



REVENUE HANDBOOK

**OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

I. PREFACE

This Revenue Handbook contains the policies, standards and other guidance required for collection of Commonwealth revenue. Departments are responsible for collecting all revenue specifically authorized by the Legislature.

By statute, the Comptroller (CTR) requires that all collected revenue be reported through the Massachusetts Management Accounting and Reporting System (MMARS) so that all revenue has complete accounting and reporting. Revenue Budgets (BQ82) are the primary statutory basis for collected revenue and there should be only one revenue budget for each authorized revenue stream.

Massachusetts Management Accounting and Reporting System (MMARS)

The Comptroller has broad authority to prescribe accounting rules and instructions for all state departments and appropriate use of the state accounting system. Pursuant to [M.G.L. c. 7A, § 7](#), [M.G.L. c. 7A, § 8](#), [M.G.L. c. 7A, § 9](#) and [M.G.L. c. 29, § 31](#), the Comptroller is required to implement a state accounting system (including a centralized payroll system) and issue instructions for the accounting practices to be used by all departments for supplies, materials, assets, liabilities, equity, debt, encumbrances, expenditures, revenues, expenses, and obligations of all Commonwealth funds and accounts, including payroll, unless specifically exempted by general or special law. The Comptroller has full authority to prescribe, regulate and make changes in the method of keeping and rendering accounts and is authorized to direct state departments to implement changes in their systems to meet these statewide standards.

This Handbook includes revenue source code descriptions for all revenue collected. The descriptions are brief explanations of the type of revenue collected. Departments are responsible for full compliance with all applicable state and federal statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements governing the collection of revenue, regardless of whether or not specifically cited in this Handbook. Additionally, departments are responsible for the proper coding of all revenue collected. Departments are advised to seek additional assistance from their legal and fiscal staff.

II. REVENUE SOURCE CODES

The revenue source codes contained in this Revenue Handbook indicate the types of revenue collected by the Commonwealth. Revenue source codes contain three roll ups: Revenue Category, Revenue Class, and Revenue Group.

TYPE OF REVENUE	REVENUE SOURCE CODE
GAAP REVENUE ACCRUALS	0001 – 0090
TAXES	0091 – 0468
FEES	0500 – 0853
FEDERAL GRANTS (ALSO SEE ARRA AND FEDERAL GRANT REVENUE)	1000 – 1999
FRINGE/INDIRECT/TERMINAL LEAVE	2006 – 2019
MOSQUITO REVENUE	2030 – 2038
PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	2040 – 2049
PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	2050 – 2058
SETTLEMENTS AWARDED TO COMMONWEALTH	2060 – 2091
INTEREST	2100 – 2199
DEBT COLLECTOR FEES	2200 – 2204

PENALTIES	2700 – 2730
LICENSES	3000 – 3163
VICTIM/WITNESS	3300
RECOVERIES / SPECIAL PROJECT	34**
REIMBURSEMENTS	3500 – 3600
RENTS	4000 – 4033
ALCOHOL FEES DRUNK DRIVING	4400
SALES	4500 – 4545
LOTTERY	4550 – 4590
ASSESSMENTS	4800 – 4958
UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS	5000 – 5010
FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS	5105 – 5601
PROGRAM INCOME FEDERAL GRANTS	6899
MISCELLANEOUS	6900 – 6999
HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT INTERCEPTS	7000 – 7199
TRUST / AGENCY FUNDS	7200 – 7299
LOAN REPAYMENTS FROM CITIES AND TOWNS	7400 – 7401
GAIN / LOSS ON INVESTMENTS	7500
COURT REVENUE	7700 – 7790
COMPTROLLER USE ONLY	7800 – 7900
HIGHER ED REVENUE OFF-MMARS	7A58 – 7F02
FIXED ASSETS DISPOSITIONS	8700 - 8701
BOND RELATED	8800 – 8900
OPERATING TRANSFER (COMPTROLLER USE ONLY)	9000 – 9209
OPERATING TRANSFER (COMPTROLLER USE ONLY)	9F**
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) PROGRAM	A***
FEDERAL GRANT REVENUE	F***
ESCROW	ESCR, ESC2
DEPARTMENTAL CHARGEBACKS	ALPHA ONLY

III. REVENUE SOURCE CODE ROLLUPS

All revenue source codes include the following roll ups which are utilized to assist with tracking and financial reporting:

A. REVENUE CATEGORY

The Revenue Category field is the highest-level classification used to group various revenues received by the Commonwealth by specific nature of the revenue to meet reporting requirements and track revenues across different funds. Revenues of the Commonwealth are grouped into the following Revenue Categories:

01	Taxes
02	Assessments
03	Federal Grants and Reimbursements
03AR	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
04	Departmental
05	Investment Earnings

06	Pension Contributions
07	Other Revenue
08	Other Financing Sources
09	Transfer from Component Unit
AG	Agency Fund Receipts
FATA	Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)
HE	Higher Education Revenue
LN	Loan Repayments Principal and Interest (P&I)
TR	Operating Transfer

B. REVENUE CLASS

The Revenue Class field is the second level classification used to further classify the Revenue Category to meet reporting requirements and track revenues across different funds. Revenues of the Commonwealth are grouped into the following Revenue Classes:

