

**North Carolina Local Government Debt Setoff Clearinghouse
2017 Participation Form - Instruction Guide**

1. Date:

- a. Month, Day and Year when the form is being completed and submitted
 - i. Examples:
 - 1. September 1, 2016
 - 2. 9/5/2016

2. Local Government Name:

- a. Do not list a specific department, just the county, municipality or agency name
 - i. Examples:
 - 1. City of Charlotte
 - 2. Mecklenburg County
 - 3. Cape Fear Public Utility

3. Type of Participant:

- a. Check the MAIN choice of eight local government participant options
- b. If a municipality, do NOT select Water and Sewer (162 Article 1), even if utilities is the only type of debt submitted

4. Coordinator Name:

- a. Main contact for Clearinghouse and/or NCACC/NCLM staff:
 - i. For issues relating to
 - 1. Refund requests/issues with Department of Revenue and Education Lottery
 - 2. Annual Participation form
 - 3. Interactive Voice Response (IVR)
 - 4. Departmental contacts

5. Coordinator Phone Number:

- a. Give direct line or extension

6. Coordinator Email Address

7. Coordinator Email Address (repeat for verification)

8. Coordinator Mailing Address

- a. Provide complete address with city and zip code

9. Contact Name (can be same as Coordinator):

- a. Main contact Clearinghouse staff and/or Interactive Voice Response will provide to debtors (unless multiple departments and contacts are provide by IVR)

10. Contact Phone Number:

- a. Give direct line or extension

11. Contact Email Address

12. Contact Email Address (repeat for verification)

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13. Hearing Officer and Title/Position

- a. Assigned/designated name(s) to conduct any Hearings/appeals as part of the due process
- b. Title/Position
 - i. Examples: County Attorney, Finance Officer, Mayor, etc.

14. Name and/or Department for Debtors to be referred to when calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR):

- a. Person's name (first name required, last name optional) OR
- b. Person's name (first name required, last name optional) with Job Title OR
- c. Job Title only OR
- d. Department or Group
 - i. Example: Customer Service or Tax Department

15. Telephone Number for Debtors to be referred to when calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR):

- a. Provide extension, if necessary
- b. Cannot be a vendor or third-party administrator, must be a local government number. Then can refer the caller to a vendor or third-party administrator.

16. Would you like different contacts and phone numbers for different departments/types of debt?

- a. No – Just 1 Needed
 - i. Regardless of different types of debts, all calls from debtors to the local government is referred by Clearinghouse to just one contact and one phone number (items #14 and #15 above)
- b. Yes – please contact Coordinator to discuss**
 - i. Clearinghouse will contact Coordinator to discuss the different contacts and phone numbers
- c. Already Set-up - No Changes Needed at this time**
 - i. Contact the Clearinghouse directly if there are any changes
- d. Already Set-up – Have Changes, please contact Coordinator**

** - Local Government must have either: 1) the Client software and have multiple Account Codes or 2) ASCII, columns 137-139 must have three character Account Codes or 3) Excel column O must have three character Account Codes

17. Current Method for Transmitting Debts (if already participating) or Choice (if not yet participating):

- a. Client Software: Encrypted Data and Encrypted File Transfer (No Cost)
 - i. Software has integrated file transfer that creates a file from the encrypted data and transmits in encrypted format
- b. Secure Web Access: Encrypted File Transfers of ASCII and/or Excel Files (No Cost)
 - i. ASCII and/or Excel stored in unencrypted format but is encrypted as transmitted

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1. Excel should be encrypted with password – Clearinghouse can provide unique smart password
- c. Hardcopy Forms by Fax (No Cost- depending on number of debts and frequency of additional debts)
 - i. Forms available for Tax and non-Tax debts, sent to secure access location fax machine
 - ii. Data is entered by Clearinghouse staff and hardcopy stored in secure access location

18. Type of Debt(s) currently being submitted (please check at least one):

- a. Used only for informational purposes by NCACC, NCLM and Clearinghouse
- b. Local government is not bound by the selections
- c. Select ONLY debts currently being submitted
- d. Can begin collecting additional types of debts or stop collecting any types of debts at any time

19. Type of Debt(s) not currently being submitted but planned for near future (optional):

- a. Used only for informational purposes by NCACC, NCLM and Clearinghouse
- b. Local government is not bound by the selections
- c. Choose any type of debts NOT currently being submitted but planned for in 2015

20. Other types of debts not listed above:

- a. Used only for informational purposes by NCACC, NCLM and Clearinghouse
- b. Local government is not bound by the selections
- c. Enter any types of debts not included in the selections above

21. Name of Person completing this form

22. Title of Person completing this form

23. Email Address of person completing this form

24. Local Government Authorized Official Name

- a. Suggested choices:
 - i. County Manager, Town Manager/Administrator, Town Clerk, Mayor or Director
- b. Alternate choices:
 - i. Finance Manager, Tax Director

25. Local Government Authorized Official Signature (fill-in once printed):

- a. Signature of #24 above

26. Date of Local Government Authorized Official signature

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Please be aware of the following statement after all questions:

“The above authorized official attests that our local government agency will follow the written notice and hearing requirements pursuant to GS 105A and the Memorandum of Understanding, prior to submitting any debts to the N.C. Local Government Debt Setoff Clearinghouse”.

By signing #25, the local government official is attesting that he/she understands the requirements of both the General Statutes and the Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed and submitted for participating members. The General Statutes are referenced on the Information webpage and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Information/Forms webpage. Included among the requirements in the General Statutes and the Memorandum of Understanding are the following matters to which we call your particular attention:

1. Due process notification letters are required. Complete information about these letters may be found on the Information/Forms webpage under “Sample Notification – Appeals – Tracking” and examples are provided. As reminders, the letters:
 - a. must be a separate letter (cannot be part of a standard bill/invoice)
 - b. on local government’s letterhead, not a third-party vendor’s
 - c. contact information must be local government’s, not a third-party vendor’s
 - d. reference the General Statutes and Clearinghouse fee
 - e. provide details regarding the debt: total amount due and may accrue additional interest, if applicable
 - f. sent to last known address (even if certain it will be returned)
 - g. mailed at least 30 days before debt is sent to the Clearinghouse, unless Compliance Date on debt is 30 or more days from date letter was mailed
2. Refund Requests from the Department of Revenue (through the NCACC/NCLM) are not optional or for consideration and must be processed expediently and according to instructions from NCACC/ NCLM.
3. You must ensure security procedures are in force:
 - a. up-to-date virus protection, malware, etc. for servers and workstations
 - b. files with entire nine digit Social Security Numbers must be protected
 - c. passwords will be controlled and changed due to staff changes
 - d. Excel files submitted to the secure folder must have an encrypted password, to be provided by the Clearinghouse (effective December 15, 2015 thru December 15, 2016)
 - e. Excel files can no longer be submitted to the secure folder, even with an encrypted password (effective December 15, 2016)
 - f. be advised that the Clearinghouse provides security options:
 - i. free client software that encrypts social security number, userids and passwords
 - ii. free data entry options that accept fax forms with debtor information so local governments do not have to maintain electronic versions of social security numbers