

MESSAGE FROM THE PMO

As we move into summer, we'll find ourselves without a very familiar face. On May 26, our Program Manager, Rebecca Spitzgo departed Grants.gov to assume a new role with HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). She'll join HRSA as the Associate Administrator of the Office of Performance Review. Please join the PMO in wishing Becky the very best of luck as she moves on to this new endeavor. I will continue to serve in the role of Acting Program Manager for the PMO.

On another note, we are pleased to announce that Grants.gov has surpassed a critical milestone. We received our 45,000th electronic grant application in Fiscal Year 2006 — an aggressive goal established by OMB — and we're only in the third quarter. Meeting this milestone so quickly is a testimonial to the efforts of our agencies as they post grant packages and effectively communicate with their respective applicant communities.

The PMO appreciates the support and hard work of the Federal grant making agencies and we look forward to working with each and every one as we move to the end of this Fiscal Year and to continuing to meet and exceed our targeted milestones.

Regards,
John Etcheverry, Acting Grants.gov Program Manager

APRIL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

At the April Grants.gov Stakeholder meeting, participants heard three different perspectives of the current grants environment: State of Indiana, OMB and a Federal Grant Agency Chief Information Officer.

The Indiana State Department of Health Director, Jennifer Hoffman, presented a case study on how this Indiana agency, whose budget is 73% Federal grant driven, leverages Grants.gov to establish business process improvement for finding and applying for Federal discretionary dollars. Attendees then learned from Stacie Boyd, the OMB Government-to-Government Portfolio Manager, how Grants.gov will help Federal agencies meet OMB grant application goals for FY06 and prepare for FY07. NEH CIO Brett Bobley led a lively discussion on best practices for extending an agency's outreach — including proven tips and tricks — Brett sparked new ideas and incorporated attendee participation. Grants.gov PMO provided an update on Grants.gov submissions, registered users, as well as system and architecture issues. Finally, attendees were briefed on updates to the system-to-system (S2S) interface, whether in production or currently in testing. All of the presentations and minutes are posted to the Grants.gov website.

Learn more about how Grants.gov services and upgrades can help your organization. Visit www.grants.gov/meetingmaterials042606 for supplementary documents from the April Stakeholder meeting.

GRANTS.GOV OFFERS SUBMISSION PROJECTIONS

Grants.gov has recently released information about the application submissions expected over a three-month period beginning on Memorial Day and ending with the Labor Day holiday.

Over the course of that three-month period, Grants.gov projects at least 340 closings and more than 15,000 applications.

MAY USER GROUP MEETING

At the May meeting of the Grants.gov User Group, participants learned about recent and upcoming technical enhancements to the Grants.gov interface. In addition, User Group members were able to offer feedback and recommendations for improvements moving forward.

Recent technical changes include:

- Audit reporting that offers a view of users' movement through the process
- Ability to order forms in a package

Future enhancements include:

- Pagination and filtering of submitted applications lists
- Ability to view registration details
- Tracking numbers for administrators
- Improved submission

User Group discussion included identifying requirements needed for incorporating the discretionary collaborative proposals where varied institutions work together to submit portions of one application. By creating a sub-group to help steer this initiative, Grants.gov offers all interested participants the opportunity to provide input on this process. If interested, please contact Vince Sprouls (Vincent.Sprouls@hhs.gov) for more information about becoming involved.

User Group members will meet again on July 11 to discuss system enhancements and offer feedback.

MANDATORY AND R&R FORMS UPDATE

Grants.gov will deploy upgraded SF-424 Mandatory (M) and SF-424 Research and Related (R&R) forms for agency use on June 15, 2006 — the next step in our commitment to upgrade the SF-424 form family over the next month. Originally, the forms were **scheduled to be deployed June 1. Yet, Grants.gov delayed this deployment to June 15** to allow sufficient time to incorporate a missing data element, which was uncovered during the testing transition period.

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Grants.gov will extend this transition period to allow for the field update on the forms, as well as to allow for additional testing. Here are the affected forms and the dates when they will be available for Acceptance Testing (AT):

- SF-424 R&R (available on AT on June 9),
- R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s) (available on AT on June 9),
- R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (available on AT on June 9),
- R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) forms (available on AT on June 9),
- PHS 398 Cover Page Supplemental (available on AT on June 13),
- NSF FastLane System Registration, (available on AT on June 13) and
- HHS Checklist (PHS-5161) (available on AT on June 13).

In the next few weeks before the forms are deployed to production, you should ensure that the revised forms map to your agency's back-end grants management systems. On June 15, the forms will be moved to the production server and will be available for use in creating and publishing new application packages – replacing the current forms and templates. All templates with old versions of these forms will be deleted from the system. You will need to recreate those templates with the new version of the forms.

Should you have any questions regarding this upgrade and migration, please contact your agency's Grants.gov Program Advisor. You may identify your Advisor at: <http://www.grants.gov/assets/GrantsgovAgencyContactList.pdf>.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The redesign and development of our new website is well underway. We have approved a final design and we are in the process of reviewing and updating our site content and navigation. The launch of the new site is scheduled for this July.

Below is a sneak peak of the redesign.



GRANTS.GOV ARCHITECTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Grants.gov is enhancing the capacity of our architecture to handle peak usage by adding nine new servers. On May 15, this hardware upgrade was completed and will aid in the upcoming peak season.

These nine new servers join the 21 existing servers that power the Grants.gov system. Users will find enhanced real-time access — especially during peak times for searching and applying.

AWARDS

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR TECHNOLOGY RECOGNIZES GRANTS.GOV

The American Council for Technology (ACT) recognized Grants.gov as one of 15 Federal and Department of Defense Finalists for the 2006 ACT Intergovernmental Solutions Awards (ISA). Selected for its ability to leverage technology to transform business processes, Grants.gov was evaluated for excellence in a number of criteria: collaboration, innovative and effective use of technology, business transformation, availability and transferability, impact and results, and technological leadership. Selected from a pool of nominees of exceptional caliber, Grants.gov stood out, thanks to its commitment to results and dedication to public service. According to Awards Co-Chairs, "Government agencies face the challenge of meeting many complex needs as efficiently as possible, and these finalists are meeting that challenge through the innovative use of technology." Award recipients will be recognized at the 26th Annual Management of Change Conference, held June 5.

The American Council for Technology (ACT) is a non-profit educational organization established in 1979 to assist government in acquiring and using Information Technology resources effectively and efficiently.

GCN MAGAZINE'S 2006 AWARD

In her last months as the Grants.gov Program Manager, Rebecca Spitzgo was recognized as one of GCN Magazine's 2006 IT Leadership Award winners — individuals who, through tireless work and commitment, have transformed the face of government with their vision of technology's role in building a better government.

Recognized for sustained and exceptional leadership, Rebecca and the other 11 award recipients are leaders who are making a difference.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, June 28th
Stakeholder Meeting • Humphrey Building
Room 800 • 200 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC

Wednesday, July 11th
User Group