00	GAAP Revenue Accruals
01	Taxes Alcoholic Beverages
02	Taxes Bank
03	Taxes Business Corp
04	Taxes Cigarette
05	Taxes Motor Fuel
06	Taxes Inheritance and Estate
07	Taxes Insurance
08	Surcharges
09	Taxes Public Utility
10	Taxes Bank
11	Taxes State Racing
13	Taxes Sales and Use
14	Taxes Income
15	Taxes Deeds
17	Taxes Room Occupancy
18	Revenue Clearing Account
19	Taxes Miscellaneous
20	Taxes Raffle and Bazaar
21	Taxes Beano
22	Boston Excise Fund
23	Local Option Taxes
24	Urban Development
25	Income Tax Increase C287
26	Deeds County Correction
27	Commonwealth Fiscal Recovery
30	State Lottery
32	Revenue Collections by Courts
40	Fees
41	Fines and Penalties

50	Federal Grant
51	Federal Incentives
52	Federal Secondary Transfers
53	Non-Tax Unit Special Projects
58	Arts Lottery
59	Other Contributions
60	Interest Income
61	License and Permits
62	Increase / Decrease Market Value PRIT
63	Rents
64	Sale of Goods
65	Special Assessments
66	Unclaimed Deposits and Escheats
67	Federal Reimbursement Capital
68	Federal Reimbursement Operation
69	Forfeitures
70	Miscellaneous
71	Trust Contributions
72	Reimbursement for Services
74	Pension Contribution – Employer
75	Pension Contributions – Employee
76	Oil Overcharge Fees and Penalties
78	Account Payable Revert
79	Transfer from Component Unit
82	Agency Fund Receipts
83	Pensions – Other
92	Proceeds from Sale of Debt
93	Proceeds from Refunded Debt
94	Fringe Benefit Recovery Cost
95	Operating Transfers In...
96	Year End Statutory Transfers
97	Disposition of Fixed Assets
98	Gain / Loss on Sale of Investment
99	Other Sources
AG	Agency Funds Higher Education
AX	Auxiliary Operations Higher Education
CT	Higher Education CE Tuition
FA	Federal Appropriations
FF	Federal Financial Aid
FG	Higher Education Federal Financial Aid
GL	Investment Gain / Loss
IN	Higher Education Interest
LI	Loan Interest Paid
LP	Loan Principle Repaid
OI	Other Revenue

OT	Other Transfers
PG	Private Gifts / Grants / Contracts
SA	Higher Education Sales
SF	Higher Education Student Fees
SM	Higher Education State Match
TR	Other Transfer
UR	Unearned Revenue

C. REVENUE GROUP

The Revenue Group field is utilized as an independent rollup for data used by the Census Bureau.

ARCG	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Categorical Grants
ARIN	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Infrastructure
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Entitlement
ARUI	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Unemployment Insurance
S	Spec Asses AGO Fuel
T01	Property Taxes – State
T09	Sales and Use – State
T10	Alcoholic Beverages
T11	Amusements
T12	Insurance
T13	Motor Fuel Sales Tax
T14	Pari – Mutuels
T16	Tobacco Products
T19	Selective Sales Tax
T20	Alcohol Licenses
T21	Amusement Licenses
T22	Corporation Licenses
T23	Hunting and Fishing Licenses
T24	Motor Vehicle Licenses
T25	Motor Vehicle Operators Licenses
T28	Other Occupation and Business Licenses
T29	Other Licenses
T40	Individual Income Taxes
T41	Corporation Income Taxes
T50	Death and Gift Taxes
T51	Documentary and Stock Transfer Taxes
TR	Translating Revenues

IV. REVENUE SOURCE CODE DEFINITIONS/DESCRIPTIONS

Revenue Source Codes are created by the Office of the Comptroller (CTR) for use in collecting, identifying, tracking and reporting revenue received by the Commonwealth. Departments collecting revenue must have either:

(1) authorization to collect revenue

or

(2) authorization to collect and expend revenue

This authorization must be in the department's enabling legislation, line-item language, trust agreement, or federal grant. Some Revenue Source Codes are broad and are used by more than one department while other Revenue Source Codes are created and used for a specific purpose.

If a department thinks it needs to create a new Revenue Source Code, the department must contact CTR's General Accounting Bureau. Departments must provide the legislation authorizing the revenue to be collected, type of revenue, and indicate whether the revenue is to be linked to a specific account number, etc.

Revenue Source Codes are four alpha-numeric characters; the schema for the coding is noted below:

Revenue Source Codes 0001 – 0090 GAAP Revenue Accruals

According to state statute, most Commonwealth revenues are recorded on a "modified cash basis", i.e., booked to the fiscal year in which they are received except for federal reimbursements, which are recorded in the prior year as accounts receivable if they are associated with activity that occurred before June 30th and are received within approximately two months of June 30th. However, for the Commonwealth to produce financial reports in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), -- which require recording of such revenues differently from state statute -- revenue accruals are posted for taxes, assessments, federal grants and reimbursements, Departmental revenue, investment earnings, pension contributions, and other revenue to the extent such revenue is received after the close of the fiscal year but is associated with activity that occurred no later than June 30th of that year.

Revenue Source Codes 0091 – 0468 Taxes

Taxes are imposed on certain activities to raise revenue for general purposes. These differ from fees which, according to the Supreme Judicial Court, "are charged in exchange for a particular governmental service which benefits the party paying the fee in a manner not shared by other members of society." Tax revenue includes taxes pledged for debt service, motor fuel sales (including taxes on gasoline and diesel fuels), alcohol and beverage, personal use, bank, business corporations, cigarette, gasoline, estate, inheritance, insurance, public service corporations, unemployment insurance surcharge, meals, motor vehicle, boxing, raffle and bazaar, occupancy, public utilities, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 0500 – 0853 Fees

A variety of fees are collected by Commonwealth departments including licenses, registrations, student, motor vehicle, insurance brokers, valuations, inspection, hunting and fishing licenses, court costs, fines, permits, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 1000 – 1999 Federal Grants

All federal grant revenue has one of three Revenue Source Code groupings: (1) 1000 to 1999 series, (2) A*** (ARRA) series, or (3) F*** (FFATA) series.

