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Highlights



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Compliance and Advocacy News & Highlights

FinCEN Exchange on Ransomware

FinCEN has <u>announced</u> it will convene a FinCEN Exchange in August 2021 with representatives from financial institutions, other key industry stakeholders, and federal government agencies to discuss ongoing concerns regarding ransomware, as well as efforts by the public and private sectors. The

FinCEN Exchange will build upon FinCEN's <u>November 2020 event</u> on ransomware. FinCEN anticipates that this FinCEN Exchange will assist its government and private sector partners to inform next steps to address ransomware and focus resources to mitigate the threat. This announcement is part of a government-wide effort to combat ransomware.

According to FinCEN, ransomware attacks are a growing concern for the financial sector, given that financial institutions can be targeted by ransomware attacks as well as reputational and financial integrity concerns about the role financial institutions might play in the processing of ransom payments. Efforts to detect and report ransomware payments are vital to prevent and deter ransomware attacks, and to hold these attackers accountable for their crimes. In October 2020, FinCEN issued Advisory FIN-2020-A006 to alert financial institutions to predominant trends, typologies, and potential indicators of ransomware and associated money laundering activities. In addition, in June 2021, FinCEN highlighted ransomware as a particularly acute cybercrime concern in its issuance of the first government-wide priorities for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policy.

Source: FinCEN

FHFA Cancels Adverse Market Refinance Fee

The Federal Housing Finance Agency has <u>announced</u> that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will eliminate their controversial Adverse Market Refinance Fee for loan deliveries effective August 1, 2021. To allow families to save more money, lenders will no longer be required to pay the Enterprises a 50basis point fee when they deliver refinanced mortgages. The fee was designed to cover losses projected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The success of FHFA and the Enterprises' COVID-19 policies reduced the impact of the pandemic and were effective enough to warrant an early conclusion of the Adverse Market Refinance Fee. FHFA's expectation is that those lenders who were charging borrowers the fee will pass cost savings back to borrowers.

Source: FHFA

Procedural Notice on PPP Guarantee Purchases and Charge-Offs

The Small Business Administration has issued <u>Procedural Notice 5000-812316</u>, "PPP Guaranty Purchases, Charge-Offs, and Lender Servicing Responsibilities," on how lenders can apply to have SBA purchase and charge off Paycheck Protection Program loans for which the borrower has not applied for forgiveness or made payment on the loan. The notice became effective July 15, 2021.

Source: SBA

Direct Deposit of Child Tax Credit Has Begun

The IRS and the Treasury <u>announced</u> recently that millions of American families have started receiving monthly Child Tax Credit payments as direct deposits begin posting in bank accounts and checks arrive in mailboxes.

This first batch of advance monthly payments worth roughly \$15 billion reached about 35 million families yesterday across the country. About 86% were sent by direct deposit.

The payments will continue each month. The IRS urged people who normally aren't required to file a tax return to explore the tools available on IRS.gov. These tools can help determine eligibility for the advance Child Tax Credit or help people file a simplified tax return to sign up for these payments as well as Economic Impact Payments, and other credits they may be eligible to receive.

Under the American Rescue Plan, each payment is up to \$300 per month for each child under age 6 and up to \$250 per month for each child ages 6 through 17. Normally, anyone who receives a payment this month will also receive a payment each month for the rest of 2021 unless they unenroll. Besides the July 15 payment, payment dates are: August 13, September 15, October 15, November 15 and December 15.

You should remember that Treasury regulations require that direct deposits that are not posted because the designated account has been closed must be returned "account closed." Treasury will resend these payments in check form. The IRS has a <u>Child Tax Credit Update Portal</u> that can be used by families to check on their enrollment to receive the advance payments, unenroll to stop getting advance payments, and provide or update their bank account information for monthly payments starting with the August 13 payment.

Source: IRS

Articles of Interest

- <u>Global Women's Leadership Network Focuses on 'Women You've Got the Power' at</u> <u>Virtual World Credit Union Conference</u>
- <u>Use Technology to Up Your Value Prop</u>
- <u>NCUA Issues Agenda for July 22, 2021 Meeting</u>

CUNA's Advocacy Resources:

Happenings in Washington

WOCCU Advocacy Resources:

- <u>Telegraph</u> the most recent newsletter on current advocacy issues
- <u>Advocate Blog</u> International advocacy trends and issues

Compliance Calendar

July 29th, 2021: Reserve Requirements – Regulation D

- July 30th, 2021: NCUA Capitalization of Interest Loan Workouts and Modifications
- August 31st, 2021: CFPB RESPA Borrower Protections COVID-19 Emergency
- September 6th, 2021: Labor Day Federal Holiday
- October 11th, 2021: Columbus Day Federal Holiday (also recognized: Indigenous Peoples' Day)

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