



# **PAUL CITY OF CLEMENCY CFO**

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# Paul City of Clemency CFO

Government CFOs must manage the finances of cities, counties and states on fixed budgets while also responding to unexpected developments such as natural disasters.

Paul is the CFO of the city of Clemency in a Midwestern state. The city has been hard hit by flooding, which has caused power outages and left standing water in many locations. Streets are impassable, so mail cannot be delivered. Clemency's thousands of residents who rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP), unemployment or disability payments are vulnerable. And homeowners and businesses need fast access to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief to begin rebuilding.

**In 2019, there were 14 weather-related disasters that incurred damages of \$1 billion or more, for a total of \$45 billion in losses. Historic flooding in the Midwest caused \$10.8 billion in damages.**





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Paul knows that speed is of the essence in solving the city's financial challenges related to the flood. Residents need funds right now to buy groceries and pay bills, while water damage to buildings worsen each day. Since COVID-19 has harmed the local economy, city residents and business owners don't have much – if any – financial margin to fall back on.

Paul knows that digital payments can address these challenges, providing financial relief to his city beginning this week – not next month. Digital disbursements can be used immediately and added to Apple Pay or Google Pay, providing same-day access to funds.

**In 2020, the privately funded Accelerator for America organization partnered with the City of Los Angeles to provide prepaid debit cards to help low-wage workers whose earnings had fallen as a result of the pandemic. The program was designed to get money quickly into the hands of residents in need, including those without bank accounts as well as undocumented residents. The program has distributed more than \$36 million on more than 37,000 prepaid debit cards, helping more than 100,000 city residents.**<sup>ii</sup>

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As a responsible steward of resources, Paul wants to ensure that the city's prepaid program not only gets needed funds to the right people quickly, it ensures that the funds are used for their intended purpose. The city needs a fast, secure and proven way to make same-day digital disbursements. The program:

- Must be implemented quickly – there's no time to waste.
- Should cover different types of disbursements to residents, small businesses and large enterprises within this city of 500,000.
- Must include limitations that keep the risk of fraud low.

**Digital disbursements reduce the potential for check fraud, which has affected 70 percent of organizations in the United States.<sup>iii</sup>**





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Paul has heard about the FIS™ Prepaid Business Platform, an end-to-end program that helps government organizations and enterprises distribute payments and disbursements with speed, scale and security. FIS will help him gain:

- **Speed:** Implement a program within two-three days that makes same-day disbursements to city residents and businesses.
- **Scale:** Make disbursements to qualified parties through a simple user interface, creating a highly efficient, flexible program.
- **Security:** Create end-to-end digital workflows that reduce risk, improve traceability and help ensure regulatory compliance. With digital identity authentication, the city can ensure that payments reach the right individuals.

**Digital disbursements are less costly and faster than checks, whose costs include printing, postage, staff, mailing time and exception management.**

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Paul presents the FIS Prepaid Business Platform to the rest of the city's leadership team. They know FIS' reputation as a market leader in prepaid processing and agree to immediately stand up a program.

Paul works with FIS to implement a turnkey prepaid card management program that provides:

- Customization that meets the city's needs
- A highly scalable platform that can be implemented in days
- The versatility to handle and track different disbursement types
- The ability to restrict usage (for example, by merchant type or no cash out)
- Regulatory and compliance oversight
- Easy settlement and reconciliation
- Digital reporting

With fast digital disbursements, city residents and businesses can avoid further hardship as they begin to rebuild after the flood abates. Since the FIS Prepaid Business Platform has helped the City of Clemency navigate a crisis, Paul decides to go 100 percent digital with the city's disbursements moving forward.

**Be trusted. Digital payments you can count on.** *Grow your business with prepaid cards*

**In one week in May, the United States Treasury Department mailed prepaid debit cards to 4 million Americans to speed the delivery of COVID-19 relief payments.<sup>iv</sup>**





### **Why work with FIS**

When it comes to same-day payments, FIS provides the experience, platform and scale you need. Count on us to help you deliver your prepaid card program.

- \$100 billion processed annually
- 20+ years of successful conversions and migrations
- 3.5 billion transactions processed every year
- 300+ million active cards on prepaid platforms
- \$8 billion processed in a single day
- 20+ card types supported
- 200+ clients, including government agencies, banks, fintechs and small businesses
- Operating in 36 countries

Learn more at <https://empower1.fisglobal.com/prepaid-cards.html>

<sup>i</sup>“Weather Disasters and Costs,” Online Fact Sheet, undated, Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, <https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/weather-disasters.html>

<sup>ii</sup>Accelerator for America, “COVID-19 Response,” <https://www.acceleratorforamerica.org/covid-19-response>, accessed August 20, 2020

<sup>iii</sup>“What Check Fraud Can Teach Banks About Preparing for the Instant Payments Future,” Online Article, Pymnts.com, August 5, 2019, <https://www.pymnts.com/news/security-and-risk/2019/check-fraud-banks-instant-payments-future/>

<sup>iv</sup>Tanza Loudenback, “Instead of relief checks, 4 million Americans will get prepaid debit cards this week, Treasury says,” Business Insider, May 18, 2020, <https://www.businessinsider.com/personal-finance/treasury-sending-prepaid-debit-cards-stimulus-money-2020-5>

## About FIS

FIS is a leading provider of technology solutions for merchants, banks and capital markets firms globally. Our more than 55,000 people are dedicated to advancing the way the world pays, banks and invests by applying our scale, deep expertise and data-driven insights. We help our clients use technology in innovative ways to solve business-critical challenges and deliver superior experiences for their customers. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, FIS is a Fortune 500® company and is a member of Standard & Poor's 500® Index.

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