



National Priorities Project: Federal Spending Input

GAT Board
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National Priorities Project

- ◆ Non-profit, non-partisan federal budget research org
- ◆ Founded in 1983
- ◆ Local impact of federal spending
- ◆ Constituents include partner organizations, media, and budget novices

Questions We Answer

◆ Program and/or Geography Specific

- What are per-capita food stamp costs by state and county?
- How much money do we give to other countries?
- Can I see Community Development Block Grants in Detroit?

◆ The Big Picture

- How much of CA's budget comes from the federal \$. Can we see that by county and over time?
- Is there a way to compare ALL federal dollars going to each state?
- Can we see total federal aid to individuals by county?

Data Needed – Elements

- ◆ Pretty Straightforward
 - Program Identifiers (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, Treasury)
 - Geographic Information
 - Dates
 - Spending Amount

Data Needed - Types

1. Federal grants to state governments and other state entities

USASpending.gov

- First choice
- Often too incomplete to use

President's Budget Request

- Aid to State and Local Governments
- Good data, limited scope

Census State and Local Government Finance

- Survey data, so not ideal
- No program-level detail

Agency Websites

- Some have program-specific, state-level information

Data Needed - Types

2. Federal contracts performed

USASpending.gov

- NPP currently does less contract data
- Would start here

Data Needed - Types

3. Federal Assistance Direct to Individuals

USASpending.gov

- First choice
- Incomplete picture of direct assistance

Consolidated
Federal Funds
Report (CFFR)

- Still use this at times

Data Needed - Types

4. Federal employee salaries and benefits (currently out of scope)

Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR)

- FY 2010 and prior
- Latest numbers showed \$343 B, 10% of all federal spending

Office of Personnel Management

- FedScope, average salaries by state
- Benefits?

Clearer Information – Documentation Audience

- ◆ Not federal spending experts
- ◆ Smart, responsible users
- ◆ Data-savvy
- ◆ Not familiar with underlying spending systems like FAADS+ or FPDS-NG

Clearer Information - Examples

- ◆ Overall picture of the federal spending universe, which is much larger than USASpending
- ◆ What's excluded from USASpending
 - Interest on debt
 - Refundable tax credits
- ◆ Examples of common analysis tasks
- ◆ Guidelines for reporting issues

Priorities

- ◆ Accuracy and completeness of existing USASpending information – underway
- ◆ Clearer documentation – help us help ourselves
- ◆ Liaison connecting USASpending, agencies, and public (agency challenges, user challenges, inevitable data issues)

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THANK YOU