

# Government Accountability and Transparency Board

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# Who do you represent?

- **Formerly OMB Watch**
- **Small, non-profit, public interest advocacy organization**
- **Promoting Government Accountability**
  - **Regulatory Matters**
  - **Federal Budget**
  - **Government Openness**

# Who do you represent?

- **Launched FedSpending.org in 2006**
- **Millions of searches**
- **Wide variety of users**
  - **Media**
  - **Corporations**
  - **Legislative offices**
  - **General public**

# What questions are you trying to answer with federal spending information?

- CEG's interest

- Overall spending trends for federal government
- How are agencies using contracting? Which companies benefit? What contracts have they won? From which agencies? For what goods and/or services? For how long? Full and open competition?
- How are grants being used to address national, state, and local needs?
- What is the geographic breakdown of federal spending and is there any correlation with demographic data and socioeconomic contracting goals (pop., unemployment, race, income, poverty, etc.)?
- How have recipients performed in delivering goods, services, research, etc. for which the awards were delivered?

# What questions are you trying to answer with federal spending information?

- FedSpending Users

- Who is receiving money in my state, county, district, city?
- What products and services are purchased the most and which agencies are purchasing them?
- Information on specific contract or award
- What money can non-profits receive to support their work?
- What contracts are competitors in the same field receiving and from which agencies?
- Is there a connection between election donations and receiving federal awards?

# Where do you find that federal spending information now?

- [USASpending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov)
  - Website
  - Downloaded data
- [Recovery.gov](https://www.recovery.gov)
- [FPDS.gov](https://www.fpds.gov)
- Agencies
- [FedSpending.org](https://www.fedspending.org)

# Where does federal spending information need clearer instructions or explanations?

- USASpending Tutorials
  - How to find recipient totals
  - How to link prime and sub-recipients
- Definitions
  - Vague terms (building improvements, construction, etc.)
  - Esoteric procurement terms (Definitive Contract, Firm Fixed Price, Letter Contract, etc.)
- Contract descriptions and explanations of links between contracts, task orders, award modifications
- How to get additional information

# What suggestions do you have for prioritizing federal spending information enhancements?

- CEG's priorities
  - Make award documents public & linked to awards data & bid solicitation
  - More and improved sub-recipient data
  - Expanded types of spending data (salaries, etc.)
  - Identifiers for entities, programs, and awards
  - Search improvements, e.g. numbers of bids received, whether closely associated with inherently governmental functions (capabilities that currently exist in FPDS.gov)



# What suggestions do you have for prioritizing federal spending information enhancements?

- FedSpending Users's priorities
  - Actual contract documents and other information specific awards
  - Ways to find out more about government program
  - Clear linkage between prime and sub-recipients
  - Information on status of loan repayment
  - Charts and graph options to visualize the data better