

MESSAGE FROM THE PMO

Last month marked the closing of a successful Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 and the beginning of FY 2006, with new program goals to achieve. This year, we hope to see record highs as the program goals have increased 100+ % from FY 2005. We are confident our collaborative experiences, over the past two years, have laid the foundation for achieving the 2006 OMB goals of electronic applications.

To kickoff the Federal FY, 3,700+ applications were received through the end of November. Plus, 308 application packages were posted to the site. The number of registered users continues to grow. We also hope to see all agencies reach 100% "Goal" Star status representing that they have achieved the OMB goals as well as Grants.gov goals for being 100% fully migrated—solidifying Grants.gov as the utility for the Federal grants application process.

So be on the lookout for more updates and site enhancements in the coming year. Grants.gov looks forward to a successful FY 2006.

Regards,
Rebecca Spitzgo, Grants.gov Program Manager

GRANTS.GOV ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

Grants.gov FIND & APPLY Merge

On Monday, December 19th, Grants.gov will complete its efforts, originally scheduled for October 2005, to fully merge the two Federal web sites: www.fedgrants.gov and www.grants.gov. With the merge, Grants.gov will fully integrate its search functionality and the apply functionality. The enhancement will present a single look and feel for Find and Apply, increase integration and standardize terminology between the two functions. Additionally, on Monday, December 19th, Fedgrants.gov will cease operations and all visitors will be redirected to the Grants.gov homepage. *(Continued on page 2)*

Grants.gov Architecture Update

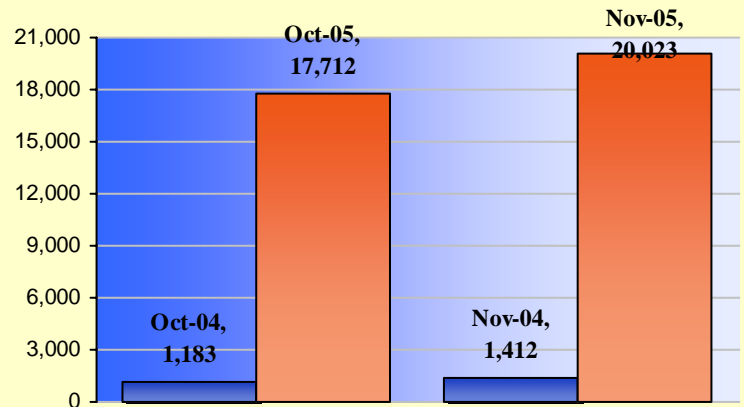
Grants.gov is committed to meeting the needs of our customers. To this end, we are finalizing a long-term architecture plan, including incremental scaling of the architecture to increase site capacity and stay ahead of the growing usage and adoption of the system. The Grants.gov Apply functionality launched in October 2003 with four servers and the ability to handle approximately 500 submissions each day. Site upgrades made during June 2005 increased the overall system capacity to handle more than 1,000 submissions per day. *(Continued on page 2)*

Grants.gov Macintosh Update

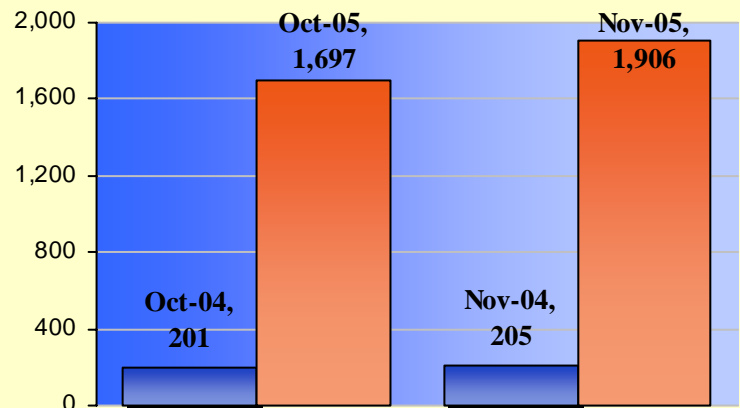
Grants.gov and NIH are partnering to provide free access to Citrix servers for Macintosh users who are looking for an alternative to using the PC emulation software with the PureEdge forms. This service will be available for use at the end of December 2005. *(Continued on page 2)*

