



AT-A-GLANCE

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DEPLOYMENT OF 2007 SYSTEM

Tuesday, September 4, 2007 marked the date of the successful re-deployment of the 2007 System featuring new Adobe forms. The re-deployment incorporated two system enhancements including a new search functionality technology powered by Google and fill-able Adobe forms, which allow federal grant-making agencies to post opportunities that can be completed easily by applicants.

The new system maintains the present high-quality features and simply adds new enhanced features. The new Google appliance eliminates the load on the database from the full-text searching of the past and now allows the user to search the entire site quickly and more efficiently. The fill-able Adobe forms offer a familiar look and feel and also allow the user to save all their information directly on the form. The Grants.gov 2007 System was designed using Adobe version 7.0.9. Adobe is preparing a future release which will be Adobe 8.1.1. The following is a statement from Adobe:

“The Grants.gov Program Management Office has performed preliminary testing of the Beta release of Adobe Reader 8.1.1 and has confirmed that the 8.1.1 release fixes previously identified issues. Grants.gov will continue to keep the grant community apprised of the release status.” In order to take advantage of the enhanced features of the 2007 system, you will need to download the free Adobe PDF reader software from our site at: http://www.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp#adobe

GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS REACH 180,000

“Surpassing the 130,000 milestone ahead of schedule testifies to the efforts of our agencies in posting their grant packages and communicating with their applicant communities,” said Terry Nicolosi, Acting Grants.gov Program Manager. “Grants.gov appreciates the support of the 26 federal grant-making agencies, OMB and the applicant community in reaching this important milestone.”

Grants.gov, the single secure website to apply for more than \$400 billion in federal grants, received 180,659 electronic grant applications for fiscal year 2007, far exceeding the core program milestone of 130,000. Grants.gov surpassed the 130,000 milestone on June 18, 2007. This landmark achievement illustrates the institutionalizing of Grants.gov for finding and applying for federal grants, and shows that the program eliminates the need for grant seekers to learn and comply with multiple agency systems and requirements. The result is a simplified and effective environment for the grant community to find and apply for grants.

Managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Grants.gov is one of the 24 E-Government initiatives operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The award-winning, free website centralizes grant information and electronic submission for more than 1,000 grant programs across the federal government. Grants.gov supports electronic applications that can be downloaded to any computer and provides online user support tools and personalized assistance from a dedicated customer support team.

MANAGING PARTNER



*Fulfilling the President's
Management Agenda*

OMB established specific operational objectives for the program that helped Grants.gov surpass its 130,000 application goal and receive over 180,000 application submissions, including that federal agencies post all discretionary grant opportunities on the Grants.gov.

PHASES 1 AND 2 OF USABILITY TESTING COMPLETE

The first two phases of five extensive usability testing sessions have been successfully completed. The testing is being done to ensure the many site functionality improvements to be made will operate the way we anticipate and benefit users in ways they have requested. The participants in the usability study were end-users from different backgrounds, representing grantor and applicant communities.

Phase 1 testing focused on general website functionality, and helped Grants.gov identify areas for improvement based on respondent feedback. The two main areas for improvement were: making the site more “applicant centric” and streamlining the content on the homepage. A few of the respondents were not clear on the fact that Grants.gov is geared toward the applicant community and not the agency user. The other area that we have addressed is reorganizing the content on the Grants.gov homepage and making sure that all the areas of the site are intuitive to the user.

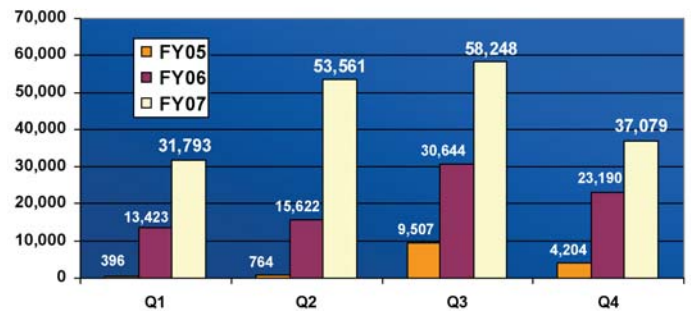
The second phase of testing was used to assess the level of ease associated with registering with Grants.gov, searching funding opportunities, and the application process. We are currently in the process of identifying ways to make registering, searching and applying with Grants.gov as effortless as possible.

As always we are dedicated to improving the users’ experience on Grants.gov. If you have any suggestions to improve usability and functionality, please contact the Program Management Office at: support@grants.gov.

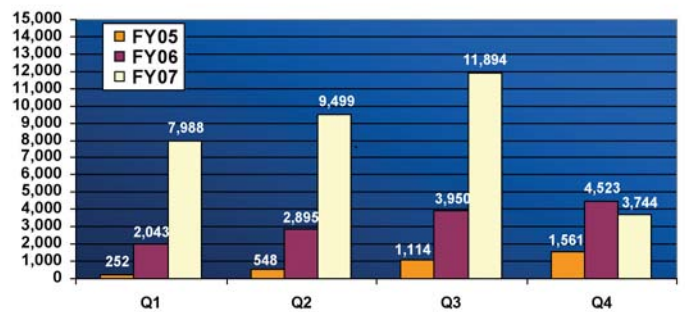
REGISTERED USERS REACH 100,000

The number of organizations registered with Grants.gov reached 100,000 during the week ending July 23rd. Last year at this time, the number of organizations registered was 57,047 giving Grants.gov an increase of almost 75% in registrations.