Revenue Source Codes 2006 – 2019 Fringe / Indirect / Terminal Leave

Revenue Source Codes 2006 to 2019 are used to record assessments for statewide fringe benefits (group insurance, retirement, terminal leave), payroll taxes (unemployment insurance, universal health insurance, Medicare taxes) and indirect/overhead costs.

Revenue Source Codes 2030 – 2038 Mosquito Revenue

Revenue collected from cities and towns for mosquito and greenfly control in Kingston, Plymouth, North Shore, Cape Cod, East Middlesex, Bristol, Martha’s Vineyard and South Shore.

Revenue Source Codes 2040 – 2049 Private Contributions

Commonwealth departments may collect private contributions via donations, check-off boxes on tax returns, employer contributions and other voluntary contributions.

Revenue Source Codes 2050 – 2058 Pensions

Pension revenue consists of contributions to the state retirement and teacher’s retirement systems.

Revenue Source Codes 2060 – 2091 Settlements

Settlement revenue pertains to those dollars associated with settlements, including settlement revenue paid by tobacco companies.

Revenue Source Codes 2100 – 2199 Interest

The 21** series reflects interest earned.

Revenue Source Codes 2200 – 2204 Debt Collector Fees

Revenue source codes 2200 through 2204 reflect fees owed to debt collectors for revenue collected by those companies on behalf of departments.

Revenue Source Codes 2700 – 2756 Penalties

Fines and penalties include insufficient funds check charges, late payment interest and charges, court settlements, excess hospital revenues and fines associated with the head injury trusts.

Revenue Source Codes 3000 – 3163 Licenses and Permits

A wide variety of licenses and permits are issued by Commonwealth departments, including licenses for day care, group care, racing, trainers and jockeys, manufacturers, alcohol, amusement device operator, hospital and nursing home, dispensaries and clinics, schools, brokers, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 3300 Victim / Witness

Revenue source code 3300 is used to record revenue associated with victim/witness programs.

Revenue Source Codes 34 Recoveries / Special Projects**

The 34** series includes targeted claims reimbursement, third party liabilities, recoveries from Medicare appeals, data matches and accident/trauma and immunization project.

Revenue Source Codes 3500 – 3600 Reimbursements

Include reimbursements for care and maintenance of children, direct patient payments, outpatient, police duty, unemployment insurance chargebacks, space lease management, civil action, investigations, insurance, estate collections, pharmacy rebates, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 4000 – 4033 Rents

Commonwealth departments collect rent for Commonwealth owned property, such as New Bedford and Fall River Piers, armories, telephone towers and food concessions along highways, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 4400 Alcohol Penalties Drunk Driving

The courts collect penalties related to drunk driving.

Revenue Source Codes 4500 – 4545 Sales

Sales revenue includes revenue generated by bookstore and document room sales, correctional industries, veteran and other specialty plates, state surplus, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 4550 – 4590 Lottery

Each lottery game has a unique revenue source code.

Revenue Source Codes 4800 – 4958 Assessments

Commonwealth department assessments include administration, bonds and notes, government retiree administration and insurance, teacher retiree administration and insurance, insurance, merit rating, state fire marshal, public utilities, disproportionate and non-disproportionate share hospitals, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 5000 – 5010 Unclaimed Deposits & Escheats

The 50* series includes revenue from unclaimed deposits, abandoned property, unpaid tickets and unclaimed tax rebates.

Revenue Source Codes 5105 – 5601 Federal Reimbursements

Include federal reimbursements for state spending on interstate highway projects, veterans' services, Title XIX (Medicaid) inmate reimbursements, TANF, Healthy Start initiative, child support, state health federal financial participation, CMIA reimbursements, Section 8 administrative funds, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 6899 Program Income Federal Grants

Revenue source code 6899 reflects the program income for the Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development block grant.

Revenue Source Codes 6900 – 6999 Miscellaneous

The 69** series is miscellaneous revenue such as overpayments, vendor overpayment recoupment, sweep accounts, lockbox prior to revenue being moved to the appropriate revenue source, etc.

Revenue Source Codes 7000 – 7199 Higher Education

The 70** and 71** series are reserved for revenue at institutions of higher education.

Revenue Source Codes 7200 – 7299 Trust / Agency Funds

The 72** series is reserved for deposits to non-Higher Education trust accounts and agency funds.

Revenue Source Codes 7400 – 7401 Loan Repayments

The 74** series is reserved for loan principal repaid and loan interest paid.

Revenue Source Codes 7500 Gain / Loss on Investments

Revenue source code 7500 is used for recording gains or losses on investments.

Revenue Source Codes 7700 – 7790 Court Revenue

The courts collect revenue such as seized funds, fish and game violations, reimbursement for indigent counsel, and land court assurance.

Revenue Source Codes 7800 – 7900 CTR Use Only

The 78** and 79** series are reserved for use by the Office of the Comptroller to post accounting adjustments.

