

News Release



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Group Identifies Ways to Better Manage Nearly \$450 Billion in Grant Funds

Promising Practices Show Opportunities for Improving Grant Accountability

WASHINGTON, DC - Nikki L. Tinsley, Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, released the *Guide to Opportunities for Improving Grant Accountability* today, which is designed to provide executives at all levels of government ideas for better managing grants. The *Guide* was developed by the Grant Accountability Project, a workgroup organized and chaired by Ms. Tinsley under the auspices of the Comptroller General of the United States' Domestic Working Group. Grants support many programs that the public relies upon, such as healthcare, transportation, and education. The 2006 Federal budget includes approximately \$450 billion for over 700 grant programs. Federal Inspectors General have identified grants management as a longstanding management challenge facing agencies.

"Given the significant amount of dollars the Federal Government spends in grants each year and plans to spend on Hurricane Katrina response and rebuilding efforts, taxpayers should be assured that these funds are properly used and their desired results achieved. The *Guide* will help government executives at the Federal, State, and local levels better manage grants," said Ms. Tinsley.

Opportunities for improving grant accountability noted in the *Guide* include:

- Internal Control Systems - preparing policies and procedures before issuing grants
- Performance Measures - linking activities with program goals
- Pre-Award Process - assessing applicant capability for funds and competing grants to facilitate accountability
- Managing Performance - monitoring the financial status and performance of grants
- Assessing and Using Results - providing evidence of program success and identifying ways to improve program performance.

The *Guide* also provides specific examples of how various organizations at all levels of government have already successfully implemented new practices. An electronic copy is available at <http://www.epa.gov/oig/dwg/reports>.

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