Attachment BB: MDHS Technical Environment Overview

The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), Division of Management Information Systems (MIS) provides Information System and Technical Support services to the Agency. In addition, MIS also operates a satellite Data Center linked to the State Data Center, which is operated by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS). ITS provides technical and operational support for the statewide telecommunications network, the central mainframe environment and various State Agency systems. These services include all MDHS applications, telecommunications routing and security to the mainframe data repositories. In addition to the technology support services, ITS responsibilities also include all procurement activities related to statewide technology acquisitions or enhancements to existing technology.

The Agency's architectural platform is a shared IBM/IBM compatible mainframe platform operating under z/OS and CICS. ITS maintains the mainframe computer which hosts the following MDHS application systems:

- Mississippi Application Verification Eligibility Reporting and Information Control System (MAVERICS). This computer system maintains all Recipient and Case related data; records and maintains case actions and information; and produces Recipient notices in support of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP).
- Jobs Automated Work System (JAWS). This computer system maintains all Recipient and Case related data; records and maintains case actions and information; and produces Recipient notices in support of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Supportive Service programs (i.e., Transportation; Transitional Transportation; etc.).
- Mississippi Enforcement and Tracking of Support System (METSS). This computer system maintains all Recipient and Case related data; records and maintains case actions and information; and produces Recipient notices in support of the Child Support program.
- Financial Interface Tracking System (FITS). This computer system performs financial tracking, reporting, and reconciliation of EBT and Debit Card related deposit transactions.
- Master Client Tracking System (MCTS). This computer system is an integrated electronic payment (ePayment) account "driver" system used to control the account setup and maintenance record creation and submission for each program (i.e., TANF, TANF Supportive Services; Child Support; Foster Care; Adoption Subsidy; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (SNAPE&T)) so an MDHS client only has one ePayment Account and Debit Card for all MDHS cash program deposits.

The MAVERICS application utilizes COBOL CICS for the online system and a combination of

COBOL and Natural for the batch system. The underlying databases of MAVERICS utilize the ADABAS database management system. The JAWS, METSS, FITS and MCTS applications utilize Natural for both the online and batch systems. The underlying databases of these systems utilize the ADABAS database management system.

In addition, the MDHS also has a new computer system which is hosted by an outside vendor:

• MDHSOne Case Module (CaseMod). This computer system is a web based solution which maintains SNAPE&T Recipient and Case-related data; records and maintains case actions and related information for work activities, services, goals, barriers and benefit issuance history. This system interfaces with MAVERICS to facilitate the identification of eligible recipients and the issuance of authorized SNAPE&T benefits.

The user workstations utilized by these systems at the local offices include the following terminal configuration:

• Wyse Z90 Series Terminals running Windows 7 in a "stand alone" configuration

A full description of the technical environment and telecommunications platform is described in the 2014-2016 State of Mississippi Technology Infrastructure and Architecture Plan found at: www.its.ms.gov/Documents/technology_infrastructure_and_architecture_plan.pdf.

This section describes the current network environment in place between the current EBT Vendor and the State of Mississippi:

The current network environment utilizes Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) technology to manage the network traffic flow to/from the State of Mississippi. The EBT Vendor provides two (2) T1 data circuits via separate telecom providers for diversity. Each data circuit terminates at a different physical location on the State of Mississippi network. Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) is used to determine which circuit is active. An Internet Protocol Security (IPSec) Point-to-Point Network connection is established over the active circuit and all traffic (i.e., file transfers and Administrative Terminal (AT)) between the State of Mississippi and the EBT Vendor flows through that connection. The requirements for connectivity into the State of Mississippi network are described in the State of Mississippi Enterprise Security Policy.

The following diagram provides an overview of the connectivity between the State and current Vendor:

