Lunch and Learn: How to Record Your Transactions in Public Finance

Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division

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Erin Dennis, Deputy Director

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Welcome to Lunch and Learn

- A service provided by the MD State Board of Elections (SBE) and the Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance (CCF) to assist candidates, their advocates and the citizens of Maryland on how to operate as a public finance (PF) candidate.
 - Twice monthly program
 - Understand the rules of PF and how they differ from a traditional / regular candidate committee.
 - Understand the mechanics of reporting your transactions into MD Campaign Reporting Information System (CRIS).



Getting Signed In for the First Time

- Once your Statement of Organization is approved, all officers will receive an email from SBE with a temporary password.
 - Username is your email. No shared emails.
- Everyone who can change your data in CRIS will be tagged that they changed or amended something.



Getting Signed In for the First Time

Username is your email.

Password has to be 12 characters, upper and lower case letters, numbers, special characters.





Getting Signed In for the First Time

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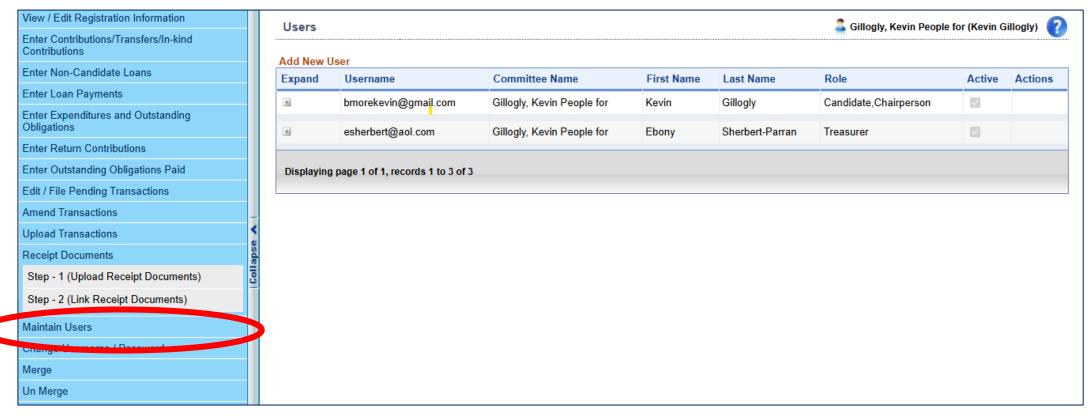


Divisions of Duties

- The three officers get emails to join.
 - The Campaign Chairperson (can also be the candidate)
 - The Treasurer (can not be the candidate)
 - The applicant candidate
- You can add a person to help with the recording of data.
 - Campaign Manager or anyone else you want to get access to YOUR account
 - Remember too many cooks spoil the batter.

