Promoting Open Grant Data

Using Open Data Practices to Comply With and Leverage New Legislation

Recently, Congress passed several new laws concerning access to and use of government data. It is important not only to comply with this new legislation, but also to leverage it to improve the overall grants management process. Both Federal grant-makers and grant recipients report current processes require spending 40% of their resources on administrative tasks. Through data standardization, data integration, and the application of advanced technologies this burden can be significantly reduced while maintaining compliance.

What Do You Need to Know?

› **The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act:** Promotes data accessibility and enables responsible data use. Prioritizes that grant decisions be made based on performance, therefore reducing fraud, waste, and abuse.

› **The OPEN Government Data Act:** As part of the Evidence Act, it makes government data "open" by default, published in "machine-readable" format, making it easy to analyze and utilize.

› **The GREAT Act:** Transforms federal grant reporting for the modern era by directing federal agencies to modernize and improve recipient reporting. When fully implemented, it will provide decision-makers with critical information about recipient performance and ensure recipients can spend less time on administrative tasks.

About GrantSolutions

GrantSolutions is a leading national grants services provider, managed by HHS, supporting the full Federal grant life cycle across 10+ Cabinet-level and independent Partner agencies. GrantSolutions Partners have worked together to encourage better use of data to drive more efficient and effective grants management practices and improve the return on the Federal taxpayer investment.

For more information, email **information@grantsolutions.gov**

How Do GrantSolutions Partners Abide by These Regulations?

Data Standardization

Issue: Grant recipients are required to report the same information in different formats and different terminology to different agencies.

Solutions:

› **Consolidate common business functions:** A majority of GrantSolutions' 1500 programs chose to consolidate into a common Notice of Award (NoA) to reduce costs and recipient burden.

› **Utilize common data repositories:** Such as the Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library. Over 100 unique GrantSolutions Partners requested and use solutions that rely on the shared CDER data elements.

› **Data over documents:** Many agencies still use hard-to-analyze PDF documents. GrantSolutions Partners use standard cost-effective data collection capabilities that enable them to collect all grant data in structured, machine-readable formats that make it easy to analyze and utilize.

Data Integration

Issue: Improving data integration reduces recipient and grantor burden and can lead to more effective grant investments.

Solutions:

› **Promote electronic interfaces for recipient systems:** A majority of grants are awarded to large organizations, many of whom have their own systems to manage their grants. GrantSolutions Partners created interfaces for recipient systems to communicate directly with agencies rather than require their users to copy and paste information from one system to another.

› **Integrate government systems:** Grantors can dramatically reduce inefficiencies and processing errors by having their grants tools talk directly to other key government systems. GrantSolutions Partners integrate with more than 20 government systems, including many financial systems, to save users time and improve data quality.

› **Take advantage of external data sources:** GrantSolutions Partners utilize publicly-available data to help Partner agencies make better-informed grant investments and to better understand the impact create through their grants.

Advanced Technologies

Issue: How can today's advanced technologies unlock the power of data to improve service delivery and maximize grant outcomes?

Solutions:

› **Utilize machine learning to analyze and predict:** GrantSolutions Partners apply tools using machine learning that analyze large datasets, detect patterns, and predict outcomes that inform grant-making decision processes. (Honored with a Government Innovation Award by GCN/Washington Technology and available to all Federal agencies).

› **Apply natural language processing (NLP) capabilities:** GrantSolutions Partners are using NLP to help analyze long, narrative documents as well as improve program monitoring.

› **Explore the use of blockchain:** Blockchain technologies offer opportunities for government to reduce costs and dramatically improve transparency. GrantSolutions Partners are working with recipients and private sector organizations to benefit from operational blockchain capabilities, such as the ability to sync Notice of Award and grant reporting data.

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USAspending.gov | SBA.gov | CFDA.gov | SAM.gov