

Department of Consumer Affairs

FI\$Cal Implementation Update – October 2019

Background:

The Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal) is California's new statewide accounting, budget, cash management and procurement IT system.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) went live on FI\$Cal in two phases:

- Procurement went live on FI\$Cal in August 2015
- Accounting went live on FI\$Cal in July 2017

Issues facing DCA:

The integration on the FI\$Cal was challenging and presented a steep learning curve for DCA staff. In the initial year, DCA faced numerous issues with data conversion from the prior legacy system (CALSTARS), system configuration problems and a massive volume of transactions within the system that required reconciliation. The majority of these issues have since been worked out or otherwise addressed, but the result is that DCA is behind on closing out fiscal years in FI\$Cal and has been playing catch up for the last two years.

Additionally, the State Controller's Office (SCO) is transitioning to FI\$Cal via an integrated solution, meaning that specific functions will be deployed into FI\$Cal in separate major milestones. Each SCO milestone results in system and functionality changes, many of which significantly impact DCA's business processes and workload.

Current Status:

DCA is currently processing payments and revenue in the FI\$Cal system with little delay. The system is functioning as intended however, reporting continues to be problematic and DCA is exploring various solutions to remedy the issue.

The FI\$Cal system is very linear, and certain functions cannot be completed until the prior month/year is closed in the system. For example, since DCA is currently in the process of closing out fiscal year 2018-19, cost allocations cannot be run for current year 2019-20, resulting in point in time programmatic expenditure data that is incomplete.

Updates/Upcoming Timeline:

- DCA officially closed fiscal year 2017-18 in September 2019
- FI\$Cal programmer is on-site at DCA two days a week to address system issues and process fixes
- Completion of 2018-19 year-end financial estimates – Estimated completion October 30, 2019
- Completion of 2017-18 year-end financial documents – Estimated completion November 30, 2019
- Working with DCA's Office of Information Services to utilize in-house software (COGNOS) to generate monthly budget and revenue reports for DCA Board and Bureaus using data from FI\$Cal – Estimated date to begin roll out is January 2019, starting with fiscal year 2019-20 monthly reports.
- Fully caught up in the system – estimated by March 2020