Revenue Source Codes 7A58 – 7F02 Non-MMARS Higher Education Revenue

Institutions of higher education collect revenue such as student fees, tuition, state match, rents, work study, etc., and record the cash on their own accounting systems. These revenue source codes record higher education revenue not on MMARS.

Revenue Source Codes 8700 – 8701 Fixed Assets

The 87** series is reserved for gains and losses on the sale of fixed assets.

Revenue Source Codes 8800 – 8900 Bond Related

The 88** series and 8900 is reserved for bond related revenue such as proceeds from sale of bonds and refunded debt.

Revenue Source Codes 9000 – 9999 Operating Transfer (CTR Use Only)

Revenue associated with a 9*** revenue source code indicates an operating transfer. The Comptroller’s Office is directed by statute or other authorization to process operating transfer (OT) transactions between fund/subfund combinations. The OT is an internal transaction that increases expenditures in one account and increases revenue in another account.

Revenue Source Codes 9F Operating Transfer (CTR Use Only)**

The 9F** revenue source codes indicate an operating transfer from a department’s operations line item to a federal grant account with an uncollectible negative balance.

Revenue Source Codes A* American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

All federal grant revenue has one of three revenue source code groupings: (1) 1000 to 1999 series, (2) A*** series, or (3) F*** series. All revenue source codes associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) begin with the letter A.

Revenue Source Codes F* Federal Grant**

All federal grant revenue has one of three revenue source code groupings: (1) 1000 to 1999 series, (2) A*** (ARRA) series, or (3) F*** (FFATA) series. All revenue source codes associated with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) begin with the letter F.

Revenue Source Codes ESCR, ESC2 Escrow

ESCR and ESC2 are the revenue source codes utilized to record revenue for escrow accounts.

Revenue Source Codes Alpha Only Departmental Chargebacks

Interdepartmental business (chargebacks) refers to both mandated and optional charges for goods and services provided by one department to another department. Departments must have specific legislative authorization to collect chargebacks.

V. REVENUE BUDGETS

Revenue budgets are created based on statutory authorization to collect revenue. The revenue budget provides immediate visibility to the collections-to-date for collection goals established for a fiscal year. All new revenue budgets must include statutory authorization. The legal citation that authorizes the revenue collection must be provided.

Departments will be asked to submit requests for revenue budgets and identify and/or confirm the legislative citation for each existing revenue budget.

The required key fields for a revenue budget are (1) Budget Fiscal Year, (2) Fund, (3) Sub fund, (4) Department and (5) Revenue Source Code. The chart of account combination must be unique for each revenue budget.

- A. **Unlinked Revenue Budget** – An unlinked revenue budget indicates income which is deposited directly into the fund. It does not update an 8-digit spending account and, therefore, is not designated to be retained or expended for a specified purpose.
- B. **Linked Revenue Budget** – A linked revenue budget associates a particular source of funds to an expense account allowing the department to retain and expend the revenue. Linked revenue budgets may have a floor, ceiling or both. The Summary Link Floor indicates how much revenue must be collected before the department begins to retain the revenue. Once the Summary Link Floor is reached, subsequent revenue collected will update both the obligation and expenditure ceilings of the 8-digit spending account and is available to the department to expend. The Summary Link Ceiling indicates the maximum revenue the department can retain and expend. Once the Summary Link Ceiling is reached, additional revenues collected do not update the obligation and expenditure ceilings and, therefore, cannot be expended by the department.
- C. **Departmental Revenue Budget** – The departmental revenue budget is an optional budget structure that provides a department with the ability to segregate its revenue. In addition to the central revenue budget data elements noted above, an additional key/required field for a departmental revenue budget is (6) unit.

VI. MMARS REVENUE DOCUMENTS

The following table identifies MMARS transactions that use revenue source codes:

REVENUE DOCUMENT CODES	REVENUE DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION
RE	Receivable Event – detail or summary; department use only
BGRN (BQ82)	Central Revenue Budget – CTR creates for department use
BGDR (BQ85)	Departmental Revenue Budget – department use only
CD	Cash Deposit – creates cash on MMARS; for TRE use only to record new revenue to the Commonwealth.
CD1	Cash Deposit 1 – moves cash from one account to another and therefore does not create cash on MMARS; for CTR use only
CD2	Cash Deposit 2 – moves cash from one account to another and therefore does not create cash on MMARS; for CTR use only for Federal Highway revenue.

CR	Cash Receipt – moves cash from one revenue budget to another and therefore does not create cash on MMARS; for department and CTR use
IT	Intercept – records the dollars offset from a payment to relieve all or part of an outstanding debt; for CTR use only
RF1	Refund – returns overpayments to customers; for department use
RF3	Tax refund summary transaction; for Department of Revenue use only

Unit

MMARS offers many options to define a department’s organizational structure; the lowest level (and the attribute used to code documents) is called Unit. Departments may establish as many Units as appropriate. Units can be aggregated to support summarized data without the need to enter all higher level chart of account elements on a document. For example, a department may have a procurement Unit that is part of an administrative Group, that reports to an Administration and Finance Bureau that represents a Section, within a Division in a specific District. By coding the revenue and expenditure activity with Unit, activity can be tracked across Group, Bureau, Section, Division and District. Each Unit is associated with only one Group, one Bureau, etc. However, many Units can make up each Group, Bureau, etc. Unit is the lowest hierarchical code and will be the code entered on documents. Some departments will only use Unit. Other departments will use the other tracking codes, defining a structured roll-up.