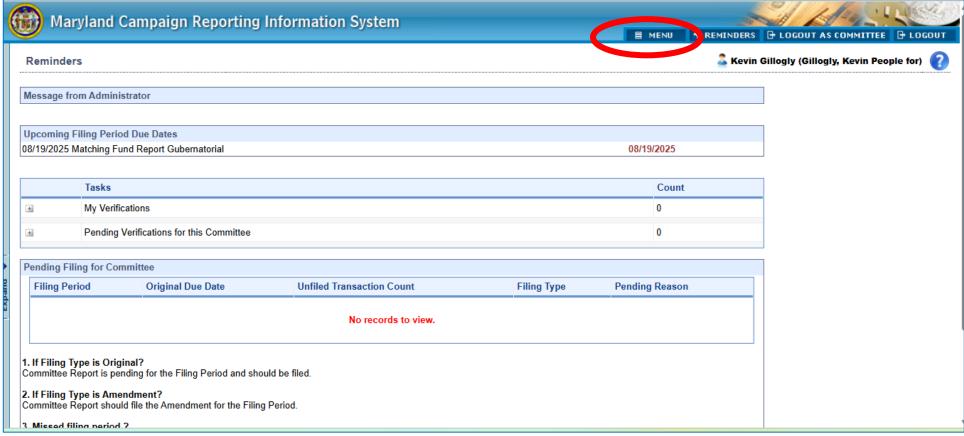


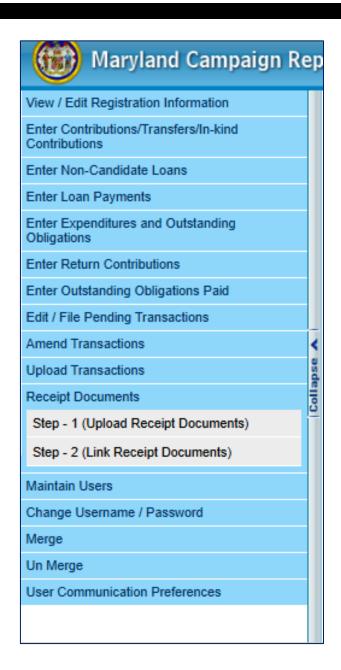
Adding a New User





A Tour of the CRIS Website, Part I



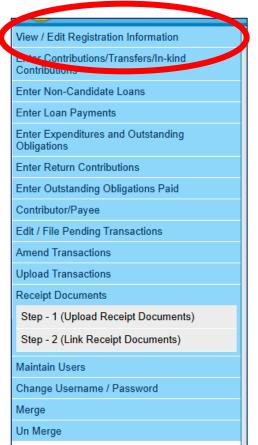


Menu – Your Home Base

When you get lost.
Always come back to the Menu. It's your home base.



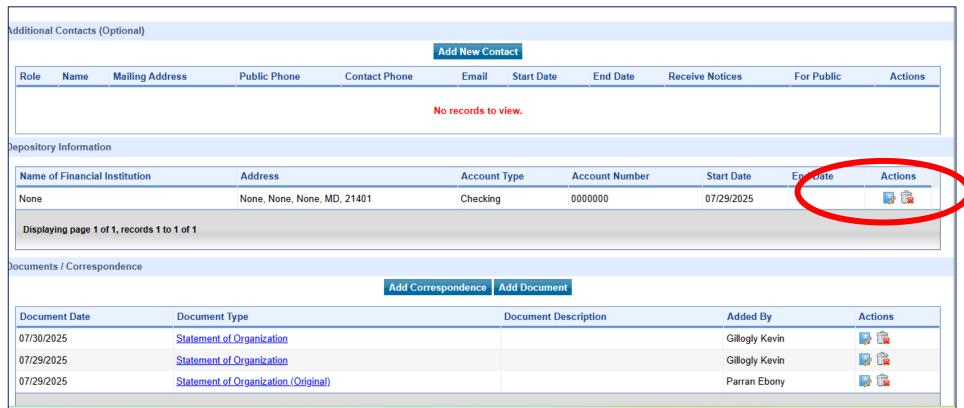
A Tour of the CRIS Website, View/Edit







A Tour of the CRIS Website, Add Your Bank Account





Have to Be 100% Transparent

E. RECEIPT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

A separate receipt must be obtained from the contributor with the contributor's name, residential address, and be signed by the contributor directly or by digital signature. Each receipt must have the contributor's name, residential address, and be signed by the contributor directly or by the digital signature method approved by the State Board. The signature card name must match the name of contributor to be considered a qualifying contribution.

A cancelled check does not qualify as a signed contribution receipt for matching Public Campaign Financing Fund purposes. The contributor must sign and provide a receipt as an additional document acknowledging the contribution to be a qualified contribution for public fund matching. A qualifying contribution made in bank check form must be printed with a name to match the name on the signed receipt of contribution.

- For example, a bank check has two names printed on the document, with an Anne Arundel County address, one of the names must be the name of the Anne Arundel County resident contributor.
- For an additional example, a bank check has two names printed on the document, with a Anne Arundel County address, the contributor can sign the document using the initials of one of the names printed on the check. (i.e. the name printed on the check is John A. Contributor and signed as J. A. Contributor.)



