Overview

Interfaces refer to data exchanges between Florida PALM and external business systems. Florida PALM will interface with agency business systems, enterprise partner systems (e.g., MFMP, People First) and third-party systems (e.g., banks) (i.e., interfacing partners). The Interface Catalog provides details on all interfaces available to agencies, including interface layouts, sample data, and information pertaining to interface standards for Florida PALM.

Testing is a critical element of any system implementation lifecycle. Interface testing is a shared responsibility between the Florida PALM Project (Project) and interfacing partners, requiring many coordinated activities to prepare for a successful go-live. All interfacing partners are required to complete three cycles of interface testing as described below.

- Cycle 1 – **Connectivity Testing** ensures that interfacing partners can connect to the Florida PALM Managed File Transfer (MFT) Server to deliver inbound interface files and access outbound interface files.
- Cycle 2 – **Technical Interface Testing** ensures that:
  - o Inbound interface files from interfacing partner systems can be processed by Florida PALM.
  - o Outbound interface files from Florida PALM can be picked up and processed by interfacing partner systems.
- Cycle 3 – **Full Integration Testing** during User Acceptance Testing (UAT) ensures that interfacing partners can complete all processes from start to finish, including those upstream and downstream processes that rely on interfacing system integration and interface data.

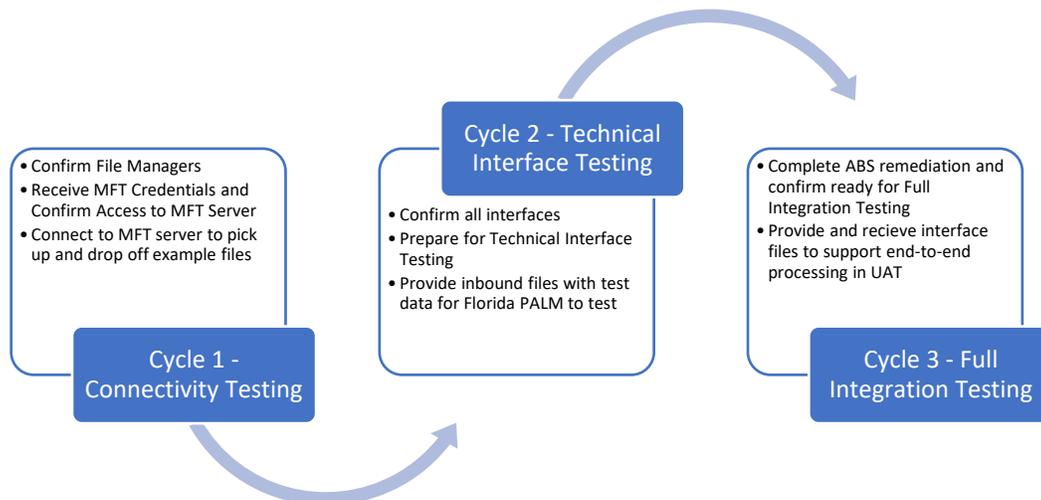Figure 1 depicts the interface testing cycles and key activities for agencies.

Figure 1: Interface Testing Cycles

Note: *Interface Testing does not include Spreadsheet Uploads. Spreadsheet Uploads will be tested by end users during UAT.*

Cycle 1 – Connectivity Testing

Interfacing partners must establish connectivity to the Florida PALM MFT Server and confirm the ability to pick up and drop off test files.

The table below provides an overview of the Project and agency responsibilities during Connectivity Testing.

Table 1: Project and Agency Responsibilities During Connectivity Testing

Connectivity Testing Responsibilities	
Project	• Develop MFT folder structure for interfacing partners. • Establish and provide MFT credentials for interfacing partners. • Whitelist IP addresses for interfacing partners. • Provide technical support.
Agency	• Confirm File Managers. • Provide IP address(es). • Participate in MFT Credentials Meeting and any needed follow-up to confirm access to the Florida PALM MFT server. • Pick up and drop off test files in the Florida PALM MFT server.

Cycle 2 – Technical Interface Testing

The purpose of Technical Interface Testing is to confirm that Financials and Payroll interface files are generated, formatted, and exchanged according to interface specifications and Florida PALM interface standards.

During Technical Interface Testing, the Project and interfacing partners must test and confirm the following:

- Interface files have the correct file name.
- Interface file format matches the interface layout.
- Required and conditionally required fields are correctly populated.
- Field value provided does not exceed Field Length specified in the interface layout.
- Required record types are included (i.e., header records and detail records).
- Monetary amount on header record equals the sum of detail record monetary amounts for a transaction.
- Interface files contain valid data types including:
    - ChartField values and ChartField combinations (i.e., valid Combo Edits).
    - Agency-specific configuration values.
    - Florida PALM-specified configuration data values.
- Interface files include a valid open period.
- Transactional data in the interface files can be loaded and processed.

Prior to the start of Technical Interface Testing, the Project will:
- Prepare the interface testing environment by loading:
    - Agency-specified configuration values, as confirmed by agencies.
    - Florida PALM-specified configuration values.
    - Statewide ChartField configuration values.
    - Agency Mock 2 conversion data.

- Develop and share detailed testing information with interfacing partners.

Prior to the start of Technical Interface Testing, agencies must:
- Successfully complete Cycle 1 – Connectivity Testing with the Project.
- Identify all needed Financials and Payroll interfaces.
- Remediate agency business systems to be able to:
  - Populate and receive valid configuration values including:
    - agency-specific values, as confirmed by agencies;
    - Florida PALM-specified values; and
    - statewide ChartField configuration values.
  - Generate and transmit selected inbound interface file(s) in the Florida PALM format (if applicable).
  - Process selected outbound interface file(s) from Florida PALM (if applicable).
- Develop agency business system test scenarios, documenting any downstream or upstream impacts that need to be tested.
- Prepare agency participants including:
  - Functional owners of agency business systems to validate the data in interface files.
  - Technical owners of agency business systems to perform any needed remediation based on testing findings.
  - File Managers to verify the files are transmitted successfully.

Table 2: Project and Agency Responsibilities During Technical Interface Testing

Technical Interface Testing Responsibilities	
Project	- Process inbound and outbound interfaces for interfacing partners. - Provide interface error and summary logs to interfacing partners. - Support interfacing partners by: - providing a mechanism to report interface testing errors. - assist with understanding testing errors. - provide guidance for interfacing partner-led error resolution. - coordinate retesting of updated interface files. - Document and report testing status to interfacing partners.
Agency	- Execute any agency-specific testing scenarios. - Validate processing of data received from the Project and testing of data processed by agency business systems.* - Report overall testing progress to determine if the agency is on track to complete testing activities on time. - Resolve testing errors.
*Note: Technical Interface Testing will use sample data. Full Integration Testing will support exchange of true transactional data process in the UAT environment.	

Cycle 3 – Full Integration Testing

Interface testing will conclude with Full Integration Testing during UAT and will include agency transactional data processed in the UAT environment. This is when agencies will test all their processes comprehensively, from end-to-end, including the integration of necessary agency business systems and enterprise systems.

Prior to Full Integration Testing, agencies must:

- Successfully complete Cycle 2 – Technical Interface Testing.
- Complete Agency Business System documentation updates and remediation.
- Successfully complete internal agency business system testing.
- Have test scenarios developed.

Note: This approach document may be updated with additional information and guidance throughout the testing cycles.