The accounting line of each MMARS transaction requires a *Unit* code. Departments are encouraged to create units that further support, define, and align to their reporting requirements so that queries can be run against the Commonwealth Information Warehouse (CIW) with unit as one of the criteria.

VII. REVENUE COLLECTION

The Accounts Receivable (AR) functional area in MMARS, commonly known as BARS (Billing and Accounts Receivable System), is a centralized revenue management tool capable of automating and managing the billing and collection functions of Commonwealth departments in accordance with 815 CMR 9:00. Departments establish customers and bill for goods or services. BARS generates invoices, statements, payment plan reminders or renewal notices, records payments received and liquidates receivables, and tracks delinquent accounts so that departments can manage aged outstanding receivables to determine when they should be referred to both the automated Intercept process and debt collectors. Note: departments cannot write off delinquent debt; only the Comptroller has the authority to write off bad debt.

1. **Receivable Event:** The billing cycle begins with a billable event recorded on MMARS via a receivable event (RE) transaction. There are two types of receivables: detail and summary. Both are entered using the RE transaction.

Detail: As its name implies, the detail receivable is used by a department to record earned revenue/accounts receivable at a detail level that is owed when goods are delivered, or services are performed. Detail receivables automatically generate a billing notice (invoice, payment plan or statement).

Summary: A summary receivable is used by departments with delegated accounts receivable systems. A summary receivable must accurately represent the value of the earned revenue/accounts receivable by revenue source code across fiscal years. Summary receivables do not generate billing notices.

- a. **Invoice:** Receivable events billed as invoices print automatically based on a schedule once they have been finalized in MMARS. Invoices take advantage of the past due dates on the Collection Control Table (COLLC); when the predefined number of days past due has been reached, dunning notices or collection letters are automatically system generated. Every RE entered generates an individual invoice.
- b. **Statement:** A statement is a single cumulative notice of a customer's RE, payments and adjustment activity by department within a predefined period. Statement attributes are defined on the Billing Profile Table (BPRO). When billing with a statement, every RE entered by a department for a customer within the statement period will appear on a single periodic (usually monthly) statement notice.
- c. **Payment Plan:** Payment plans allow a receivable event to be paid over a prearranged schedule. Once an RE is associated with an active payment plan, the standard billing process is suspended. Aging and intercept functionality are suppressed while a receivable is associated with an active payment plan.

The following are the output forms that will print for payment plans:

- Agreement
 - Reminder
 - Completion
 - Cancellation
- d. **Third Party Billing:** MMARS functionality provides for the billing of third parties. This third-party functionality is used to bill parties other than the recipient of the services, such as the parent of a custodial resident in a Commonwealth facility. This third party is established as a vendor/customer.
 - e. **Multiple-Party Billing:** MMARS provides the ability to bill multiple parties for a single debt for those that are jointly and severally liable, such as for waste site clean-up or damage to public property.
2. **Renewal:** A renewal is a periodic notice that a payment is due in order to keep a license or other state-mandated business requirement current. Renewal notices can only be interfaced; they do not represent a bill for goods or service already provided; they cannot be manually entered into MMARS.
 3. **Payments to the Commonwealth:** The Commonwealth supports multiple methods of payment for receivable events:
 - a. **CMCR Lockbox:** There are two types of lockbox services: retail and wholesale. The type of lockbox depends on the volume and amount of checks received. A retail lockbox has a high volume of checks with relatively low payment amounts. A wholesale lockbox has a relatively low number of payments but typically for larger amounts.
 - b. **eRevenue (formerly known as ePayment):** Departments that are legislatively authorized to collect revenues, fees and other charges may establish electronic revenue (eRevenue) options to collect revenues from sources such as credit or debit card and Automated Clearing House

(ACH) payments.

- i. **Credit or Debit Card** – Commonwealth entities offer payment options that include Mastercard, VISA, AMEX and Discover. A credit card payment allows a customer who was billed or otherwise owes a Commonwealth department revenue to enter his/her credit card number on a web page or swipe his/her card at a Commonwealth department window and the payment will be recorded in MMARS. The payment can optionally reference and close the customer’s open MMARS receivable.
- ii. **ACH** – The Automated Clearing House (ACH) is a secure network used to connect banks to each other. It is through this network that direct deposits, electronic payments, certain transfers and debit-card payments are processed. An ACH payment allows a customer who was billed to enter his/her bank account and routing number on a web page and the payment will be recorded in MMARS. The payment can optionally reference and close the customer’s open MMARS receivable.

Data Security and Compliance in accordance with the [Electronic Payments Data Security Policy](#) is mandatory for all electronic payments, including both credit card and ACH payments. Identity theft crime continues to grow at an exponential rate. The credit card associations and merchant banks require Payment Card Industry (PCI) Compliance as a condition of their agreements with merchants. The Office of the Comptroller requires similar compliance for both credit card and ACH transactions. While data security compliance does not guarantee that breaches will not occur, it provides a framework and standard methodology to ensure that the Commonwealth is working hard to secure electronic payment data (and other personal data) for its constituents. Compliance activities promote data security from an ad hoc activity to a prioritized standard operating procedure.