The Key Things You Need to Capture

- Seven Key Items to Capture
 - Contribution Date
 - Contribution Amount
 - Check Number / Credit Card / EFT / Cash (up to \$100)
 - Name of the Donor
 - Address of the Donor
 - Attest they are a County (or State) resident
 - Attest that the money is theirs and not given to them
 - Digital Signature / Actual Signature

Joint accounts
have to be from a
single person.
You can't split a
donation
between two (or
more) parties.



Best Practices to Recording Transactions

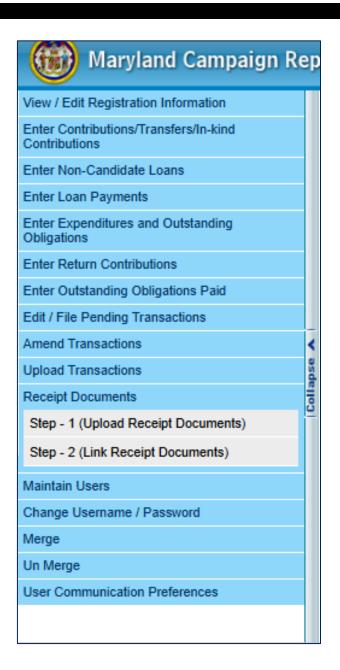


- Ten-year record retention
- Regularly balancing the committee's checkbook
- Enter Contributions/Deposits as they are received
- Add additional data-entry users
- Review the MD CRIS & Your County's Summary Guide often
- Update address, contact number, and email addresses
- Enter Expenditures as they are issued
- Create a monthly Excel Spreadsheet
- Self-report anonymous contributions





- Remember to include credit card processing charges and bank fees on campaign reports
- Remember to add your loans from the candidate or their family as a contribution.
- Once your PF candidate committee qualifies for matching funds please make sure to include the disbursement from the county (or the state – for Governor) in CRIS.
- Reach out to CCF staff for questions

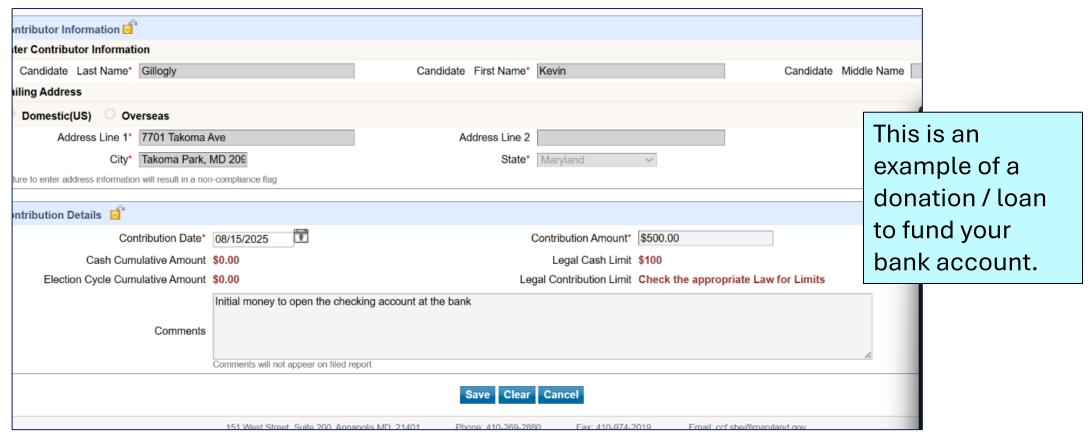


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Recording A Contribution as a Loan





