

**Grants Policy Committee
Strategic Plan
WORKING DRAFT: October 4, 2007
Grants Policy Committee, Tom Cooley, Chair**

DISCLAIMER: This preliminary draft has not yet been approved by any Federal agency or interagency body, nor does it constitute approval by any agency or interagency body. The purpose of this draft is to solicit public comment. A final plan will not be drafted until Federal agency and community input is gathered.

I. Introduction, Purpose, and Roles and Responsibilities

A. Introduction

The Grants Policy Committee (GPC) is a committee of the U.S. Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Council. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) sponsors the GPC; its membership consists of grants policy subject matter experts from across the Federal government.

The GPC is charged with improving the management of Federal financial assistance government-wide. To carry out that role, the committee recommends financial assistance policies and practices to OMB and coordinates related interagency activities. The GPC serves the public interest in collaboration with other Federal-wide grants initiatives.

B. Purpose of this Document

The strategic plan outlines GPC goals and objectives as a framework for guiding the committee's future work. The Plan will be periodically reviewed and updated, with regular assessment of the GPC's progress towards the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

C. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the GPC is to provide oversight of government-wide grants policy initiatives. The GPC created five work groups to provide policy related recommendations: Mandatory, Pre-Award, Post-Award, Audit Oversight, and Training and Certification. All grants policy recommendations to OMB are coordinated through the GPC. The GPC collaborates with other Federal initiatives for grants streamlining and management:

1. The Grants Executive Board (GEB) is a governance body, which provides oversight, executive sponsorship, Agency participation, and Agency resource contributions for the Grants.gov and Grants Management Line of Business (GMLOB) initiatives. The GEB determines the technical implementation of policy changes and standards recommended by GPC and approved by OMB.
2. The Grants Committee, which is one of four committees under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Task Force (the

other three committees are Contracts, Loans, and Information Technology). FFATA requires OMB to develop a publicly accessible, searchable website containing information about grants, contracts, and loans awarded by the Federal government. OMB established the FFATA Task Force to help it develop the procedures and systems needed to implement the law.

The efforts of the GPC, GEB, and FFATA Grants Committee are interrelated. Each group is made up of officials of Federal agencies and OMB. The three groups have different purposes and activities but complementary goals. The groups have some commonality in agency membership and each has a liaison to the other groups, to ensure good communication and coordination.

II. Mission & Vision

A. Mission

To increase the effectiveness of Federal financial assistance by providing useful policy and procedural recommendations to OMB that balance good stewardship of Federal dollars with reduced burden on applicants, recipients and Federal agencies.

B. Vision

Simplified application processes, streamlined financial assistance award and administration, enhanced quality and timeliness of information related to assistance, and improved stewardship of Federal dollars.

III. Goals & Objectives

GOAL 1-Streamlining: Simplify Federal financial assistance processes to make them more uniform across agencies and eliminate unnecessary burdens on applicants, grantees and Federal agencies.

Objective 1:

Establish and maintain consolidated and consistent OMB guidance.

Objective 2:

Recommend uniform forms and formats for applications and post-award reports.

Objective 3:

Recommend standard and streamlined Federal-to-grantee business processes.

GOAL 2-Stewardship: Improve stewardship by ensuring Federal dollars are used appropriately.

Objective 1:

Continually assess how the GPC is performing against the Strategic Plan and make changes to improve performance.

Objective 2:

Facilitate greater community input and outreach in streamlining Federal financial assistance processes by maximizing, to the extent possible, involvement of both the Federal and non-Federal financial assistance stakeholder communities.

Objective 3:

Support the professional development of a Federal workforce for awarding and administering assistance awards.

Objective 4:

Make recommendations to improve audit and oversight policies and procedures.

DRAFT

DRAFT GRAPHIC:

