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A NEWSLETTER

GRANTS.GOV℠

SPRING 2007

MANAGING PARTNER

Fulfilling the President's Management Agenda

MESSAGE FROM THE PMO

Grants.gov is pleased to be nearing deployment of the 2007 Grants.gov system and appreciates the participation and patience of our agency and applicant users. We are planning a phased deployment.

Our original schedule has been extended to improve the end-user experience with the system. We are also incorporating additional feedback from our Section 508 testing and the recent agency and applicant testing to improve the usability of the system and application forms. Most importantly, we are improving integration with the existing system during the transition period. This has a number of benefits:

• Agencies that have already posted application packages in PureEdge do not need to immediately replace them with Adobe forms packages;

• Applicants use a single link to click to apply regardless of whether an application package was posted with PureEdge or Adobe forms;

• Applicants that have downloaded and completed application packages with PureEdge forms can submit them unchanged through the transition period; and

• Agencies and applicants get a consolidated view of applications that includes applications submitted to the old system as well as the new system.

The core system functions, from agency posting through application submission and agency receipt, have been acceptance tested and will be deployed soon. A core set of forms has also been acceptance tested and will be redeployed with the remaining forms incorporating the feedback from the testing with additional system capabilities over a phased period. Meanwhile, the additional integration described above will allow agencies and applicants to continue using the system without disruption.

We are excited about the capabilities of the new system, including improved opportunity search and better cross-platform support using Adobe forms. Check the Grants.gov website for regular schedule updates.

THE FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT (FFATA)

FFATA, enacted on September 26, 2006, requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to make available online, a database that allows users to search all Federal funds awarded to an entity by fiscal year.

During the April Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast, Terry Hurst, Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services and Subcommittee Chair for the FFATA work-group on grants, reviewed the requirements for the upcoming FFATA deadlines.

The Act requires OMB to ensure the existence and operation of a website that provides the public with easy access to information about Federal expenditures. It does not include payments to individuals. The data elements required in the bill for each transaction include:

• The amount;

• Information including transaction type, funding agency, the North American Industry Classification System code or Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number (where applicable), program source, and an award title descriptive of the purpose of each funding action;

• The name and location of the recipient and the primary location of performance; and

• A unique identifier for the recipient and any parent entity.

To view Mr. Hurst's full comments on FFATA at the April 18, 2007 webcast, go to http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/archives/.
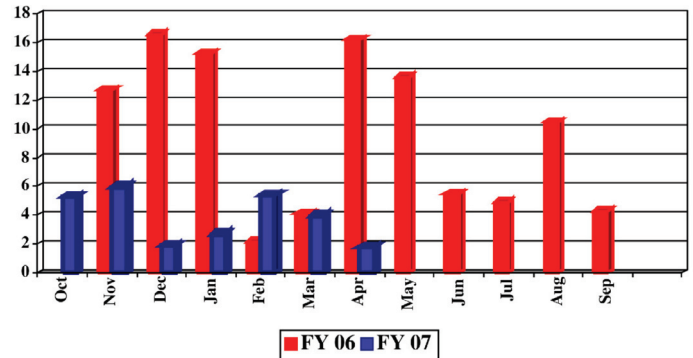
GRANTS POLICY COMMITTEE AND FEDERAL GRANT STREAMLINING

The Grants Policy Committee (GPC) continues to lead Federal grant management and administration streamlining activities. The next GPC Stakeholder Meeting will be held June 19, 2007, to discuss grant life cycle changes pertaining to data and reporting requirements and impacts on awardees and Federal communities, policies and planning. Check the "Grants Streamlining News" page on Grants.gov for further details at: http://www.grants.gov/aboutgrants/grants_news.jsp.

CONTACT CENTER UPDATE

As always, the experts at the Grants.gov Contact Center stand ready to assist you with your questions about finding and applying for Grants. As enhancements – such as new forms and enhanced search functionality – are made to the website, the Contact Center increases staffing to stay on top of any influx in emails or calls that these changes may bring. Staffing is also ramped up to meet the surge on days when there are a large number of agency grant closings.

Abandoned Rate

In the month of April 2007, the Contact Center met the abandoned call rate performance goal every day. The abandoned rate is the percentage of callers who disconnect prior to speaking with a customer service representative. The goal is 5%.

As a reminder, support is available 24/7 on the Grants.gov website. Visit the Help section at http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp for up-to-date FAQs, User Guides and a glossary of terms.

STAKEHOLDER WEBCASTS

The complete Stakeholder Webcast held April 18, 2007 is available for viewing at http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/archives/. All of the related materials are available on the Grants.gov website at http://www.grants.gov/resources/stakeholder_communications.jsp.

The next Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast will be held on July 19, 2007. Details will be made available on the Stakeholder Communications page on the website: http://www.grants.gov/resources/stakeholder_communications.jsp.
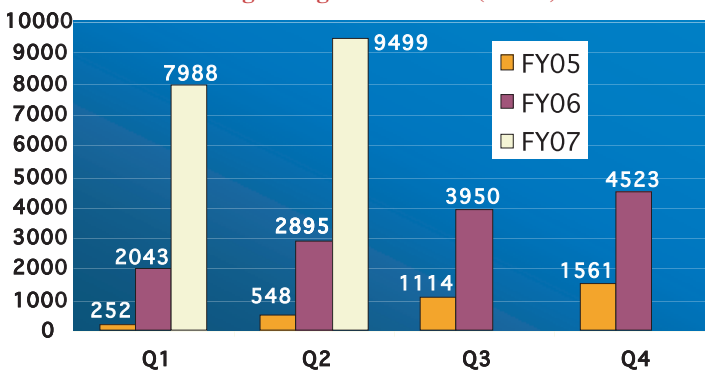
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http://www.grants.gov/resources/subscribe.jsp

AGENCY STATUS AND PARTICIPATION

Since it first went live in October 2003, Grants.gov has grown from a first-year record of 17 agencies with 1,140 submissions to 26 agencies and over 90,000 submissions in FY 2006. For FY 2007 through May 8th the total number of submissions is 101,281. During this time, Grants.gov has continually implemented technologies to improve the grantor and grantee experience. With continuing input from the entire grant community, the Grants.gov Program Management Office looks forward to even greater accomplishments in the future.

Grants.gov Registered Users (AORs)

Quarter	FY05	FY06	FY07
Q1	252	2043	7988
Q2	548	2895	9499
Q3	1114	3950	
Q4	1561	4523	

RECENT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

April 9, 2007
Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers; Spokane, WA

April 13, 2007
Health Resources and Service Administration's
FY 2008 Business Process Review (BPR)

April 18, 2007
Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connect with Grants.gov at the following upcoming events:

6/3-6/5/07   Management of Change Conference,
American Council for Technology
Richmond, VA

7/17-7/19/07   Workforce Innovations Conference

7/19/07   Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast