

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



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TO: Financial Software Vendors
FROM: Sarah Ancel, Deputy Commissioner 
RE: Vendor Information for Online Budget Form Submission through Gateway
DATE: April 21, 2011

With a commitment to transparency to Indiana taxpayers, the Department of Local Government Finance ("Department"), the State Board of Accounts, and the Indiana Business Research Center at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business have launched a new data reporting system for local governments. The system, known as the Indiana Gateway for Government Units ("Gateway"), is a web-based budget program that allows local governments to submit forms to certain state agencies online.

After a successful pilot program, the Department is now moving forward with full rollout of online budget submission for pay-2012 budgets for all units except schools. Schools will be required to submit forms for the pay-2013 budget cycle through Gateway.

The Department would like to invite you to attend a vendor meeting to learn more about Gateway and what impact it will have on you and your clients. Meeting details are as follows:

Date: May 5, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 14
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

Please RSVP to Colby Shank at cshank@dlgf.in.gov by Monday, May 2, 2011 if you plan to attend.

The pilot version of Gateway, which contained only three forms and seven counties, is being upgraded for the statewide rollout on July 1. This will extend Gateway to all counties and incorporate all budget forms (Forms 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 4b, and 144). Here is where you will continue to play a vitally important role for your clients.

The Department is finalizing data file specifications that will allow your clients to utilize a direct upload function in Gateway for Forms 1 and 2 from your financial software systems. The specifications must be followed to successfully use the direct upload option.

While these specifications will be made available to units directly, we recognize that most units will rely upon their financial software vendors to assist them with the upload option. At the meeting, we will discuss the final specifications and upload procedure in detail and address any questions or issues you might have.

All vendors, whether they attend the meeting or not, will be able to find the specifications on our website and through our email listservs in coming weeks. If you are not currently a member of our listservs, please visit <http://www.in.gov/dlgf/7063.htm?WT.ac=newsandnotices> to sign up.

Gateway will provide transparency to local government data in Indiana in a way that has never before been so easy. Once fully implemented, website visitors will be able to research local finance interactively, with comparison tools and within the context of other information—economic data, population data, and geographic information. Additionally, GIS technology allows for the creation of maps, presenting information in a different way that allows users to look at other communities near them. Gateway will also help Indiana government operate more efficiently by eliminating the cost of printing, transporting, and storing paper documents while also allowing the Department to review budgets more efficiently.

We are excited about the prospects of Gateway making local government taxation more transparent and understandable. We are eager to work with your organizations to make this as efficient as possible for local officials.

For more information about Gateway, please visit <http://www.in.gov/dlgf/8918.htm> or contact Deputy Commissioner Sarah Ancel at 317.234.4376 or sancel@dlgf.in.gov.