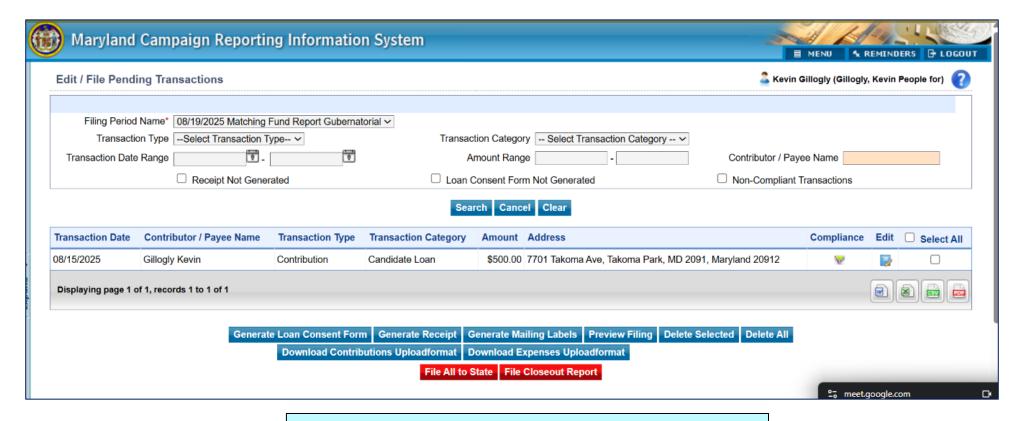
After you hit submit, you will see this





Will appear at the top of the web page.

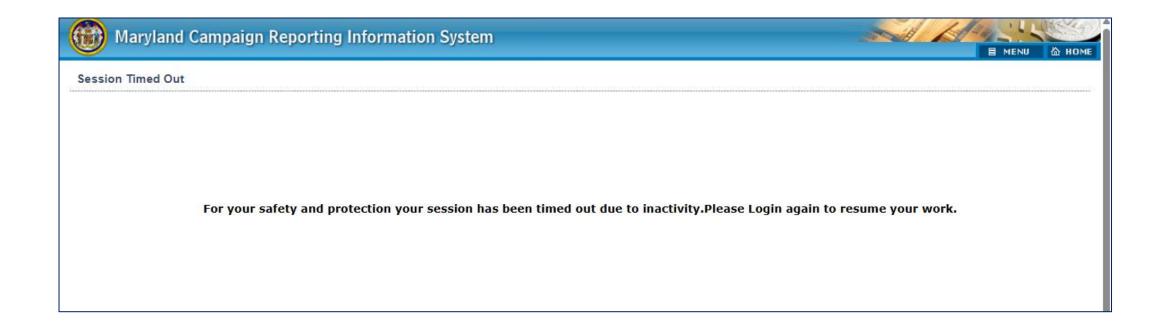
Using Edit / File Transactions





Use Edit / File Transactions to double check your work.

