

# Promoting Open Grant Data



## Using Data to Drive a More Effective Grants Management

Over **\$700B** is invested in American communities and around the world through Federal grant awards each year, funding national infrastructure, disaster relief, healthcare, and critical biomedical research, amongst many others. However, both Federal grant-makers and grant recipients report that the current processes supporting grants management require **spending 40% of their resources on administrative requirements**. Through data standardization, data integration, and the application of advanced technologies this burden can be significantly reduced.



## Data Standardization

Grant recipients are required to report the same information in different formats and different terminology to different agencies. Grant-making agencies struggle to easily understand the outputs and outcomes generated by grant investments due to a lack of common data elements used to track and report progress. **Standardizing grant data is the foundation on which data-driven management is built.**

- › **Consolidate common business functions:** Agencies have more in common than they might think. For example, a **majority of GrantSolutions 1500 programs chose to consolidate into a common Notice of Award (NoA)** in order to reduce costs and recipient burden.
- › **Utilize common data repositories:** Tools like the **Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library** should be used by all grant-making agencies before requesting new information from recipients. **Over 100 unique GrantSolutions Partner programs** requested and use solutions that rely on the shared CDER data elements.
- › **Data over documents:** Many agencies still collect hard-to-analyze PDF documents for large portions of their grants management activities. 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.

## About GrantSolutions

GrantSolutions is a leading national grants services provider, managed by HHS, supporting the full Federal grant lifecycle 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.



**1,500+**  
GRANT PROGRAMS



**\$80B+**  
ANNUAL AWARDS



**10+**  
CABINET LEVEL  
& INDEPENDENT  
PARTNER AGENCIES



**150,000+**  
USERS

  
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## Data Integration

Grant recipients often are required to provide the same data elements over and over again when working with the government. Grant-making agencies are required by legislation and regulation to check numerous data sources throughout the grant lifecycle. **Improving data integration reduces recipient and grantor burden and can lead to more effective grant investments.**

### › **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:** Improving risk management and measuring program outcomes requires looking beyond typical Federally-managed datasets. GrantSolutions Partners utilize publicly-available data to help Partner agencies make better-informed grant investments and to better understand the impact created through their grants.



## Advanced Technologies

Today's advanced technologies provide the possibility to truly unlock the power of data to improve service delivery and maximize grant outcomes.

### › **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.

› To learn more about how to maximize the use of data to support effective grants management, email [information@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:information@grantsolutions.gov)



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