GRANTS.GOV BUILD 5 - SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

On September 1, 2005 Grants.gov launched numerous system upgrades and enhancements for both the grant community and federal grant-making agencies. The upgrade and enhancements topics summarized below include:

PureEdge Software Upgrade   New Grantor Channel   Improved Forms Repository

Technical Library   Grantor Administration Updates

PureEdge Viewer Software Upgrade

Grants.gov PureEdge (PE) Viewer software has been updated to: 1) provide enhanced form development and deployment capabilities and 2) improve the application submission process. The upgrade will install across all operating systems and browser versions currently supported by Grants.gov and PureEdge. Grants.gov deployed the software upgrade for all application packages published to the site on or after September 1, 2005. Existing application packages will be unaffected by the upgrade installation.

For newly published application packages, the upgrade will enable users to first log-in to Grants.gov, before they upload their package. This will enable users and Grants.gov to detect potential problems with user registration and authentication and avoid unnecessary time and system processing delays. Previously, the process was reversed, where users uploaded their completed applications and then were asked to log-in. For users who had not completed their registration or were experiencing technical difficulties, this caused confusion and an investment in time awaiting the upload of an application package, only to learn the Grants.gov system could not process the submission due to these issues.

The PE forms of newly published application packages will detect whether the software upgrade has been installed in the Grants.gov user's program files. As users download and use new application packages, they will receive a warning message instructing them to visit the PE software download page (http://www.grants.gov/DownloadViewer) to download the 2 megabyte upgrade installer. Additionally, the "Submit" function on the application will remain deactivated until the PE package detects that the upgrade has been installed. Until the installation is completed, the user will not be able to submit. However, they will be able to fill-out the individual forms and will be notified to install the upgrade each time they open the package.

Along with the PE Viewer form alerts, Grants.gov will notify users of the upgrade in numerous other ways. The Download Viewer page has been expanded to include specific directions and tips for installing PE Viewer. Existing users, who have previously accessed, completed, and submitted applications on Grants.gov, will only need to update their PE Viewer. New users will be instructed to install both the existing PE Viewer and the small upgrade. Grants.gov is working with PE to develop a unified download solution and will notify users as information becomes available.

Grants.gov will include alerts in strategic website locations and in communication vehicles to encourage users to download and install the upgrade in preparation for the 2006 grant season and the ramp-up of new agency grant programs. Grants.gov encourages grantors to notify their communities to visit Grants.gov and install the PureEdge viewer upgrade early.

For more details related to PureEdge Viewer upgrade, please visit http://www.grants.gov/DownloadViewer

New Grantor Channel:

Grants.gov released new site content geared towards grantors. Now grantors have access to customized public facing content to guide use and migration to Grants.gov. From the existing "Grantor" link in the top navigation of the Grants.gov Home Page, grantors will enter a dedicated section of the site with navigation links and tabs specific to grantor topics and activities, including "Get Started", "Post Opportunities", "Publish Applications" and grantor-specific "Customer Support". Specifically related to "Get Started", grantors now have information, links,

and resources related to working with Grants.gov including strategic planning and implementation of an agency system-to-system interface.

To aid new grantors, Grants.gov identified three primary roles to enable efficient migration to and management of the Grants.gov priorities. Each role identifies the primary tasks to accomplish a smooth and successful migration of grant programs to the Grants.gov platform. The grantor user roles and step-by-step customized migration information include:

- Agency Point of Contact (POC): The overall agency point of contact for Grants.gov. The POC serves as the strategic decision-maker for an agency and is also responsible for the initial establishment of the agency on the Grants.gov system and Grants.gov integration within an agency.

- Agency Program Administrator: Serves as the day-to-day agency system representative interacting with Grants.gov, responsible for setting up and managing sub-agencies and users; and facilitating system-to-system integration with Grants.gov.

- Agency Grantor: Serves as the advocate for Agency grant program offices and is responsible for posting grant opportunities and publishing and retrieving grant applications on Grants.gov.

Although these roles may not fit each Agency organization precisely, they do provide grantors insight to the duties and workloads that are necessary to effectively utilize Grants.gov. New grantors are directed to select a role in supporting their Agency's migration, then they are guided through specific steps for their role. Seasoned grantors simply follow the navigation to perform agency user management and grant application publishing activities, with enhanced content including What's New alerts, Quick Tips, etc. specific to grantors.

Visit http://www.grants.gov/ForGrantors for more details.

Improved Forms Repository:

Finding forms for application package publishing is now easier and faster with the improved Forms Repository. Previously, the listing of electronic application forms was available via a downloaded zip file. Grantors can now access the forms using a searchable, database-driven repository. The Forms Repository lists all Government-Wide and Agency-developed application forms and the information necessary to work with them.

The Forms Repository allows the search, selection and review of forms across a range of categories and form families. In addition to the PE forms, the repository provides access to the form version, PDF format, schemas and the OMB clearance number, where available. Searches result in a display of all forms matching the selected criteria and provide all the details needed to completely review forms to determine their applicability to a specific opportunity. Table 1, below, is a sample search based on the selection of Key Contacts and Personal Data Forms.

Table 1: Forms Repository Sample Search Results

Key Contacts & Personal Data							
Type	Form Name	Version	PureEdge Form	PDF Format	Form Schema	Data Analysis	OMB Number
Government Wide	Key Contacts	1.0	PureEdge	PDF	Schema	DAT	4040-0003
Agency Specific	EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54	1.0	PureEdge	PDF	Schema	DAT	2030-0020

To access the Forms Repository please visit https://apply.grants.gov/FormsMenu. For more details or further assistance with identifying or creating Grants.gov application packages, grantors can contact their Agency's Program Advisor.

Grants.gov Technical Library:

In support of Applicant and Agency System-to-System web services efforts, an online library centralizing technical resources for applicant organizations and grantor agencies is now available. From the Technical Library, applicant organizations and grantor agencies can access and download Forms in Production, System-to-System materials, Find Grant Opportunities Extract or Import data, and Archived materials.   To facilitate navigation through the Technical Library, the new interface operates like a Windows Explorer directory tree or file folder, where the technical categories are displayed in ascending order within the tree structure.

Visit http://www.grants.gov/TechLib for more details.

Grantor Administration Page Updates:

Several enhancements to the grantor administration pages from navigation to overall functionality have been implemented. They include:

- Added ability to view the reason an application submission was rejected when checking the status of an application.
- Enhanced virus protection provisions to report an error when an instructions document or package attachment with a virus is uploaded.
- Increased download capacity for large applicant submission zip files.

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