

# ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

## FACT SHEET

July 12, 2006

The federal government has embarked upon an initiative which assists applicants and grantees in their efforts to streamline processes and reduce the burden associated with searching for Federal grant opportunities and completing disparate applications of Federal agencies and/or grant programs.

### **Establishment of a Common Grants System**

The President's Management Agenda called for agencies to allow applicants for Federal grants to apply for, and ultimately manage, grant funds online through a common web site, simplifying grants management and eliminating redundancies. The President's Management Agenda, built upon Public Law 106-107, calls for the establishment of a common system, including electronic processes, where grant applicants can apply for, manage, and report on the use of funding from multiple financial assistance programs.

### **How will this effort be accomplished?**

Based on the President's Management Agenda a website was developed for grant applicants to access and apply for assistance from all Federal agencies. The Grants.gov is a government wide website for grants interactions. The Grants.gov portal will provide grantees the ability to electronically apply for grants, and begin to reduce the paper-based processes that currently challenge the Federal grants environment.

[Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov is THE single access point for over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies.

### **Why was this effort necessary?**

Grants.gov provides significant quantitative and qualitative benefits to the grants community and Federal grant-making agencies. The Grants.gov system solution serves as a trusted broker between applicants and agencies, allowing applicants to do business with all agencies with a single registration on Grants.gov, thus alleviating the inefficiency associated with many independent and disjointed lines of communication. Grants.gov was developed and deployed as a government-wide solution to eliminate the need for each Federal agency to develop similar systems. By using the most effective combinations of existing technology the system is designed to be cheaper, faster and easier to use than older methods.

### **What are some of the advantages for grant applicants to using Grants.gov?**

There are six key benefits, among many others, to the grant community.

#### 1. Helping the grant community learn more about available opportunities

- Centralizing more than 900 different grant programs across all 26 Federal grant-making agencies awarding over \$360 Billion annually
- Standardizing grant information, application packages and processes for finding and applying for Federal grants

#### 2. Facilitating interaction with the Federal government

- Streamlining the Federal grants process by eliminating the need to navigate Federal Register postings and hundreds of agency websites to find and apply for Federal grants
- Registering once to apply to as many Federal agencies and grant programs as needed with just one secure login

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**(continued)**

3. Simplifying the grant application process to save applicants costs, time and hassle
  - Eliminating the need to expend resources, time, postage and reproduction costs associated with traditional paper-based grant applications
  - Reducing training costs related to learning multiple disparate grant application systems, forms and data requirements
4. Making it easier to research and find Federal grant opportunities
  - Conducting grant opportunity research with improved search capabilities-from a simple key word search to advanced searches over numerous grant opportunity categories including agency and grant category
  - Having grant opportunities sent directly to grant applicant desktops-through custom search profiles, potential applicants can be notified via email of future grant opportunities as they are posted by Federal agencies
5. Making electronic grant application processing easier
  - Simplifying the grant application process and reducing paperwork
  - Increasing the ease-of-use through enhanced features common to the web, such as downloaded and fillable forms, auto-populated data, error checks and email notifications
  - Facilitating applicant use of electronic grant applications by providing built-in data quality checks, online support functionality and a dedicated customer support team to help complete and submit applications
6. Providing a secure and reliable source to apply for Federal grants
  - Validating grant applicants via a 3-Step registration process which includes authenticating every user through a Credential Provider
  - Allowing completion and uploading of grant applications by authenticated and authorized users
  - Ensuring website stability and security through Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology to encrypt transactional data and communications over the internet
  - Monitoring network traffic to identify unauthorized usage

**Is EPA currently using Grants.gov?**

Yes, EPA has used grants.gov to receive grant applications and/or proposals since 2003 for certain competitive grants. The Agency is now broadening its use of grants.gov to include all other grants, including State/Tribal Continuing Program Grants.

**When will R7 begin to accept Continuing Program Grant applications via grants.gov from our State/Tribal applicants?**

State/Tribal applicants may use Grants.gov to submit electronic applications to the Agency once the Region develops a restricted Funding Opportunity and submits it to EPA Office of Grants and Debarment for approval. We are currently anticipating this will be completed by July 28, 2006.

Once the Funding Opportunity is approved, the Region will be issued a Funding Opportunity Number which will be communicated to our State/Tribal Applicants. State/Tribal applicants may then use this number in grants.gov to submit electronic grant applications to the Agency.

**What is the Grants.gov Registration process?**

Before an applicant may apply for federal grants using grant.gov it is necessary to complete a one-time registration process. This process begins with registering the organization with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) and being authenticated through a Grants.gov Credential Provider.

**How long does it take to complete the registration process for Grants.gov?**

This will take about 30 minutes. You should receive your CCR registration within 3 business days. Be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the CCR registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when submitting grant applications through Grants.gov.

After you have registered with Grants.gov, you can log on to Grants.gov to verify if you have registered successfully, to check application status, and to update information in your applicant profile, such as your name, telephone number, email address, and title.

Important: You must have a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet before you register with CCR. Many organizations already have a DUNS number. If you do not have a DUNS number you may obtain one by contacting Dun & Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711. This will take about 10 minutes and is free of charge.

**Are grant applicants required to use Grants.gov?**

No, use of grants.gov to submit electronic grant applications is voluntary, however, beginning October 2006, all electronic application submittals must be made using Grants.gov.

This requirement will have impact for those States currently using the Integrated Grants Management System (IGMS) to submit electronic grant applications.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

For additional information concerning this Grants.gov, please contact:

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