Unclaimed Public Assistance - Reference Sheet

Schedule of Events for Section 1305		
June 10	First class mailing completed	
June 30	Cut-off date – if funds have become dormant in the year prior to this date, they should be included in this report cycle	
July 10	Certified mailing completed	
September 10	Final report, Verification and Checklist and remittance received in our office by the close of business	

How to Report (due 9/10) - Include the following when reporting:

- 1. Account details of the funds you are transferring in an approved format
- 2. Remittance of cash
- 3. Verification and Checklist (Form AC2709 or Electronic VCL)



More details, including forms and contact information, can be found at: $\underline{\text{https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds/reporters}}$

Applicable Property Types			
Property type	Property Type Description	Dormancy Period	
7X	Other	4 years	
8X	Late filing interest		

Unclaimed Public Assistance

The following information corresponds to §1305 of New York's Abandoned Property Law (APL). For more information, refer to that section of the statute.

This document includes the following sections:

Statutory Considerations in Addition to §1305

Due Diligence Mailing Requirements

Remittance

Schedule of Events for §1305

Statutory Considerations in Addition to Section 1305 – Unclaimed Public Assistance

Due Diligence

Holders of abandoned property are required to conduct due diligence in the form of mailings and publication. A positive customer response to any due diligence attempt negates the need for further due diligence actions on an account.

§1422 of the APL requires that, at least 90 days prior to submitting its final report, the holder send a notice by first class mail to each owner whose name is expected to appear on that report unless the address for the owner is unknown or the holder can demonstrate that the address it maintains for the owner is not the owner's current address. In addition, at least 60 days prior to submitting its final report, the holder must send a notice by certified mail (return receipt requested), to each owner whose name is expected to appear on that report with abandoned property valued in excess of \$1,000 unless contact with the owner has been established, the first class mailing was returned as undeliverable or the mailing address is outside of the United States.

Electronic Contact

Certain types of electronic contact can be used to satisfy the written communication requirements in the APL to prevent the property from being deemed abandoned. This includes email communication from the entitled owner of the property that matches the registered email address on record with the holder or a verifiable login by the owner using a website or mobile application made available by the holder. See NYCRR Title 2 Part 125 for more details.

Social Services Law

§152-b and §360 of New York's Social Services Law provide that any surplus funds remaining after the recovery of cost for public assistance and care shall be credited to the estate or person entitled to the funds. These provisions of the Social Services Law, in conjunction with §1305 of the APL, establish the requirements for reporting under this heading. For more information, refer to §152-b and §360 of New York's Social Services Law.

Due Diligence Mailing Requirements

First Class and Certified Mailings

§1422 of the APL requires that all organizations do the following:

- At least 90 days prior to their final report/remittance date, send a first class mailing to each owner whose name is expected to appear on that report unless:
 - o The owner address is unknown, or
 - The holder can demonstrate that the address it maintains for the property owner is not the property owner's current address.
 - Note if you use an address validation service and find a new address for the owner, you may send the mailing to the new address but you should not change the original address on your report.
 - The items to be reported are valued at \$20 or less are reported in the aggregate, in which case the owner's name will not appear on the report, therefore a mailing is not required.

And

- At least 60 days prior to their final report/remittance date, send a certified mailing, return receipt requested, to each owner whose name is expected to appear on that report with abandoned property valued in excess of \$1,000 unless:
 - o A claim has been initiated since the first class mailing was sent, or
 - o The first class mailing was returned as undeliverable, or
 - The last known address is outside of the United States.

Costs

You may deduct the mailing costs for certified mail. Deduct such charges from each item for which you are mailing the notice, or one item if you are rolling similar items for a specific owner into one item. You may not make a bulk deduction against the final remittance.

Foreign Addresses

Exercise due caution in attempting to contact entitled owners who reside in politically sensitive countries as defined by the U.S Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. Certified mailing requirements do not apply to residents of foreign countries. Address any questions pertaining to this subject to our Director of Audits.

Multiple Items

Where feasible, if you are reporting more than one item for the same customer, one letter should address all the items you are reporting.

Multiple Owners

For cases in which multiple owners of an item have different addresses, you must send a letter to each owner. You may deduct the additional costs of mailing a certified notice to more than one address.

Remittance

Submit your remittance at the time you file a report. The remittance should be equal to the sum of the values of the accounts being reported to the Office of the State Comptroller. Pay your remittance by electronic transfer or check.

Electronic Funds Transfer

Electronic funds transfer is available to make payment of the amount due for your report of abandoned property. Instructions, including the account and routing number information, are linked in the Forms area of the website.

Checks

Make checks payable to Comptroller, State of New York. You should mail it to the following address:

New York State Office of the State Comptroller Office of Unclaimed Funds Remittance Control, 2nd Floor 110 State Street Albany, NY 12236

Include the letters 'OUF' and the Date/Time stamp in the memo and advice areas of your check if you sent your report account details using one of our electronic reporting methods. This will help us apply your funds correctly.

In accordance with OUF's internal control procedures, send all payments to the above address. Do not send any checks to our New York City office.

Schedule of Events for Section 1305 – Unclaimed Public Assistance

June 10

By this date:

Send a first class mailing to each person or entity whose name appears on your report of abandoned
property and request a signed written statement from the owner that acknowledges the property's
existence. This requirement does not apply to those accounts that meet the exclusionary provisions of
§1422.

- Advise and educate internal communications staff about the due diligence letters for effective processing when the rightful owner contacts your organization.
- Reactivate all accounts of owners who respond to the mailing. Do not include these accounts on your report.

June 30

For the purposes of reporting public assistance as abandoned property, the year runs from July 1 through the following June 30. June 30 is the cut-off or ending date for the reporting period. Use it when identifying abandoned accounts/items.

July 10

By this date:

- If an owner has not responded to the first class mailing, or if the first class mailing was not returned as undeliverable, and the value of all unclaimed property held for the owner exceeds \$1,000, you are required to send a second notification via certified mail, return receipt requested.
 - o You may charge the cost of the certified mailing against the property's value.
- Reactivate all accounts of owners who respond to the mailing. Do not include these accounts on your report.
 - Note: we consider a return receipt to be customer contact if the receipt bears the signature of the account owner. Verify return receipt signatures against the other signature records you may have for an owner.

July 1 through September 10

During this period, review your records and collect data relative to any account/item that may be dormant and subject to reporting.

If you have an account/item subject to reporting:

Compile the date in one of our reporting formats, so that you may submit it as your final report.

If you do not have any items subject to reporting:

- Keep a record of your review.
- Do not send preliminary or negative (zero dollar) reports.

On or before September 10

By this date:

- Finalize the report.
- Arrange for payment.
- Submit the report, payment, and a Verification and Checklist to be received in our office by the close of business on September 10.