You Might Get Timed Out





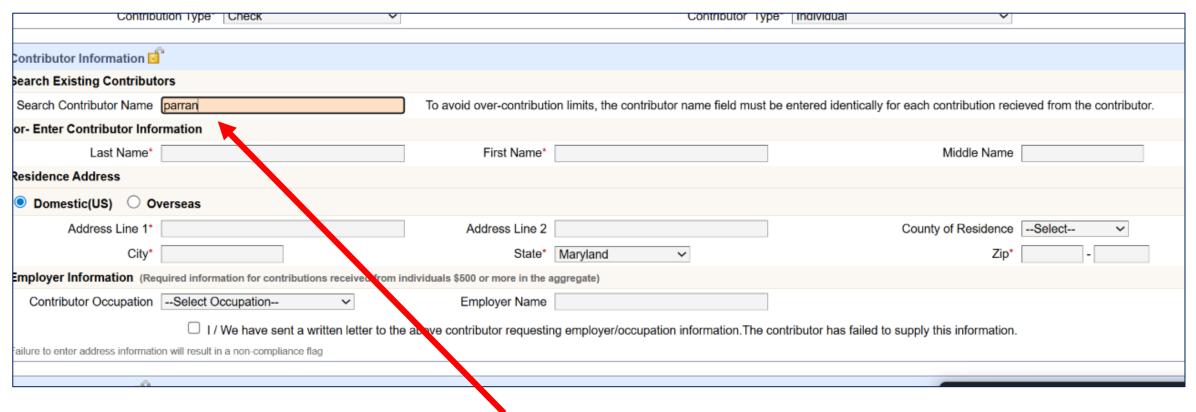


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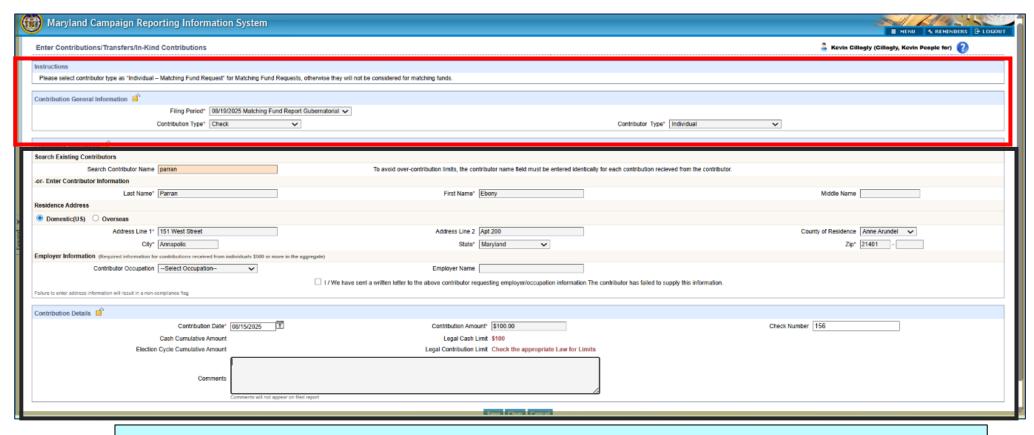
Your First Donation





If you use the "Search Existing Contributors" features, you are less likely to get duplicate donors

Your First Donation

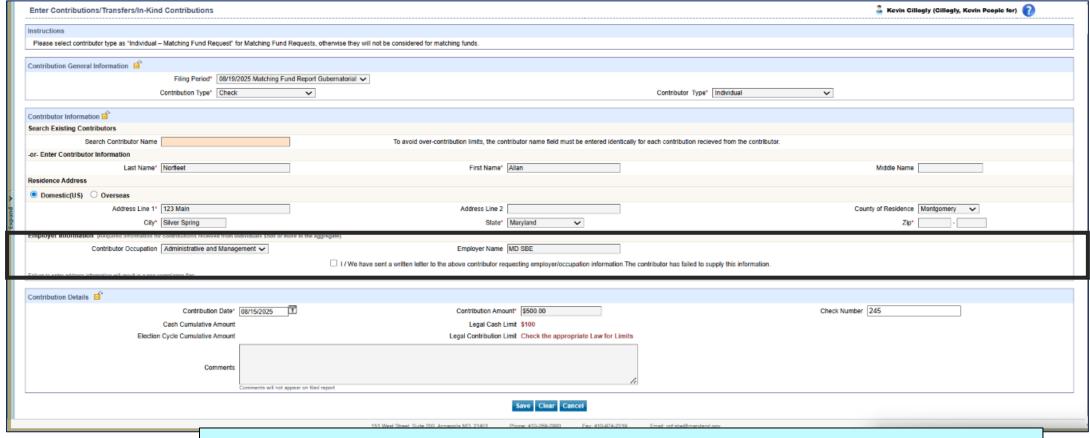




Here you enter the filing period, contribution type, contributor type.

In the second box you add donor's name, address, county, date of the donation, how it was paid, amount.

