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Stakeholder Webcast

Questions and Answers

April 16, 2008

Stakeholder Webcast Questions & Answers

ACCESSING THE WEBCAST PRESENTATION

1. Is the PowerPoint presentation available before the webcast? How many days or hours before the webcast are the PowerPoint slides available?

The PowerPoint presentation is located on the website at: http://www.grants.gov/help/stakeholder_communications.jsp. The presentation is available on the website the day before the webcast.

2. Will today's webcast be available as a podcast?

There will not be a podcast. The Webcast is archived for future viewing on the following page: http://www.grants.gov/help/stakeholder_communications.jsp

SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION AND VALIDATION

3. So the validation email (after submitting the application) timeframe includes the weekend?

The validation email is generally sent immediately following the submission, however we ask that you allow 24 to 48 hours to receive this email. The 24 to 48 hour validation timeframe is real-time and includes the weekend.

4. Can it take up to 48 hours for the agency to get an application, if the application was submitted just prior to the closing time and date?

It may take up to 48 hours after you submit your application for the Grantor agency to retrieve your submission, therefore we advise you to submit your application at least 48 hours prior to the closing time and date.

5. Is it possible to add the Investigator's name to submission confirmation emails?

This is considered a system enhancement. Grants.gov will incorporate this into our system enhancement process for review to include in future system builds.

6. Do you keep the application information by institution? We would like to access our information.

Grants.gov does not track applicant information by institution.

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7. Please speak on the new confirmation that applicants will see when submitting adobe packages.

During the recent system build which occurred on April 12, 2008, the confirmation screen that appears directly after you submit your application package has been updated to include more information about the applicant and their application. The new confirmation page now includes the submitter's name, and their DUNS number in addition to the information on the old confirmation page. To view other applicant enhancements made during the System Build, visit:

<http://www.grants.gov/assets/SystemEnhancements08-01-A.pdf> .

TRANSITION TO ADOBE READER

8. Is NIH committed to converting to Adobe by 12/31/2008?

NIH is committed to transitioning to Adobe in a way that minimizes disruption to the applicant community and consolidates a number of upcoming form changes. Their transition dates will depend upon the timing of the form changes. If all goes as planned NIH will begin the transition to Adobe in December. Due to NIH's large numbers of Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) and receipt dates, NIH expects the transition to happen over a period of 4-8 weeks.

9. Can you tell us why OMB is allowing agencies like NSF to keep their own submission systems for applications that WILL work with Grants.gov?

NSF has received an exemption from OMB to maintain their existing Fast Lane system in order to meet the needs of their applicant community.

10. For clarification, the June 1st deadline to post in PureEdge is the same regardless of when an agency will transition to Adobe?

June 1st is a target date for agencies to no longer post new PureEdge opportunities. For those agencies transitioning to Adobe after the September 30, 2008 they can post new PureEdge opportunities after June 1st if required. The June 1st target date is to manage the transition to Adobe and the migration of open PureEdge opportunities.

COMPATIBLE SOFTWARE

11. For clarification can you fill out the new the Adobe Reader forms using Acrobat Professional 8.1.2/8.1.1 or can you only use Adobe Reader?

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Acrobat Professional software version 8.1.2 and Adobe Reader software version 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 are compatible for use with Grants.gov. Visit the Adobe Reader FAQ section for more information on completing an Adobe application package: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp#adobe

12. If you open the forms using Acrobat Professional, will the forms still be corrupted?

Adobe Acrobat Professional version 8.1.2 is compatible for use with Grants.gov. If you are using compatible software (Adobe Acrobat Professional version 8.1.2 or Adobe Reader version 8.1.2) you will NOT corrupt the forms of your application package. [Click here](#) for more information on using Adobe Acrobat Professional software with Grants.gov or use the following link: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp#88.

13. On the website, it seems to indicate that compatible versions of Standard/Professional have matching version numbers to the Adobe Reader versions. So, is it just version 8.1.2 Standard/Professional that is compatible, or both 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 that is compatible?

Adobe Reader version 8.1.2 and Adobe Acrobat Professional version 8.1.2 are compatible for use with Grants.gov. Earlier versions of either software may work, however we do not confirm compatibility of earlier software versions.

14. Can you verify that is okay to "mix and match" between versions of Adobe Reader and Adobe Acrobat Standard/Professional and on the same and different platforms as long as everyone uses a supported version?

As long as Grants.gov compatible software is used to collaborate and complete an application package, regardless of operating system and platform, there should be no submission errors related to the software.

15. When Adobe releases a new version of Adobe Reader, and you validate it, does this mean that it is also validated for the same number Adobe Acrobat Standard/Professional version?

Future versions of Adobe Reader and Adobe Acrobat software should be compatible for use with Grants.gov. We will only confirm compatibility after testing of the new software versions is complete.

16. Will I be required to have Adobe Acrobat Professional (not the free Reader) in order to submit applications? I currently have Adobe Acrobat Professional version 8.0, which is not compatible with grants.gov. What will be my benefit if I obtain 8.1.2 Adobe Professional?

The Grants.gov compatible version of Adobe Reader (version 8.1.2) software is available to download for free on our website: http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#adobe811 . The compatible version of Adobe Reader software is all you need to view, complete and submit a Grants.gov application package. If you already have the compatible version of Adobe Acrobat

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Professional software (version 8.1.2) you may use it instead of the Adobe Reader software; however there is no need to buy any software to complete an application package.

17. Do you need Adobe WRITER (also known as Adobe Acrobat Professional) to fill out the forms? Adobe Reader will allow the applicant to fill out and save the application?

The compatible version of Adobe Reader (v.8.1.2) is all you need to view, complete, save and submit a Grants.gov application package. Adobe Reader is available for free on the website at: http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#adobe811

LOCATING INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE

18. I cannot find what's new this week on Grants.gov, where is it located?

The "What's New This Week on Grants.gov" is a section at the bottom of the homepage which displays new information and upcoming events. Information regarding this webcast is listed in this section of the homepage. Webcast information can also be found on the Stakeholder Webcast page: http://www.grants.gov/help/stakeholder_communications.jsp

19. Could you please show the screen with the Grants.gov Update website?

Grants.gov Updates and other email updates may be found on the Email Subscription page: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp.