Federal Spending Information: Industry Perspective

January 22, 2014

DATA TRANSPARENCY COALITION

- **Mission:** The Data Transparency Coalition advocates on behalf of the private sector and the public interest for the publication of government information as standardized, machine-readable data. Data transparency strengthens democratic accountability, enhances government management, reduces compliance costs, and stimulates innovation.
- **Paying membership:** Teradata, PwC, WebFilings, 1776, Adaptive, Level One Technologies, RR Donnelley, Smartronix, Socrata, StreamLink Software, 17 individuals / nonprofits

Data Transparency Coalition

- **Public and private value.** "The value of government Open Data is that it's a long-term, permanent resource that innovators can use for decades, developing new ideas and new companies as technology makes them possible." -Joel Gurin, *Open Data Now*, p. 26

- **What is Open Data?** Standardized, published.

Spending Information as a Public Resource

- **Democratic Accountability.** Republish federal spending data for citizens.
- **Government Management.** Deploy sophisticated management and business intelligence tools to find fraud and assist policymakers.
- **Automated Compliance.** Eliminate manual reporting tasks to reduce grantees' and contractors' costs.

Opportunities in Spending Information

1. Financial reporting: Agencies to Treasury
2. Payment requests: Agencies to Treasury
3. Budget planning and actions: Agencies to OMB
4. Assistance: Agencies to Commerce, GSA
5. Procurement: Agencies to GSA
6. Grants: Awardees to agencies
7. Contracts: Awardees to agencies, GSA
8. Sub-awards: Prime awardees to OMB
9. GPRA reports: Agencies to Congress, OMB

Current Landscape

- **Information not available.** The public, Congress, Treasury and OMB, agency leaders, inspectors general, and even program managers don't have the data they need.

- **Information not accessible.** Information is frequently available only as documents or summaries.

- **Information not interoperable.** Government-wide data fields, even for basic concepts, don't exist. Formats differ.

Shortcomings

- **Implement December 2011 GAT Board recommendations.** Government-wide accountability framework, consolidated grant and contract data collection, universal award ID.
- **Apply Open Data Policy to spending.** Open Data Policy inventories should be revised to include all spending datasets in all 9 categories.
- **Pass and implement the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA).**

Federal Spending as Open Data

- **Democratic Accountability.** Citizens have access to accurate, complete, searchable data on government spending.
- **Government Management.** Congress, Treasury, OMB, agency leaders, inspectors general, and program managers utilize dashboards and analytics to eliminate waste and fraud and improve decisions.
- **Automated Compliance.** Grantees and contractors report without strain.

DATA: Desired Impact

- **Legislative history:** Passed House unanimously in April 2012; reintroduced by Issa (R), Cummings (D), Warner (D), Portman (R) in May 2013; unanimous committee approval in House and Senate; House passage on November 18, 2013
- **Prognosis:** Senate passage expected in 2014
- **Implementation:** Recovery Act implementation provided use case in 2009-12; Treasury's Executive Director for Data Transparency appointed in October 2013; Intelligent Data project lays foundation for DATA implementation

DATA: Status

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