**Grants.gov Submission Growth By Quarter
FY05 - FY07**



Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) Growth



CONTACT CENTER UPDATE

In fiscal year 07 the Grants.gov Contact Center provided service on the following number of contacts:

Calls 151,259
 Emails: 65,405
Total 216,664

The Contact Center staff is available to assist you with your questions Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET. You can also email the contact center anytime at support@grants.gov.

GRANTS STREAMLINING UPDATE

The Grants Policy Committee (GPC) voted to recommend that Congress not reauthorize the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-107), scheduled to sunset November 2007. At this time, we are unsure whether Congress will reauthorize the act. The GPC will continue its streamlining efforts; however, the P.L. 106-107 program management responsibilities the Office of Management and the Budget delegated to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have been assumed by the Grants Management Line of Business as of October 1. The GPC is currently developing a strategic plan for its future.

The next GPC Stakeholders Webcast Meeting is scheduled for October 30, the subject of which will be the strategic plan. This will be the fourth in a series of GPC Webcasts designed to keep the stakeholder community updated on federal grant management and streamlining activities. Meeting materials and a solicitation for public comments on the GPC activities will be posted under “Grants Streamlining Initiative News” prior to the October meeting. See: http://www.grants.gov/aboutgrants/grants_news.jsp.

NEW STAFF MEMBER JOINS THE GRANTS.GOV PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO)

Grants.gov is pleased to announce Jacquie López as a new staff member to the Grants.gov PMO. Ms. López comes from the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, where she was responsible for the development and operation of the systems that support the management of \$10 billion in grants annually.

Ms. López will serve as the Grants.gov Systems Integration Lead for the PMO. Ms. López has first hand experience developing and managing a system-to-system interface with Grants.gov. Prior to her Federal Service, she worked as a project manager for IT projects in the private sector. She holds a Computer Science degree from the State University of New York, and is pursuing her certification as a Project Management Professional with the PMI institute.

NEED HELP FINDING AND APPLYING FOR GRANTS?

There are many resources available online to assist you in finding and applying for opportunities on Grants.gov. Click on HELP in

the left navigation and check out the applicant and agency user guides, FAQs and comprehensive glossary of terms. You may also want to view the newly updated Grants.gov Overview. Click on RESOURCES in the left navigation, and then click on Grants.gov Animated Overview for a narrated tutorial on getting started with Grants.gov.

The Contact Center is also available to respond to your questions. You can email your inquiries to support@grants.gov or call 1-800-518-4726. When emailing or calling the Contact Center for support, the following will help to expedite your request:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Name of the agency you are applying to
- Specific area of concern

FRAUD ISSUES?

Unfortunately, grant dollars are susceptible to fraud, waste and abuse. Using federal grant dollars for unjust enrichment, personal gain or other than their intended use is a form of theft, subject to criminal and civil prosecution under the laws of the United States.

Federal grant dollars are susceptible to several forms of financial theft, most commonly in the form of specific federal violations, including: embezzlement, theft or bribery, false statements, false claims, and mail and wire fraud. Each of these violations of the law is subject to criminal prosecution, fines, restitution and civil penalties.

[Click here to learn more about Grant Fraud.](#) Grant Fraud is a message from the National Procurement Fraud Task Force. The National Procurement Fraud Task Force provides tips to protect your organization and the source of your federal funds by helping to detect and prevent fraud.

Fraud Alert:

If you have received a phone call from someone seeking your bank account or other personal information in order to process a government grant that you did not apply for, you can [submit a complaint](#) with the Federal Trade Commission. If you have information regarding a grant fraud specific to HHS, please contact the HHS Fraud Hotline at 1-800-447-8477.

RECENT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Congressional Workshop on Grants.gov

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Legislative Affairs arranged for the Congressional staff to receive a briefing by the Grants.gov PMO on Friday, July 13. Over 90 staffers came to the presentation and requested additional information. The purpose of the workshop was to present information on how they could search for competitive discretionary grants offered by the federal agencies.

July Outreach

July 23, 2007 – Congressman Jim Moran (VA) Briefing
July 19, 2007 – Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast
July 16, 2007 – Workforce Innovations Conference
July 13, 2007 – Congressional Workshop

August Outreach

August 21, 2007 – HRSA Community-Based Team Presentation

September Outreach

September 24, 2007 – White House Faith-Based conference

2007 SYSTEM IS A SUCCESS!

Grants.gov received its first application package submission using the 2007 system featuring Adobe forms on September 20th. The opportunity was posted by the Department of Interior.

STAKEHOLDER WEBCAST

The next Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast will be held October 17, 2007. Details for logging on to the Webcast are available at http://www.grants.gov/resources/stakeholder_communications.jsp. If you have questions you would like addressed, please send them to support@grants.gov. We will attempt to answer as many questions as possible within the time allotted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connect with Grants.gov at the following upcoming events:

October 17, 2007

Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast

October 18, 2007

American Association of Grant Professionals
Southeast Texas Chapter

November 4-7, 2007

NCURA 49th Annual Meeting

November 5, 2007

HRSA Health Information Tech Grantee

November 9, 2007

American Association of Grant Professionals-
Annual Conference

January 10, 2008

Congressional Workshop

GET CONNECTED

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