Questions for Aileen re: MTS

1. Super quick breakdown of MTS, CARS, GTAS, DATA Act to ensure we know acronyms
   1. CARS – central accounting and reporting system
      1. Wont have transactional info e.g. Dell
   2. GTAS – Government wide Treasury Account Symbol Adjusted Trial Balance System
      1. TAS and ending balance monthly
   3. PIR – payment information repository
      1. PIR would know who, because they cut the check
2. What is your understanding for the relationship between MTS and DATA Act data?
   1. CARS – creates the MTS
   2. MTS
      1. Sources for MTS data: it says reported by Federal entities, disbursing officers (at DoD and State since they can cut their own checks), and Federal Reserve banks (because they get collections info)… but later says MTS is assembled from CARS…?
      2. MTS: “Outlays of off-budget Federal entities are excluded by law from budget totals. However, they are shown separately and combined with the onbudget outlays to display total Federal outlays.”
   3. DATA Act
3. Why is ours different from CARS?
   1. We get it straight from the agencies themselves in files A-C
      1. Keeps agencies accountable since they have to certify instaed of pulling from our PIR systems
   2. They have connections to awards, e.g. $100 to dell in PIR, but PIR doesn’t know which check ties to which award
   3. Agencies’ financial systems aren’t always “talking to” their payment systems
4. Gross outlays
   1. How do we get gross outlay data? - agencies
   2. How does MTS get gross outlay data? - CARS
   3. What are plausible explanations for why these would be off?
   4. Does on-budget vs. off-budget matter? – doesn’t think so
5. Why does it appear the DATA Act’s gross outlays data is much higher than MTS for most agencies? Are we capturing something MTS is not?
   1. I proposed the Sankey theory where MTS isn’t capturing all sources pouring into budget authority. No, MTS does capture all outlays—it’s the authoritative source on R/O/S/D.
6. Could these differences be driven from warnings?
   1. Agency/warning breakdown pending spreadsheet from Mica.
      1. If so, why would DATA Act numbers be HIGHER?
7. Could it be from double counting with regards to agency transfers?
   1. Do we only count outlays by the receiver of funds?
      1. (T/F?) EOP🡪 State money, but only place that pops up is a line for state’s outlays, but tagged that it came from EOP originally. EOP doesn’t report that transfer amount
      2. (T/F?) I wouldn’t know how much total EOP has given State up to this point in time until it pops up as an obligation or outlay for State.
   2. If we have time...
8. Does MTS report out on all sources of money, or just outlays from appropriations?
   1. All money
      1. ~~total budget authority Sankey ([DOE federal account example](https://beta.usaspending.gov/" \l "/federal_account/2715)) left will include balance brought forward, other budg resources, and new approp.~~
      2. ~~We capture obligations from all of those. Is it possible MTS isn’t capturing outlays if the original source is different? Or does it all go into a total budget authority pot and then out to obligations/outlays?~~

# Understanding TAS Balances/File A

1. Why would reporting and submission agencies be different?
   1. Reporting Agency
      1. Sometimes can be the awarding, not funding
   2. Submission agency
      1. Ex: ARC transfers money to army corps of engineers, transportation, commerce, usda,… in tasbalances\_data\_07-11\_pivot\_explore

# How are we off by so much?

1. About 1/3 – DoD 🡪 OK for now?
   1. DoD in DATA Act is still 206B more than MTS, so this doesn’t seem like the problem that they haven’t YET submitted data…?
2. About 1/3 – Treasury 🡪 DA > MTS by 194B
   1. Outlays for debt, interest included in one but not the other?
   2. Interest on the debt is recognized on accrual basis—is it possible MTS is thus missing this, but we’re somehow receiving Treasury outlay data related to this?
3. About 1/3 – HHS 🡪 DA > MTS by 178B
   1. ???

# Drew (8/7)

1. What are large changes in our own API/database data due to?
   1. from agencies fixing things and then re-certifying? (Yes)
   2. Errors but certified anyway? (Yes)