Montgomery County only: \$500



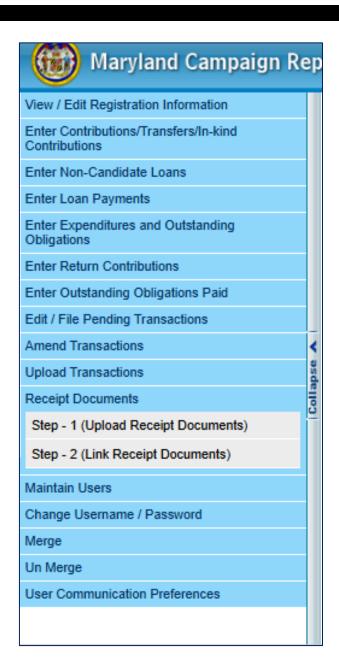


You need to record the employer and occupation for any donation of exactly \$500.00.

If you forget something





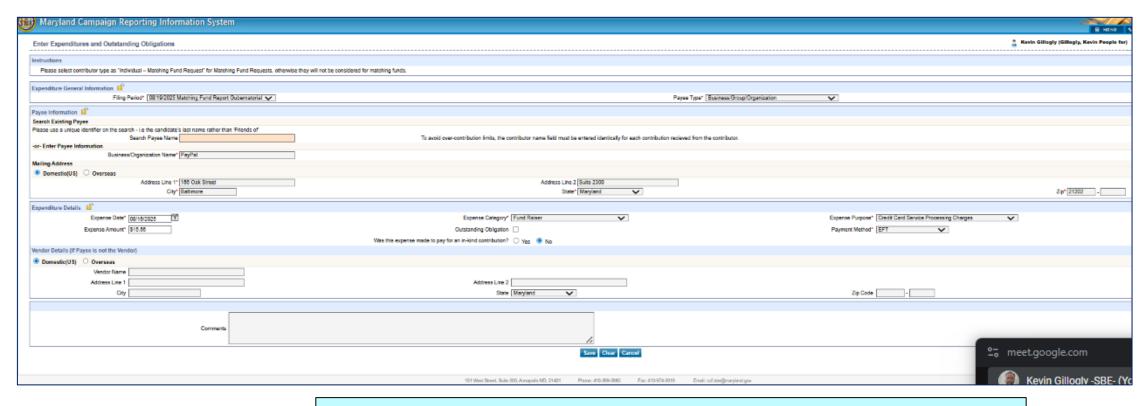


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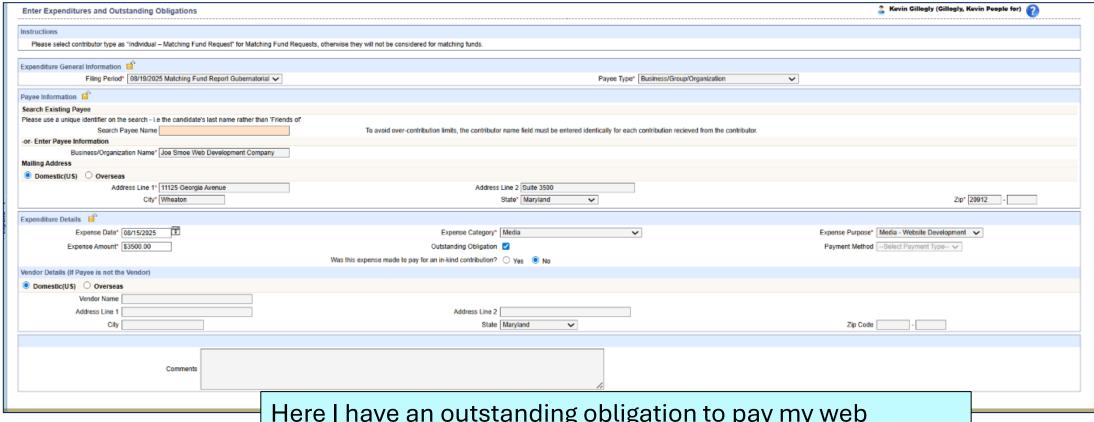
How to Enter an Expenditure