4. **Intercept:** The Commonwealth offsets payments to satisfy debts owed to the Commonwealth. Intercept is an automated program that matches eligible payments to delinquent debt owed by individuals and organizations that function both as vendors for and customers of the Commonwealth. The intercept process is authorized by [M.G.L. c. 7A § 18](#).
5. **Debt Collector Agency Services:** In accordance with [815 CMR 9.00](#): Collection of Debts, departments must make all reasonable efforts to collect an outstanding debt. Outside debt collection services are available to departments that continue to carry accounts receivable that are more than 120 days old. Departments intending to pursue outside debt collection services must use the Statewide Debt Collection Contract, which contains a list of approved debt collection agencies. Departments can send these debts to both Intercept and debt collection agencies simultaneously.
6. **Write-offs:** Per [CMR 815 9.08\(2\)](#), Commonwealth department billing entities are responsible for diligent efforts to collect the full amount of any outstanding debt and must certify that any Write-Off is in the best interest of the state. In the event the debt is deemed uncollectible, a department must request the debt be written off. Commonwealth department billing entities may not submit an uncollectible debt for write-off until after the debt has been first submitted to both Intercept and a statewide debt collection agency unless there is supporting documentation that the debt is otherwise uncollectible. Uncollectible debt includes situations where the debtor is deceased, the statute of limitations period has passed, litigation or a settlement or judgment has decreased the amount owed, or the debtor has entered bankruptcy.

Non-billed revenue is revenue received by Commonwealth departments for which there is no receivable in MMARS. This includes over-the-counter cash, some federal reimbursements, etc.

VIII. FEDERAL FUNDS

The Commonwealth's acceptance of federal grant funds is contingent upon compliance with the terms of federal grant policies issued by CTR (link), Administrative Bulletins issued by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F), the specific requirements of each federal grantor agency issuing federal funds or reimbursements, and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (commonly called "Uniform Guidance") Departments receiving federal funds, including federal reimbursements, must ensure that a Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is provided and that revenues are set up in MMARS using Revenue Category (3). It is important that all federal funds received by the Commonwealth be identified and included in the federally mandated Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards (SEFA) prepared by the Comptroller's Office. By including the CFDA number and coding the Revenue Category during the account setup process (as instructed), departments ensure that the funding will be appropriately identified and included in the SEFA.

REVENUES – POLICIES FOR DEPARTMENT ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE

Departments must have specific legislative authorization to both receive and expend revenues.

The following constitutional, general and special laws govern a department's acceptance of revenue and determine the department's ability to expend that revenue:

- **Massachusetts Constitution**: Article LXIII. **Section 1.** "*Collection of Revenue. - All money received on account of the commonwealth from any source whatsoever shall be paid into the treasury thereof.*"
- **M.G.L. c. 30, §. 27**: "*Except as otherwise expressly provided, all fees or other money received on account of the commonwealth shall be paid daily into the treasury thereof.*"
 - This means that all revenues collected by a department must be deposited and accounted for in the state accounting system (MMARS).
 - If a Contractor assists a department in the collection of revenue (e.g., debt collection agency, revenue maximization Contractor, or a cost avoidance Contractor) the total of all revenues collected must first be deposited and accounted for in the state accounting system prior to payment being made to the Contractor. (i.e., there can be no "netting" of revenues and fees).
- **M.G.L. c. 10, §. 17B**: "*Unless otherwise provided by law, all moneys received by a department shall be deposited with the state treasurer (subject to the approval of the Governor) and expended, subject to appropriation.*"

Types of Revenue Accounts-

Comptroller's Accounting Unit will determine the appropriate accounting treatment for the type of revenue authorized. The following are examples of types of accounting treatment:

- **Expendable Trust** – **M.G.L. c. 6A, §. 6**. Unless otherwise provided for in general or special law, expendable trusts are subject to approval of either the Legislature or the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F). A secretary may apply for and accept funds, grants, bequests, gifts or contributions, from any person and expend in accordance with law. Approval of an expendable trust by A&F is governed by **801 CMR 50.00 Expendable Trust Regulation**. Contact the Legal Division of

A&F for more information. The Trust language determines how the funding may be expended. Obligations may not be incurred until there are sufficient funds to support the obligation. Only the Legislature may authorize spending in anticipation of revenue collection.

- **Contingent Fee Accounts** – [M.G.L. c. 29, § 29E, 815 CMR 8.00](#) and annual special laws provide the authorization for contingent fee contracts for non-tax revenue maximization and cost avoidance projects. Contingent fees are paid from separate accounts.
- **Special Revenue Fund** – A special revenue fund is generally established through a general or special law stating that a fund is established and authorizing inflows (revenues) and outflows (expenditures).
 - All expenditures will be considered “subject to appropriation” unless the fund contains language that the revenues may be expended “without further appropriation”.
 - Obligations may not be incurred until there are sufficient funds to support the obligation, unless the fund contains language that authorizes obligations to be incurred in anticipation of revenues and provided the fund is in balance at the close of the fiscal year.
 - Example of Trust established by General Law: Workforce Training Trust Fund. [M.G.L. c. 29, §§ 39 & 2RR](#). *(a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Workforce Training Trust Fund, in this section called the Fund. There shall be credited to the Fund the workforce training contributions required by [M.G.L. c. 151A, §. 14L](#). The director of the department of career services may contract with the Commonwealth Corporation to administer the fund. For the purpose of accommodating discrepancies between the receipt of revenues and related expenditures, the director of career services may incur obligations and the comptroller may certify payment amounts not to exceed the most recent revenue estimate submitted by the department and approved by the comptroller; provided, however, that the fund shall be in balance by the close of each fiscal year.*

Special revenue fund accounts are assessed fringe and indirect charges (unless otherwise exempt from indirect charges) on personnel expenses from the account. Departments will need to ensure they reserve sufficient funds from revenues to pay these charges or identify other funding for these charges.

