Data-Driven Grant Management

Using Data to Drive More Effective Grant Management

Federal grants totaling over $750B invest in national infrastructure, disaster relief, healthcare, and critical biomedical research and other critical work in American communities and around the world. However, studies show that current grant management processes require Federal grant-makers and grant recipients to spend up to 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

› **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:** GrantSolutions Partnership supports tools like the Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library that help grant-making agencies standardize the information they request from recipients. Over 100 unique GrantSolutions Partnership programs use solutions that rely on the shared CDER data elements.

› **Converting documents to usable data:** Many agencies still collect PDF documents that are difficult to analyze for many of their grant management activities. GrantSolutions Partnership uses standard cost-effective data collection capabilities to collect all grant data in structured, machine-readable formats that support analysis and process improvements through Business Intelligence and other tools.

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**

Data Integration

Grant recipients often are required to provide the same data 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. Making it easier to access and reuse data from multiple sources reduces recipient and grantor burden, freeing more resources for actual grant execution.

> **Promote electronic interfaces for recipient systems:** Many recipients either have their own systems to manage grants or use third-party systems. The GrantSolutions Partnership maintains interfaces with those systems to allow recipients to upload data from their system direction to GrantSolutions.

> **Integrate with other government systems:** Grantors can dramatically improve efficiency and reduce processing errors by having their grant system talk directly to other key government systems. The GrantSolutions Partnership integrates with more than 20 other government systems, including many financial systems, to speed processing, 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. The GrantSolutions Partnership has developed Recipient Insight to collect and analyze 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 further unlock the power of data to improve service delivery and maximize grant outcomes.

> **Use machine learning to analyze and predict:** The GrantSolutions Partnership applies tools using machine learning to analyze large datasets, detect patterns, and predict outcomes that inform grant-making decision processes. One of those tools, Recipient Insight has been recognized with a GCN Government Innovation Award and has been made available to all Federal agencies.

> **Apply natural language processing (NLP) capabilities:** The GrantSolutions Partnership is using NLP to help automate the analysis of long, narrative documents (e.g., audit and progress reports) to relieve grant manager workload and to help them focus on critical information.

> **Explore the use of blockchain:** Blockchain technologies offer opportunities for government to collect information automatically by linking multiple sources accurately and securely, reducing costs and dramatically improving transparency. The GrantSolutions Partnership is working with recipients and private sector organizations to identify potential uses, such as the ability to sync government award data and recipient bank data to reduce financial status reporting.

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