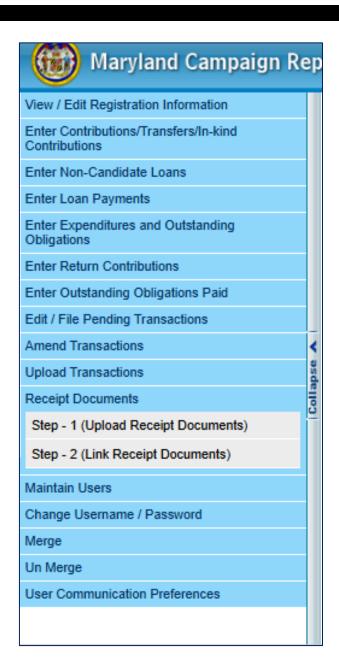
Any processing fee from a 3rd party vendor such as PayPal, Stripe, Wix etc. has to be recorded and is considered part of the donation from any contributor

Entering an Outstanding Obligation





Here I have an outstanding obligation to pay my web developer for their work. The PF committee owes \$3,500.



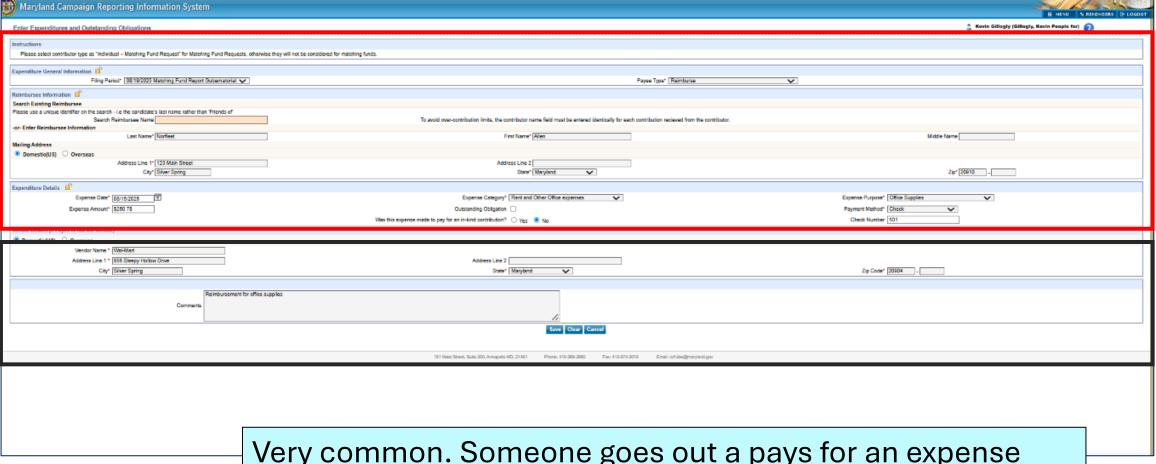
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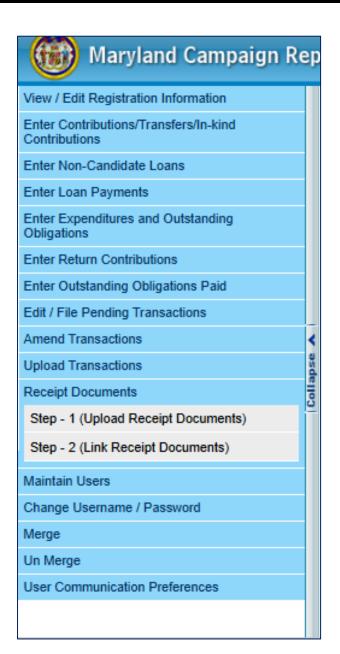




Entering a Reimbursement



Very common. Someone goes out a pays for an expense and looks for reimbursement later.



Bulk Uploads Are Possible



Main Page of Bulk Uploads

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Other downloads	Currently processing jobs:											
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CCFIDs Contributor/Payee ids	Other downloads	Other downloads										
	CCFIDs	CCFIDs Contributor/Payee ids										



Correct for Errors

 You might have errors in your data. Go through and manually edit the transactions that have faulty data.



Questions



Future Lunch and Learns

- Linking Receipts with a donor or an expense
- Submitting your first initial matching fund report
- Trouble shooting common problems



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