▪ ensuring program integrity by maintaining accurate and timely data; and

▪ taking proactive steps to prevent improper use of systems or access devices.

See 20 U.S.C. 1018(b)(2).

The development of common standards for applicable programs authorized under the HEA falls squarely within the scope of the PBO's responsibilities as outlined in the HEA. Moreover, common standards support the PBO's core goals of improving service delivery, standardizing borrower communications and support, and safeguarding the consistent implementation of policies across all contractors involved in Direct Loan servicing and collections.

The PBO statute also requires the Federal Student Loan Ombudsman to help borrowers resolve loan-related complaints, compile and analyze complaint data, make related recommendations, and annually report about the ombudsman's activities and effectiveness. Under its current leadership, FSA will enhance the focus of its Office of the Ombudsman to provide consumer education—informed by FSA's robust customer listening—and conduct outreach across the financial aid stakeholder community. Expanding the Federal Student Loan Ombudsman's focus will help ensure students, parents, and borrowers make more-informed decisions about postsecondary education and career training after high school and will lead to better borrower outcomes.

Proposed Initiative: Common Manual for the Federal Direct Loan Program

FSA proposes to develop and implement a common manual Direct Loan servicing and collections that does the following:

1. Establishes clear, concise, consistent, and standards across high-impact servicing and collections functions.

2. Draws lessons from past efforts like the *FFEL Program Common Manual,* while designing a modern framework tailored to the Direct Loan Program and federal student aid system.

3. Proceeds in phases, starting with a targeted set of guidance and practices to pilot, refine, and scale.

Development activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

▪ Reviewing feedback from this RFI to prioritize the development of common standards.

▪ Defining the scope and functional areas to be covered (*e.g.,* borrower communications, income-driven repayment processing, repayment and delinquency support, default and loan transfers).

▪ Analyzing current federal and state regulations and identifying alignment opportunities.

▪ Piloting the framework in two to three focus areas.

▪ Drafting common standards and revising related guidance, procedures, and contracts.

▪ Designing a monitoring and compliance approach.

▪ Conducting peer reviews and finalizing documentation.

Request for Information

FSA invites feedback on the development and implementation of a common manual for the Federal Direct Loan Program. We particularly welcome input on the following:

1. *Prioritization:* Which specific Direct Loan servicing and collections functions, guidance, or practices most urgently require standardization?

2. *Best Practices for Student Loan Servicing Excellence:* For all high-priority servicing and collections areas (including but not limited to borrower communications, application processing, and delinquency/pre-default outreach), what best practices from within and outside the student loan industry could be incorporated into a common standard framework?

3. *Balancing Standardization with Flexibility and Unintended Impacts:* How can FSA ensure consistent service across its multiple vendors while allowing for innovation or tailored support to unique borrower populations? What unintended consequences should be avoided? Where is flexibility most important, and where is standardization most critical?

4. *Implementation and Compliance:* What mechanisms (*e.g.,* contractual obligations, performance metrics, monitoring, and transparency) are most effective in ensuring compliance with standards? What are the potential challenges to implementation and how might they be overcome?

This is an RFI only. This RFI is not a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to publish Direct Loan servicing and collections standards in a specific timeframe. This RFI does not commit any ED office to contract for any supply or service. We are not seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. ED will not pay for any information or administrative costs that you may incur in responding to this RFI. The documents and information submitted in response to this RFI become the property of the U.S. Government and will not be returned.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at *govinfo.gov.* At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents ED published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents ED published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at *federalregister.gov.* Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by ED.

James Bergeron,

Acting Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

[FR Doc. 2025–17216 Filed 9–5–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Ann E. Misback, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than October 8, 2025.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (Prabal Chakrabarti, Executive Vice President) 600 Atlantic Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02210–2204. Comments can also be sent electronically to *BOS.SRC.Applications.Comments@bos.frb.org*:

1. *MountainOne Financial, MHC, and its subsidiary, MountainOne Financial, Inc., both of North Adams, Massachusetts;* to merge with Mechanics Bancorp, MHC, and Mechanics Bancorp, Inc, respectively, and thereby indirectly acquire Mechanics Cooperative Bank, all of Taunton, Massachusetts.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2025–17209 Filed 9–5–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (Act) (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire shares of a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in paragraph 7 of the Act.

