Grants Policy Committee
Future Potential Products and Activities List
October 4, 2007

DISCLAIMER: This list presents examples of possible products and activities the GPC might undertake in order to implement its Strategic Plan. The list is not intended to represent a comprehensive list of all possible GPC products, nor does the list guarantee that the GPC will produce all of the listed products.

I.   Pre-Award

A. Update the Government wide standard format for announcements of funding opportunities, to:
- Make improvements based on lessons learned from use of the format issued in 2003 [68 FR 37369, June 23, 2003]; and
- Incorporate into the format additional pre-award policies that are warranted and the GPC agrees upon, such as a policy on what constitutes a late application and the consequences of late submission.

B. Establish a Government wide format for grant and cooperative agreement awards with:
- Standard terms and conditions for cross cutting administrative and national policy requirements, to the maximum extent possible;
- Clarity on which administrative requirements apply to recipients, and which are responsibilities of federal awarding and administering officials; and
- Clarity on requirements that a recipient must flow down to subrecipients.

C. Establish a uniform and streamlined approach for submission of certifications and assurances that is integrated across the pre award phase of the assistance life cycle from time of program announcement through time of award.

D. Finish consolidating in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations the OMB guidance for award and administration of grants and agreements, to include:
- OMB Circular A 133 on single audits;
- OMB Circular A 89 on program information;
- Other guidance on pre-award, post award, and national policy matters, as warranted; and
- Standard definitions of terms used across the OMB guidance, to the maximum extent possible.

E. Simplify and reduce the volume of Government wide assistance regulations by replacing common rules with adoptable OMB guidance, to the extent possible. GPC actions would include:
- Development and issuance of OMB guidance for other common rules (e.g., lobbying and drug free workplace) similar to that issued for nonprocurement debarment and suspension [71 FR 66431, November 15, 2006]; and
- Coordination of agencies' replacement of full text common rules with brief rules that adopt the OMB guidance and clearly identify any agency specific additions, clarifications, and exceptions to it.

II.   Post-Award

A. Standardize payment system processes, terminology and technology.

B. Streamline payment processes for assistance awards.

C. Continue to develop and implement standard post-award reporting forms and formats (including financial reports, performance reports, property and invention reports).

D. Enhance OMB guidance on agency responsibilities concerning post-award matters (e.g., use of standard reports; payments; property administration; recipient audits; claims, disputes, and debt collection; enforcement; and closeout).

E. Establish streamlined process for development, agency review and approval, and required OMB clearances of forms and formats.

F. Issue indirect cost handbook for nonprofit organizations.

III.   Training and Certification

A. Develop a government-wide grants management series:
- This entails the exploration for the development of a potential professional series that falls under auspices of the Office of Personnel Management's approval and guidelines. It would delineate grants management as a government-wide profession with consistent criteria for the selection, roles and performance of the job.

B. Develop training curriculum:
- This entails the development of a core set of curriculum content for grants management training courses which are aimed at ensuring the quality and consistent training of the federal grants management workforce.

C. Develop standard competencies:
- This entails the development of a core/standardized set of government-wide grants management competencies that articulate the basic skills and abilities that a grants management professional would need; at various levels of their grants management career lifecycle in order to successfully perform their job.

D. Develop a certification program:
- This entails the exploration for the potential development of a standardized government-wide credentialing program that certifies that a grants management professional has met various requirements, at various levels as based upon the government-wide competencies, training curriculum and on the job training. This certification (similar to that in acquisitions profession) would be applicable from one government agency to the next.

E. Develop a federal assistance career management database:
- This entails the creation of a government-wide grants management professional resource database (similar to that in the acquisitions profession) that houses information on the grants management professional regarding their training, certification levels, courses taken, jobs held, education, business qualifications, etc.

IV.   Mandatory

A. Publish policy on use of the mandatory grant application/plan.

V.   Audit

A. Develop 2CFR Subchapter F "Audit Requirements".
- The OMB Circular A-133 will be added to the 2 CFR.