GRANTS.GOV℠

05/25/2005

New standard government-wide forms added to the Forms Factory. Plus Grants.gov gains two new detailees.

MESSAGE FROM THE PMO

May has been a busy month for Grant.gov and many partner agencies. While we have seen record highs in site usage and applications, we have also experienced and overcame some new challenges.

From the launch of electronic submission of the HUD SuperNofa, processing of over 2,600 electronic applications, and the breaking the threshold of over 10,000 registered users and over 8,500 grant community applicants ready to submit applications, it's clear Grants.gov is ramping up to meet its 2005 goals. Just look at the utilization and momentum charts!

On the challenging side, Grants.gov discovered an explicit attempt to prevent legitimate users of Grants.gov from using the site to conduct their business. This activity limited the resources available to legitimate users, however, posed absolutely no compromise in the website's security. Despite experiencing numerous periods of 100% usage of the processors the site remained up at all times. In response, Grants.gov identified and isolated the incidence by blocking several offending IP addresses, increased the system servers to support the site, and worked hand-in-hand with agencies to extend due dates and facilitate the usage and service to users.

In all, during this period Grants.gov processed nearly 1,000+ applications and personally assisted hundreds of users. We appreciate the support and patience of agencies and the grant community.

Regards,
Rebecca Spitzgo, Grants.gov Program Manager

GRANTS.GOV ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

Site Features and Enhancements

On April 29, 2005 Grants.gov launched several system enhancements to increase usability, improve user experiences, and facilitate electronic grant application processing. For more details please see the Website Build Release Notes available at **http://www.grants.gov/BuildReleases.jsp**.

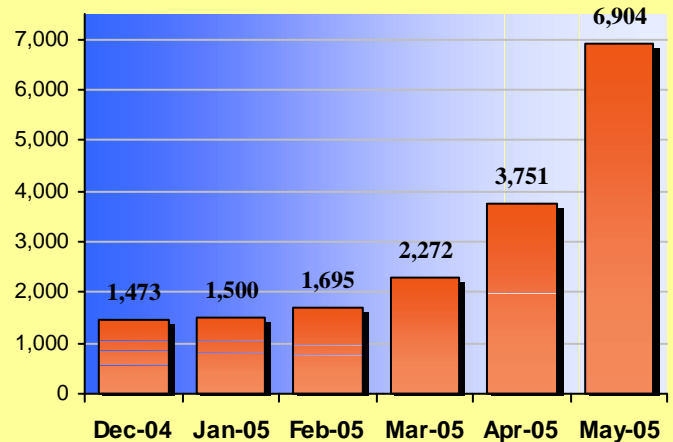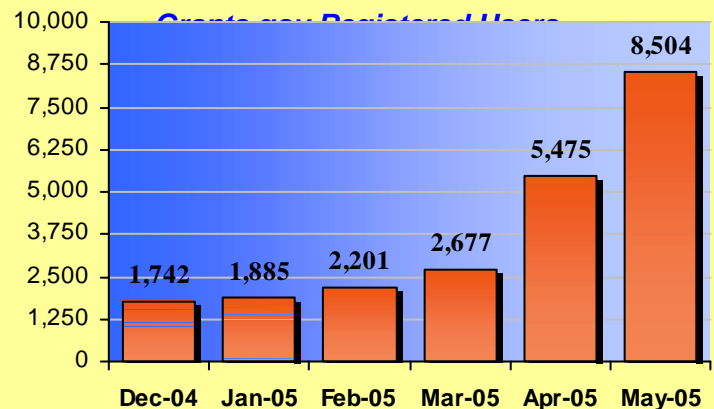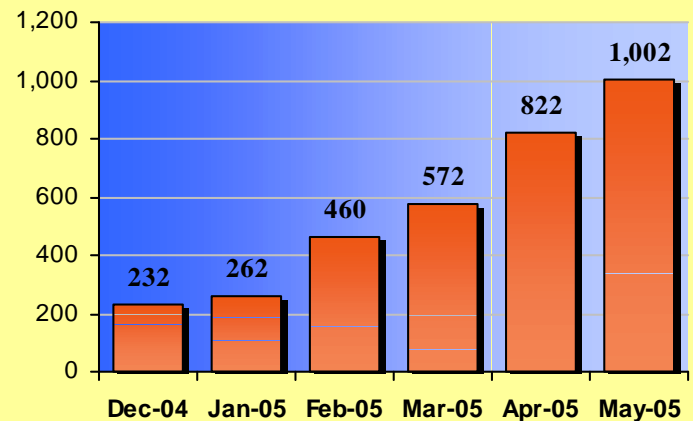### OMB Requests Grants.gov Cost Savings

The Grants.gov PMO received a request from OMB to identify actual and projected annual cost savings derived from deployment of the Grants.gov system for Fiscal Years 2002-2005. OMB has requested the information in two general areas: Budgeted Cost Savings and Cost Avoidance as estimated support savings, which may be shared with Congress and public.

GAO Findings and Recommendations

GAO, in a recent study, has determined that additional actions are needed to streamline and simplify the grants process.

And More…

AT A GLANCE
PROGRAM UTILIZATION AND MOMENTUM CHARTS

Applications Received from Grantees

Application Packages Posted on Grants.gov

Grants.gov Registered Users

Site Features and Enhancements (cont.)

Several of the new enhancements include:

- New Applicant Get Started content to help grant community users through the registration process.

- Set Agency Level functionality is improved to make it easier to set agency levels and function within those levels within the Grants.gov system.

- PureEdge forms have been upgraded to incorporate a customized form within an existing form.

- Numerous enhancements to the Grantor administration pages from navigation to overall.

OMB Requests Grants.gov Cost Savings (cont.)

In light of this request, the PMO distributed an agency collection worksheet and a listing of potential sources of agency cost savings along with detailed instructions from OMB on May 11, 2005. A response was requested by May 23, 2005. Please contact Terry Nicolosi at 202-205-5890 if you have any questions regarding this data collection effort for your agency.

GAO Findings and Recommendations (cont.)

The study shows that while grant-making agencies have made progress in some areas of grant administration, for example the launch of Grants.gov and the extensive Outreach conducted in the development and deployment of the system, while other areas are still in their early stages.

Highlights of the GAO findings and their recommendations can be found at http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0533high.pdf. The full report can be viewed at http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-335.

And More…(cont.)

Forms Factory Update:

Four new government-wide standard forms are on schedule for deployment from the Grants.gov Forms Factory in late May and early June:

- The SF-424 Short Organizational (SF-424 short) and the SF-424 Individual (SF-424 I) are new streamlined versions of the core SF-424 form.

- The Key Contacts form and the Project Abstract form are new standard forms used to collect SF-424 supplement information, if required.

Once these forms are deployed, a broadcast email message will be sent to announcing their availability and links to access the forms.

PMO Program Advisors Update:

Two new detailees, Jim Cain from NIH and Vince Sprouls from SSA have joined the Grants.gov PMO, while Ebony Brice has completed her detail and returned to HHS. Visit http://www.grants.gov/assets/GrantsgovAgencyContactList.pdf to view the latest Program Advisor updates.