

# FSC Focus



***“Focusing on Your Needs First”***

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***Financial Services Center***



## Centralization of Payments New Web site Established

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On June 11, 2003, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs signed a memorandum centralizing VHA certified payments at the Financial Services Center (FSC). In response, the FSC is working in concert with field facilities to communicate the specifics of this effort.

To facilitate this huge communications effort, the FSC created a new Web site (<http://vaww.fscdirect.fsc.va.gov/>) for the sole purpose of providing you with detailed information on the centralization of payments initiative at the FSC. This Web site contains important topics such as the Certified Payments Process Procedures, Implementation Schedule, Online Certification System (OLCS) User Support, OLCS Workflow, Roles and Responsibilities, Station Questions and Answers, and Vendor Notification of Billing.

As a result, the Web site can serve as your primary information source about the FSC's ongoing centralized payments implementation. We have posted all available information regarding this project on the Web site, we post new information and documents regularly, and encourage you to visit the Web site often for updates. We've also provided you with the capability to print the information from the Web site if necessary/desired.

“...the Web site can serve as your central information system...New information and documents are posted regularly.”

If you have any questions on the FSC's Centralization of Payments, please send them via e-mail to VAFSC Certified Payments.

# e-Travel Update



Since the e-Travel help desk began operations (August 14, 2003), we have received many questions concerning GSA's e-Travel award to two vendors; nei-

ther of which offer systems VA has used and neither one is Zegato Solutions. Employees wonder if, and when, VA will convert to one of the GSA systems. Zegato's partner EDS, protested that decision. GSA concluded there was merit to the protest and reopened the competition to EDS/Zegato and the two winning vendors. That repeat competition is currently under way.

VA currently has a contract with Zegato Solutions and is continuing to implement e-Travel. VA has an agreement with GSA to consider the GSA systems once those systems have completed their pilot phases.

VA would consider another e-Travel system, in the interest of supporting Federal-wide standardization, only if the system were functionally better than Zegato Solutions and if converting to the system would be economically advantageous.

In other news, the VA e-Travel Directive and Handbook will be released for concurrence and approval soon. The Directive, which had required all VA offices to use the new e-Travel System for all travel, now does not require the use of e-Travel for processing local travel vouchers. The contract for the

e-Travel system applies the same transaction fee (\$21) for all travel (TDY and Local). To avoid the fee for processing local travel vouchers in e-Travel, stations should process local travel vouchers manually using FMS.

Please call our e-Travel help desk at 1-866-533-0188 during normal working hours (7 AM CST to 6:00 CST) with any e-Travel related questions or concerns.

We strive to provide you with the best possible service, and appreciate your cooperation as we work to implement VA's e-travel solution



## FY 04 Contracts

The BDD recently issued the FSC's new FY 04 agreements. We are using the estimates you provided us for our FY 05 Business Plan to build the new contracts.

This year's contract format has changed. Based on your feedback, we have streamlined the wording to make it less cumbersome, and have included the information most important to you: Product Description and Price. We've enhanced the description of our products in the body of the

contract and have moved the pricing information closer to the beginning of the contract for your convenience.

We look forward to your cooperation and appreciate your timely response. If you have any questions once you receive your contract, please contact the BDD at 512-460-5310.

## Telecommuting at the FSC!



The FSC Telecommuting Task Force (TTF) has been working hard to create a viable pilot to

test the concept of telecommuting at the FSC. The TTF received confirmation and approval of the telecommuting policy and procedures, and is now prepared to implement the pilot.

Employees who expressed an interest in participating in the

telecommuting pilot were encouraged to apply to be considered. They signed an acknowledgement of the pilot requirements and notified their supervisor of their interest.

FSC managers selected 15 FSC employees to participate in the telecommuting pilot. The TTF anticipates training for managers and employees to begin in the October time-frame. After training, participants will receive workstations and equipment such as computers, monitors, and printers.

The TTF expects the study to last approximately 4 months. The ultimate goal is to implement telecommuting across the center and offer telecommuting to other eligible FSC employees.



The FSC is excited about this new work program and is confident in positive results.

## *Financial Services Center*

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