Periodic updates with increased details may be made available

External interface development period

*Dates subject to change.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Understanding the Artifacts of the EDIS Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD)

Mr. Ted McLaughlan

Office of Transformation Coordination

Solutions Architect Team for Enterprise Integration

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

EDIS IEPD is the specification that defines the data exchange between an external system and USCIS.

- Consists of normative exchange specifications, examples, metadata, and documentation encapsulated by a catalog that describes each artifact

- Includes technical documentation that describe the exchange files and non-technical documentation that describe the business context of the information exchange

- Will be archived as a single compressed file that will be available to the public

- Leverages the work done for the Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) guidelines for the Global Justice XML Data Model

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

EDIS IEPD includes technical exchange file documentation.

Artifact	Description
Exchange Schema	Base document schema that defines the XML root element and is generally named after the IEPD. AKA document, reference or root schema.
Subset Schema	Directory structure containing specific subset of the full NIEM schemas
Constraint Schema	Constraints for separate constraint validation paths
Extension Schema	Specification for extended components. Separates local namespace of components not contained in NIEM. Identifies missing NIEM data element, if any.
Sample XML Instance	Example of XML instance and may reference optional style sheet.
Sample Style Sheet	Example style sheet for display of instances.
Want List	User requirements containing user-selected NIEM components specific to this exchange. This list will distinguish user data components required by the user from components that the user depends on for conformance.

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

EDIS IEPD includes non-technical documentation for business context.

Artifact	Description
Master Documentation	Document summarizing purpose, business requirements, background, etc. It may reference system requirements, use cases, etc.
Master Field Index Document	Mapping of domain USCIS form fields to backend system fields
Exchange Model	Illustrates the information flow, information packages, general "encapsulation" or packaging of the messages themselves (i.e. inclusive of the actual NIEM-compliant data). Contains use case diagrams in standard open format and standard graphic, preferable UML.
Domain Model	A logical data model that reflects the various data entities used in the exchange and their semantics. It illustrates the information for the XML schema definition.
Business Rules	Describes completeness rules, required data or basic data validation/verification rules that apply
Methodology & Tools	Descriptive summary of what methodology and tools are used to build the IEPD. May contain URLs or references to tools, methodology, or documentation.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

EDIS IEPD includes non-technical documentation for business context (continued).

Artifact	Description
Change Log	Record of cumulative changes from previous IEPD versions
Catalog	A machine readable list of artifacts in an open, portable and browser displayable format
Metadata	All metadata registered with the IEPD
Mapping to NIEM	Mapping of domain components, tagged with constraints to NIEM components
Extended Components	Document includes structure and definition of new components, not found in NIEM
Testing & Conformance	Description and results of validation and conformance testing performed—may include testing output or products. Includes information (for this business context) regarding the process and environments available for Certification Testing.
Agreements/ Governance	Outlines the agreements, understandings, and terms users will need to follow in order to utilize this new system to system e-filing channel. Will be based on standards and policies from other Information-Sharing Agreements, MOUs, and LOIs

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Status Update on the EDIS Domain Model
Mr. Ted McLaughlan, Solutions Architect Team

- Current Status of the EDIS Domain Model and Other Components of the IEPD

- Next Steps for the Near Future Versus Long Term

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Review of Acceptable Electronic Signature Processes

Ms. Diane Kuhla

Office of Transformation Coordination

Solutions Architect Team for Account and Case Management

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Electronic signatures accepted in image or third party verification forms.

- Electronic signatures will be accepted by USCIS and a data field will be required to verify signature

    - Signature required for fraud prevention and identification purposes

- Acceptable types of signatures include:

    - Image – requires the completed benefit request be printed, signed by the applicant, scanned, and attached as a jpeg to the system before submission to USCIS

        - This will be the default option for EDIS and e-file systems

    - Third-party verification – requires the applicant to log into the third party or attorney system, verify that the contents of the benefit request are correct, and indicate their signature

    - This system may take advantage of third-party verification software

- If firms do not want to employ third-party software, they can rely on the print/sign solution or have an applicant log into the USCIS Transformation system and sign

