

# Credit Gateway FAQs



## *What is Credit Gateway?*

Credit Gateway is a deposit program for receipt of federal agency Fedwire and ACH credits, offered through the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service. It is an alternate method to return funds to NSF for organizations that mail paper checks or are unable to use Pay.gov. It requires a more manual submission than Pay.gov, but an electronic receipt of the funds.

## *My organization is unable to use Pay.gov, why will Credit Gateway work?*

Pay.gov utilizes an ACH debit transaction which pulls money from the sender's account. Some organizations have an ACH debit block on their account which is why Pay.gov cannot be used. Credit Gateway utilizes an ACH credit transaction which pushes money from the sender's account, which is initiated by the organization's bank so that it is authorized and approved by the owner.

## *What are the benefits of using Credit Gateway?*

The primary benefits of the Credit Gateway are that the payments are secure and the process is expedited, compared to paper checks. The payments are more secure because they eliminate paper transactions and prevent the need to mail a check which reduces the chance of fraud as checks account for roughly 69% of nationwide payment fraud; whereas ACH credit is less than 7%. The payments are expedited because agencies receive collections sooner, as ACH eliminates the clearing and settlement delay associated with the mail and manual processing of paper checks. It also provides the right level of detail with the transaction which allows NSF staff to reconcile and process the payment quicker and allows the institution to better track their funds.

## *Should organizations only use Credit Gateway to return funds electronically?*

No, ACM\$ credit and Pay.gov remain the preferred methods for returning funds to NSF. Credit Gateway is not replacing either of them and should only be used when the preferred methods are not a viable option for your organization.

## *Who needs to be involved in a Credit Gateway transaction at my organization?*

It depends on how your organization is structured. Generally, someone responsible for cash management activities, accounts payable activities, and an authorized user of your organization's bank account.

## *My organization is interested in using Credit Gateway, what do we do?*

If you haven't already, please review the *Credit Gateway Onboarding Materials* in the *Webinar and Presentation Downloads* Section of the NSF Payments and Analytics Branch (PAB) Website (<https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>) to help answer initial questions you may have about the Credit Gateway program. Then you can reach out to your NSF Grant Accountant to request a copy of the submission form and to answer any additional questions you may have.

*How does my organization determine our Grant Accountant?*

Grant Accountants are assigned by the state in which your organization resides. Grant Accountants can be found here <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>.

*When in the process should I email the copy of the User Entry Form to the NSF PAB mailbox?*

The ideal time to email the copy of the User Entry Form to PAB is when you get confirmation from your accounts payables representative that the bank will be contacted, this gives PAB notification before the transaction is received, but not too far ahead that it may get lost, as the processes at different organizations may take different amounts of time.