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Ann E. Misback, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than September 23, 2025.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (Holly A. Rieser, Senior Manager) P.O. Box 442, St. Louis, Missouri 63166–2034. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@stls.frb.org:*

1. *Louis B. Eckelkamp, Jr., as trustee of the Bonnie J. Eckelkamp 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/31/2020, both of Washington, Missouri; Bonnie J. Eckelkamp, as trustee of the Louis B. Eckelkamp, Jr. 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/01/2020, both of Washington, Missouri; Louis B. Eckelkamp, III, as trustee of the Louis B. Eckelkamp, Jr. 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/01/2020, Louis B. Eckelkamp III Revocable Living Trust UTA 6/12/1996, Michael Joseph Sinnott, Jr. Trust S, Matthew Louis Sinnott Trust S, and Elizabeth Michelle Sinnott Trust S, all of Washington, Missouri; Jeanna Eckelkamp Sinnott, individually and as trustee of the Bonnie J. Eckelkamp 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/31/2020, Sarah Jane Eckelkamp Trust S, Bonnie Laurent Eckelkamp Trust S, Louis Bernard Eckelkamp IV Trust S, and Anna Christina Eckelkamp Trust S, all of Washington, Missouri; Marilyn A. Eckelkamp, as trustee of the Marilyn A. Eckelkamp Revocable Trust dtd 7/21/14, both of Washington, Missouri; Wendy Eckelkamp Cordill, Oakbrook, Illinois, as trustee of the Wendy Eckelkamp Pace Revocable Trust dated 5/09/2014, Oakbrook, Illinois, and the Marilyn A. Eckelkamp Revocable Trust dtd 7/21/14, Marilyn A. Eckelkamp 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust, and two trusts for the benefit of a minor child, all of Washington, Missouri; Jill Eckelkamp Gildehaus, as trustee of the Marilyn A. Eckelkamp Revocable Trust dtd 7/21/14, Marilyn A. Eckelkamp 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/1/2020, Catherine Marie Pace Trust 21, Madeline Anne Pace Trust 21, Jill Eckelkamp Gildehaus Revocable Trust dtd 05/29/13, and three trusts for the benefit of a minor child, all of Washington, Missouri; William W. Eckelkamp Jr., as trustee of the Marilyn A. Eckelkamp Revocable Trust dtd 7/21/14, Marilyn A. Eckelkamp 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/1/2020, Catherine Marie Pace Trust 21, Madeline Anne Pace Trust 21, William Wood Eckelkamp, Jr. Revocable Trust U/A dtd 3/28/2013, and one trust for the benefit of a minor child, all of Washington, Missouri; Robert M. Tobben, as trustee of the Judith A. Tobben 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/01/2020, both of Washington, Missouri; Judith A. Tobben, as trustee of the Robert M. Tobben 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/31/2020, both of Washington, Missouri; Timothy W. Tobben, as trustee of the Judith A. Tobben 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/01/2020, Timothy W. Tobben Revocable Trust dtd 10/11/12, and nine trusts for the benefit of a minor child, all of Washington, Missouri; Thomas V. Tobben, as trustee of the Robert M. Tobben 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/31/2020, Thomas V. Tobben Revocable Trust dtd 7/8/10, and eight trusts for the benefit of a minor child, all of Washington, Missouri; Michael Tobben, St. Louis, Missouri, as trustee of the Michael R. Tobben Revocable Trust dtd 10/05/10, St. Louis, Missouri, and seven trusts for the benefit of a minor child, all of Washington, Missouri; Daniel Tobben, as trustee of the Daniel L. Tobben Revocable Trust dtd 6/10/15 and nine trusts for the benefit of a minor child, all of Washington, Missouri; and Susan E. Eckelkamp, as trustee of the Susan Ellen Eckelkamp Revocable Trust Dated 5/22/2023, both of St. Albans, Missouri;* as the Eckelkamp Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, to retain voting shares of Diamond Bancorp, Inc., and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Bank of Washington, both of Washington, Missouri.

2. *Louis B. Eckelkamp, Jr., as trustee of the Bonnie J. Eckelkamp 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/31/2020, both of Washington, Missouri; Bonnie J. Eckelkamp, as trustee of the Louis B. Eckelkamp, Jr. 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/01/2020, both of Washington, Missouri; Louis B. Eckelkamp, III, as trustee of the Louis B. Eckelkamp, Jr. 2020 Irrevocable Family Trust dtd 12/01/2020, Michael Joseph Sinnott, Jr. Trust S, Matthew Louis Sinnott Trust S, and Elizabeth Michelle Sinnott Trust S, all of Washington, Missouri; Jeanna Eckelkamp Sinnott, as trustee of the Bonnie J. Eckelkamp 2020*