Private Debt Collection Program Provides Resources To

Strengthen the Effectiveness of the IRS



In 2015, the bipartisan Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act created the Private Debt Collection (PDC) Program to

leverage the expertise of private debt collection companies to expand the customer service capacity of the IRS by conducting outreach and providing manageable payment plan options to help taxpayers with uncontested tax underpayments pay their lingering tax debt.



- To date, the PDC Program has generated **\$383 million** for the SCPP Fund.
- As of June, 2022, the revenue collected by the PDC Program has funded the hiring and retention of 700 IRS special compliance personnel.

Of the tax revenue collected by the PDC program:

50%

goes to the US Treasury

25%

is available to pay PDC Program partners (currently 19.7% is paid in commissions)

25%

is directed into a special fund to help the IRS hire and train internal personnel and cover IRS oversight costs.

The Special Compliance Personnel Program (SCPP) Fund allows the IRS to expand internal staffing and build a unique, stand-alone tax collection program that, like the PDC Program, is fully self-funded. The IRS uses SCPP funds to hire and train internal Special Compliance Personnel to collect taxes using the automated collection system. It's important to note, SCPP staff work for the IRS and not a part of the Private Debt Collection Program.

SCPP employees are full-time IRS staff working to collect tax on randomly selected accounts in collection status. IRS systems flag selected accounts as SCPP accounts. SCPP personnel receive calls from a new toll-free number and assist taxpayers in resolving their outstanding tax debt. Because they are internal IRS employees, SCPP staff can utilize IRS administrative enforcement tools, like liens and levies.

The statute that created the SCPP Fund determined that the resources be considered permanent appropriations covering salaries, benefits, training, overhead, infrastructure and even technology – which will allow the SCPP to continue functioning, even during budget battles in Congress.

Funds generated for the SCPP Fund have allowed the IRS to hire, train and sustain 700 SCPP employees to work automated collection system cases. To date, SCP Program staff have collected more than \$2 billion in outstanding federal taxes.