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

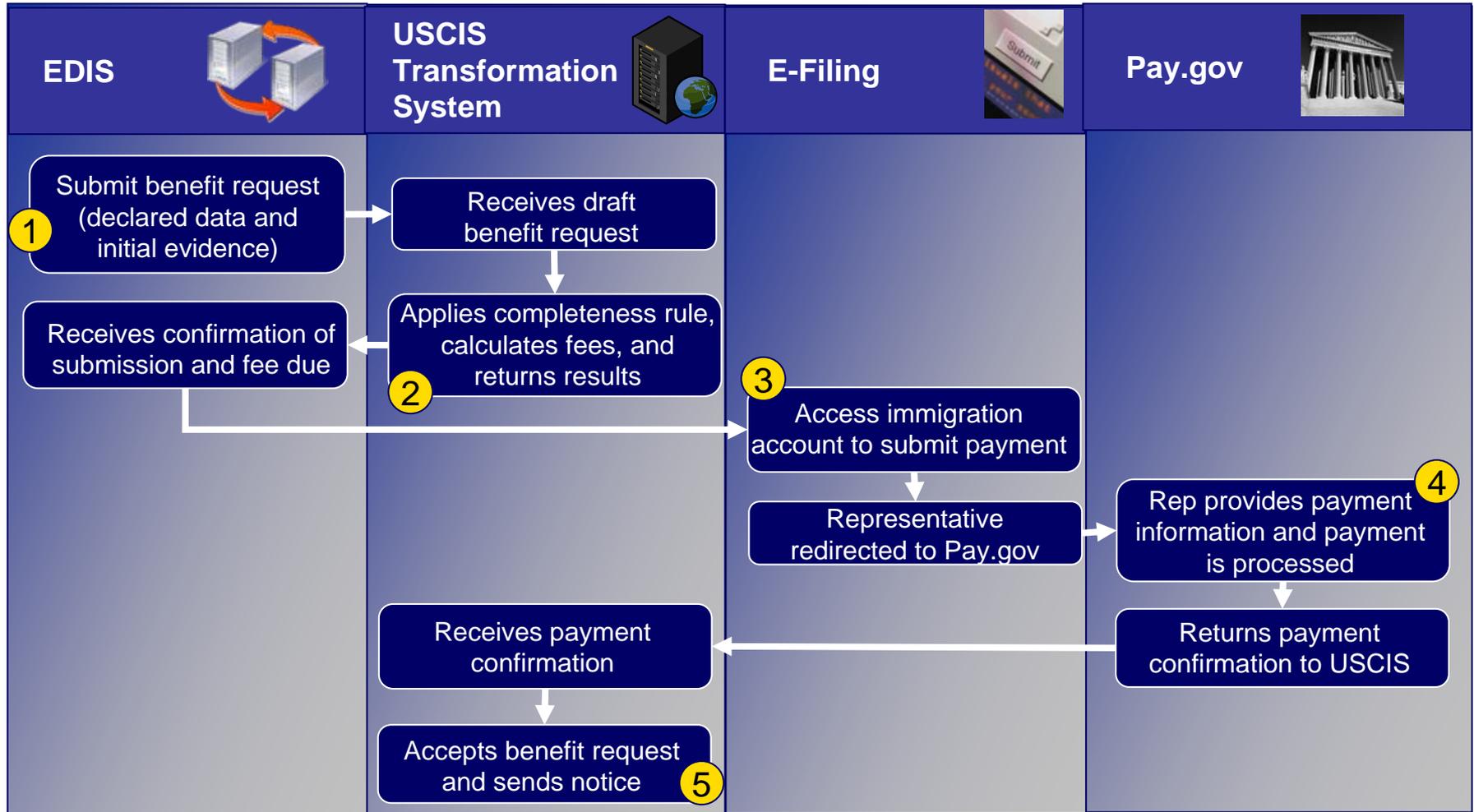# Preview of Payment Processing within the EDIS Environment

Ms. Diane Kuhla

Office of Transformation Coordination

Solutions Architect Team for Account and Case Management

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Payment processing approach leverages current e-filing and pay.gov interfaces.

EDIS	USCIS Transformation System	E-Filing	Pay.gov
1 Submit benefit request (declared data and initial evidence)	Receives draft benefit request		
Receives confirmation of submission and fee due	**2** Applies completeness rule, calculates fees, and returns results	**3** Access immigration account to submit payment	
		Representative redirected to Pay.gov	**4** Rep provides payment information and payment is processed
	Receives payment confirmation		Returns payment confirmation to USCIS
	5 Accepts benefit request and sends notice		

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Confirmation of payment and receipt of benefit requests are sent to representatives and applicants through the USCIS Transformation system.

1 Representative transmits benefit request with declared data (e.g., biographic and eligibility info) and initial evidence (documentation to support an applicant's eligibility for the benefit sought)

2 If the transmission meets USCIS requirements (e.g., completeness, format), a confirmation message is passed back via EDIS with USCIS Immigration Account ID and instructions to log into the e-filing portal to complete the request by providing the fee payment

3 Representative logs into his/her USCIS Immigration Account to enter benefit request payment information and is redirected to pay.gov

4 Representative provides payment information within pay.gov and the payment is immediately processed

5 The USCIS Transformation system receives confirmation that payment has been received for this benefit request and a notice (based on communications preference set up in the account) is sent to the applicant and representative

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

2 step in-take process allows for greater flexibility in separation of duties for submitting organization.

- Enables law firms/organizations to separate duties of benefit filing and payment processing
  - Staff responsible for submitting benefit request payment information may require an account role to manage or restrict access to account and case information in USCIS system
  - Feedback from recent stakeholder feedback sessions indicates this is preferable based on current practices in some organizations

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Agreement Between EDIS Participants and USCIS

Mr. Jonathan Hoffman

Office of Transformation Coordination

Solutions Architect Team for Legal Regulations and Policy

A signed agreement will be required for any firm to transmit a benefit request via the EDIS interface.

- General Agreement and Authority to be published in a Federal Register Notice

- Each firm and designated user (attorney) will be required to sign a specific Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - Firm and designated agent treated separately
  - Outlines functions of each party and limitations on the individual agreement
  - Covers privacy, access and interaction governance

- Agreements for each firm will be identical

- There will be an opportunity to review and comment upon the terms before they are finalized.

Meeting Wrap Up

Ms. Paula Ycong, Transformation Program Office

- Additional questions regarding the topics covered

- Audience Next Steps:
  - Meeting minutes / materials posted in the next few days
  - Evaluation and feedback received and appreciated
    - Please continue to respond to the evaluations

- Send questions/comments to Transform.EDIS@DHS.gov

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services