AT A GLANCE PROGRAM UTILIZATION AND MOMENTUM CHARTS

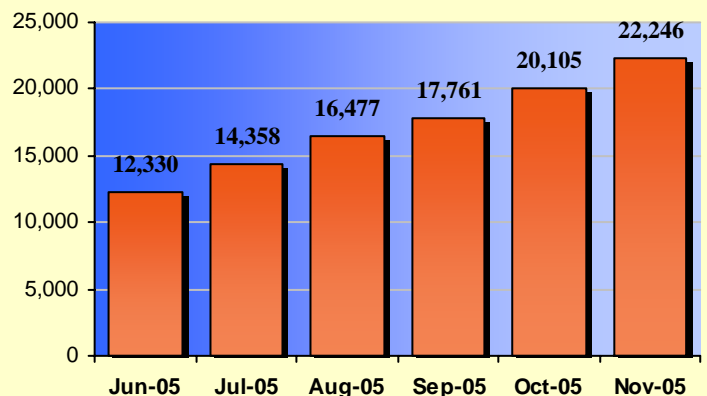
Applications Received from Grantees



Application Packages Posted on Grants.gov



Grants.gov Registered Users Ready to Apply



NOVEMBER STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

Grants.gov FIND & APPLY Merge (cont.)

During the next few weeks, Grants.gov Program Advisors will be in contact with your Agency Points of Contact (POC) to provide information pertaining to the transition. In the meantime, there are three important items for Grantors to complete to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

1) Ensure you have a Grants.gov Username and Password by Monday, December 19, 2005:

If you have had a username and password at Fedgrants.gov, it will become inactive on Monday, December 19th. If you already have a Grants.gov Username and Password, you will begin to use that Username and Password at Grants.gov for both posting grant synopses and publishing application packages. In order to be able to post your grant synopses on Grants.gov, you will need to have the functionality added to your user profile. Your Agency POC will be able to access your user profile and update it to include this functionality. If you do not have a Grants.gov Username and Password, you will need to speak with your Agency POC to establish your Grants.gov user profile.

2) Note System Downtimes During the Migration:

In order to merge the two websites, Grants.gov and Fedgrants.gov will experience system downtimes. Grants.gov will place an alert on the website two weeks before this date to inform the grant community of its temporary unavailability. You may want to communicate this information to your potential grant applicants if you have any grant opportunities closing between December 12th and December 16th.

- At Fedgrants.gov (www.fedgrants.gov), beginning at 5:00 PM EST on Thursday, December 15, 2005, you will not be able to access certain functionalities, i.e., to post new synopses, modify existing synopses or delete synopses. If you have anything that is in "Edit" status, it must be posted by 5:00 PM EST Friday, December 16th. Synopses in "Edit" status post-December 16th will not be moved to Grants.gov. Also, during this transition period, the grant community will not be able to search for information or register for the grant notification email service.
- Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) will be temporarily unavailable beginning at 6:00 PM EST on Friday, December 16, 2005. You will not be able to post new application packages, nor modify or delete existing packages. Also, you will not be able to download applications during this time. The grant community will not be able to submit grant application packages or download grant application packages during this down time.
- On Monday, December 19th, Fedgrants.gov will cease operations and all access to Grantor and grant community functions will be available at Grants.gov.

All information on Fedgrants.gov will be moved to the Grants.gov website with the exception of the synopses that were saved in the "Edit" status.

3) Overview of the merged Grants.gov website:

Grants.gov will conduct overview sessions to provide agencies with a full view of the merged Grants.gov website. You will be able to get an in-depth look at the changed format, as well as a walk-through to demonstrate how you will post information to the website. Details regarding the dates and location for these sessions are being finalized and will be distributed to agencies in the next few weeks.

Grants.gov Architecture Update (cont.)

As recent as mid-October 2005, Grants.gov received over 800 submissions in a single day and experienced no decreased performance levels. The most recent round of infrastructure upgrades in November 2005, increases the total number of servers to 13 and provides capacity to receive up to 4000 submissions in a single day.

In addition to the server upgrades, a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) Accelerator and a high capacity Storage Area Network (SAN) device were installed in June 2005 to better handle site traffic and increased storage volumes. Also, the Grants.gov site has been segmented across the various servers to ensure adequate capacity is available for submissions, downloads, and status checking. Extensive examination of site usage, patterns, and volumes identified opportunities to gain additional efficiencies, which have also been implemented. Overall site usage is monitored on an hourly basis to provide an early alert to increased needs.

The next upgrade to the Grants.gov infrastructure is scheduled for Spring 2006 – just prior to the heaviest application receipt time of the fiscal year. We will continue to keep you posted as infrastructure enhancements are put into production.

Grants.gov Macintosh Update (cont.)

A Citrix server connection allows Macintosh users to remotely launch a Windows session on their own machines by using the free Citrix client application. While connected to the server, Macintosh users can develop their grant application using PureEdge forms. Applicants will need to download and install the free Citrix client application in order to work on the application package (e.g., the SF424(R&R)). Mac users can then develop their grant application using the PureEdge forms.

While connected to the Citrix server, an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)/Signing Official (SO) can submit a grant application to an agency (e.g., the National Institutes of Health) via Grants.gov.