

*Electronic Delivery of Public Assistance
Benefits: Technology Options and Policy
Issues*

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**Electronic Delivery of
Public Assistance Benefits:
Technology Options
and
Policy Issues**

Background Paper



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Foreword

This background paper discusses the technological options available for use in an electronic system to deliver public assistance benefits, the privacy and security implications of such a system, and the programmatic effects of changing to an electronic delivery system. It was requested by the Subcommittee on the Handicapped of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. The paper built on research conducted for two earlier OTA studies, *Federal Government Information Technology: Electronic Records and Individual Privacy* (June 1986) and *Defending Secrets, Sharing Data: New Locks and Keys for Electronic Information* (October 1987).

Preparation of this background paper involved extensive assistance from and review by experts and other interested parties. OTA appreciates the participation of the many individuals who provided information and review comments. The background paper itself, however, is solely the responsibility of OTA, not of those who so ably advised and assisted us in its preparation.



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