- **Retained Revenue Account** – A retained revenue account is a budgetary authorization that allows the expenditure of revenue collected within the fiscal year up to the cap amount identified in legislation.

Examples of Retained Revenue Account established by Special Law (budgetary):

Acts of 2020, section 2. 1775-0900 For the operational services division, which may expend not more than \$22,000 in revenues collected under chapter 449 of the acts of 1984 and section 4L of chapter 7 of the General Laws, including the costs of personnel, from the sale of federal surplus property, including the payment, expenses and liabilities for the acquisition, warehousing, allocation and distribution of federal surplus property; provided, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of accommodating timing discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the division may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system..... \$22,000

Acts of 2020, section 2. 1310-1001 For the appellate tax board, which may expend not more than \$400,000 in revenues from fees collected; provided, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of accommodating timing discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the board may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system..... \$400,000

- **Interdepartmental Chargeback** – An interdepartmental chargeback refers to both mandated and optional charges for goods and services provided by a legislatively authorized chargeback department.
 - Departments must have specific legislative authorization to assess chargebacks.
 - Chargeback departments may charge no more than the actual costs to provide authorized goods and services. Interdepartmental MMARS documents must be completed to encumber funds prior to the provision of goods and services in order to ensure prompt payment to chargeback departments.

Examples of Interdepartmental Chargeback established by Special Law:

Acts of 2020, section 2B. ss. 1000-0601 For the comptroller’s office which may, on behalf of the office, the human resources division and the executive office of technology services and security, charge and collect from participating state agencies a fee sufficient to cover administrative costs and expend such fees for goods and services rendered in the administration of the human resources compensation management system program..... \$2,300,000

Acts of 2020, section 2B. ss. 0511-0003 For the costs of providing electronic and other publications purchased from the state bookstore, for commission fees, notary fees and for direct access to the secretary’s computer library \$16,000

Expenditure of Revenues: Even if a department is authorized to receive revenues, the ability to expend revenues is not automatic and is subject to appropriation, unless otherwise provided. This means that a department can **receive** funds from sources legislatively authorized but **must also have specific legislative authority** (language) to expend the funds without further appropriation. The language to expend must be explicit.

- Examples of specific legislative authority (language) authorizing receipt and expenditure of funds include:
 - "...and may expend such funds without further appropriation..." , or
 - "...and may expend such funds for the purposes of this section..."
 - "...and may expend revenues in an amount not to exceed \$ ____..."

- If a general or special law is silent as to the ability of the department to expend the funds, or states that expenditures are "subject to appropriation", the department may not obligate or expend the funds received until the Legislature authorizes (appropriates) the expenditure of fund through a General Appropriations Act, Special Appropriations Act or other Act.
- Authorization to collect revenue does not automatically authorize the expenditure of revenues collected; in fact, many authorizations anticipate revenues are collected and deposited directly into the General Fund.
- **Funds Availability:** Department may not incur obligations unless revenue has been received and is recorded in the appropriate revenue account. If revenues are authorized to be expended without further appropriation, sufficient revenues must be received **before** obligations may be incurred, **unless** the legislation has specific language that allows expenditures in anticipation of revenues and provided the account is in balance at the close of the fiscal year. This limitation that the account be in balance at the end of a fiscal year applies to all types of accounts, even if funds are expected to be received in a continuing account.

Sample legislative language:

“provided, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for the purpose of accommodating timing discrepancies between the receipt of retained revenues and related expenditures, the office may incur expenses and the comptroller may certify for payment amounts not to exceed the lower of this authorization or the most recent revenue estimate as reported in the state accounting system.”

Department must ensure that they manage obligations incurred within available funds in accordance with state finance law, including M.G.L. c. 29, ss. 26 and 27 the [Bill Payments Policy](#).

- **Fiscal Year Limitations.** Retained revenues and other annual budgetary funds are normally available for expenditure **only in the fiscal year in which received**, unless the revenues are authorized to be carried forward in a continuing account, or through a prior appropriation continued (“PAC”) from one fiscal year to the next. Departments should ensure that if there is any doubt as to the ability to expend funds within a fiscal year in a non-continuing account, legislation is filed and enacted to carry over or PAC the revenues forward to the next fiscal year for expenditure. When drafting legislation to receive and expend revenues, the availability of the funds for expenditure across fiscal years must appear in specific legislation.
- **Contingent Revenues, Matching funds or Reimbursements.** Departments should be careful when sources of revenues are contingent upon expenditure of Commonwealth funds first, with revenue to be received as reimbursements, or when matching funds are required to be expended in order to receive revenues. In either of these cases, matching funds must be identified (either in the revenue account or from another source of funds) and available for expenditure during the fiscal year in which the revenues are expected to be paid. Note that the authorization to accept revenue into an account based upon matching funds being spent requires the revenue to be deposited into the revenue account, and not the account of the matching expenditure if a different account.

Therefore, departments may not use funds from another account solely to spend for the match, and then reimburse this expenditure when the reimbursement funds are received (unless this model of funding is specified in the legislative authorization or matching funds are specifically appropriated or identified for this purpose, with no expectation of reimbursement). A new revenue account that has no revenues would have no funding available to use for matching funds, unless the account has specific legislation that allows obligations to be incurred in anticipation of revenues. Usually, the

Legislature will cap the amounts that can be incurred in this manner and usually tie the amount to revenue estimates based upon prior years. For reimbursement scenarios, if obligations are incurred and reimbursements are not received, or not received timely in the correct fiscal year, the department will have a deficiency and will be responsible for resolving this deficiency, either through an appropriate alternate account or legislation or if no other solution is present, through the Prior Year Deficiency account.

- Reimbursements are not always guaranteed, nor is the timing guaranteed. Reimbursements may be disallowed or payment delayed; therefore, even if the department has specific language allowing obligations anticipation of reimbursements, departments should be cautious and should not incur obligations until reimbursements are received, or should ensure that sufficient seed funds or matching funds are appropriated at the start of the new account, or each fiscal year if a budgeted account, to ensure obligations are timely funded, and that reimbursements are timely received. (See **Funds Availability** above.)

When drafting legislation to receive and expend contingent or reimbursement revenues, Departments should consider the timing of when funds will be received, the source of seed or matching funds and whether receipt or expenditure will cross fiscal years. If there is any chance that funding or expenditures will cross fiscal years, the legislation must allow for cross fiscal year activity to support that possibility or funds will revert. (See **Fiscal Year Limitations** above.)

NOTE: Irrespective of the source of funding, departments are required to encumber and expend funds in accordance with state finance law requirements identified by CTR (e.g., [Expenditure Classification Handbook](#); Contract Policies; Fiscal Year Updates and Fiscal Year Closing and Opening Instructions. See also the policies under Non-Tax Revenue.

COMPTROLLER’S WEBSITE

The Comptroller’s website can be found at: macomptroller.org and is intended to provide user support information, MMARS resources and services for end-users. CTR policies, job aids and various other documents are now housed on a document management portal, [PowerDMS](#).

Departments are responsible for applicable policies including but not limited to the DHSA and MMARS Security and the Vendor Customer File policy, Write off to build earned revenue

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION AND MMARS SECURITY

All Department activities are authorized by the Department Head in accordance with the [Department Head Signature Authorization Policy](#) and the [Enterprise Security policies](#). Department heads [Execute a Department Head Certification Form](#) certifying compliance with state finance law and Comptroller policies and procedures. MMARS security are be based on roles that users will perform in the system. Three levels have been created – (1) user level, (2) administrator level and (3) administrator authorized signatory. All transactions must be authorized by an individual personally authorized by a Department head to approve documents on their behalf. Only those with an administrator level role will be able to submit documents to Final status. Anyone who logs on with MMARS security agrees that they will be responsible for all actions under their UAID and agrees to comply with the Comptroller’s policies and procedures and other applicable laws and regulations. Department Heads must certify security requests before security is turned on. See the CTR [Statewide Enterprise Systems Security Access Management Policy](#) for detailed information.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Since certain MMARS fields are a matter of public record, MMARS Doc IDs, invoice numbers and any comment fields MUST NOT contain personal information (such as individual's names, SSN numbers, bank account numbers, date of birth, addresses, etc.) or other information that could jeopardize privacy or facilitate identity theft. MMARS Doc IDs and key comment fields may be printed, sent electronically as part of invoice information, and may be viewable as part of public records requests. Therefore, care must be taken that individual personal information is not used.

VENDOR/ CUSTOMER FILE

MMARS has a vendor/customer table (VCUST) that is utilized for both making vendor payments and customer billing. This joint table is critical for utilizing the Intercept functionality.

Vendor: In order to receive payments from the Commonwealth, a vendor must be registered in the VCUST table. Departments are required to obtain a completed Massachusetts W-9 Form (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification) or an appropriate W-8 Form Series (W-8BEN, W-8ECI, W-8EXP and W-8IMY) for foreign vendors.

Customer: For customer registrations, department should make every effort to obtain a W-9. When entering a VCC/VCM transaction for a customer, remember to put CUST in the first four positions of the document identification.

- **VCCs (new)** – Ensure that the customer is actually a new customer that does not already have an existing vendor code on MMARS. Not all customers know that they are already registered on VCUST. A search of the TIN/EIN should identify if the customer has a current vendor code.
 - If a customer submits an SSN/TIN or FEIN with a legal name and address, department should ensure that the information matches what has already been filed with the IRS and DOR. Many entities have a legal name and a “DBA” (“doing business as”) with a different operational name. The legal name should be the name listed on the VCUST table. If the entity needs the dba (Doing Business As) name also, this should be listed under “Division”.
- **VCMs (modify)** - Departments should always look up the customer in MMARS to verify the current information and to obtain the necessary supporting documentation for the requested change. No legal address, remittance address, tax ID, legal name or structure changes should be made unless an authorized signatory of the payee has submitted an updated W-9 or other acceptable supporting documentation.

POLICIES

Revenue related policies are located at macomptroller.org/policies.

VIOLATION OF STATE FINANCE LAW

Any Department Head or designee *who knowingly violates state finance or authorizes or directs another officer or employee to violate any provision* of [M.G.L. c. 29](#), or any rule or regulation promulgated there under, or any other provision of law relating to the incurring of liability or expenditure of public funds law shall be punished by fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for one year, or both. See [M.G.L. c. 29 § 66](#).

COMPLIANCE REVIEW

The Statewide Risk Management and Compliance Team conducts periodic reviews of the business activities for which the Office of the Comptroller has oversight. These reviews check department procedures and documentation to promote compliance with relevant laws, regulations and policies - for all fiscal business. A critical review is conducted via the annual Internal Control Certification

(ICC). The ICC covers department controls over collecting and protecting Non-Tax Revenues for the Commonwealth. Departments are encouraged to keep documentation up to date—for example, when internal or external auditors are engaged.