STATE OF ILLINOIS

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

7th ANNUAL REPORT TO THE

GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 1, 2022

Table of Contents

Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit (GATU) Staff and Volunteers

Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB)

Alexis Sturm, Director

Jim Foys, Senior Deputy Director

Marc Staley, Budget Deputy Director

Jennifer Butler, Deputy Director, Accountability and Results

Jennifer Cavanaugh, Deputy Director, Technology and Operations

Aaron Doty, IT Manager

GOMB Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit (GATU)

Lori Beeler, GATU Director

Courtney Jackson, Grant Budget Analyst

Jodie Jones, Grant Management System Project Manager

Anna O'Connell, GATU Coordinator

Megan Pirok, GATU Coordinator

Tonya Upshaw, GATU Program Specialist

Kimberly Streib, GATU Financial and Audit Analyst

Charla Bond-Jones, GATU Coordinator

Subcommittee and Workgroup Volunteers

GATA committees and workgroups continue to be made up of front-line and leadership experience from state agencies and the grantee community. This allows Illinois' grant management frameworks and the statewide grant management system to be designed, tested and implemented with direct input from stakeholder users. This level of engagement fosters ownership and support for improving grant management.

Collaboration between GATU and the state agency Chief Accountability Officers (CAOs) supports change management during incremental GATA implementation. By statute, each state grant-making agency appoints a CAO responsible for that state agency's implementation of and compliance with GATA rules. CAO meetings twice a month provide information sharing on best practices, highlight federal and state updates and provide a forum to discuss barriers to grant administration. A complete list of current CAOs can be found in Appendix I to this report.

Executive Summary

Illinois state government officials have a duty to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, efficiently and with transparency. Because grants are a significant funding mechanism for Illinois, the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), (30 ILCS 708) is a foundational element promoting performance transparency and financial integrity of taxpayer dollars.

On average, the state spends approximately $26.6 billion in annual Federal Financial Assistance. Roughly $15.8 billion is distributed through grant agreements between state agencies and grantees[1]. Illinois also received an unprecedented amount of COVID response funds in the form of grants during fiscal year 2021. Because the state relies extensively on grants to operate programs and deliver services to Illinois citizens, it is recognized that our state is successful when our grantees are successful.

GATU is proud to deliver this annual report for state fiscal year 2021 as required by statute. The following narrative highlights the detail provided in subsequent sections of this report.

- Statewide Best Practices and Systems. Illinois benefits from standardizing grant administration that's been proven to be effective. GATU regularly facilitates information sharing sessions that enable state agencies and grantees to share details about grant administration. Because GATA establishes statewide rules, templates and systems to meet federal requirements, Illinois is statutorily positioned to implement best practices statewide. This report highlights best practices in the following areas:
    - Risk-based Grantee Oversight – DCEO
    - Targeted GATA Training to Enhance Equitable Access to Grant Funds – DHS and ICJIA

- Statewide Grant Management System. Illinois continues to implement a statewide grant management system (GMS) using AmpliFund software. GMS is based on existing GATA frameworks and templates and includes integrations to GATA systems including the Grantee Portal for registration and prequalification and the Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA). GMS is the system of record for statewide grant administration[2]. GMS integrated to the State of Illinois' accounting and financial system of record, SAP, during FY21.

    Eight (8) state agencies are currently using GMS: Aging, ICCB, DCFS, ICJIA, DNR, HFS and IRB and ISP. Most state agencies are expected to be using GMS by July 2022.

- Grant Portfolio Management. Grant portfolio management is a component of GMS. Workflow will guide state agencies to consider funding from new sources and work collaboratively with other agencies to design comprehensive program/service delivery. Job aids will guide agency staff to consider opportunities based on three (3) dimensions of portfolio management: 1)

---

[1] Approximately $12B is state funded with a significant portion used for match or maintenance of effort towards federal funding.

[2] All state grant making agencies under the Governor will administer grants through GMS. Grantees will use GMS for grant functions from submitting grant applications to receiving executed grant agreements, submitting periodic financial and performance reports and requesting grant payments.

Efficiency – the administrative costs to run the program, 2) Applicability – alignment to administrative priorities and state agency mission, and 3) Effectiveness – driving equity among diverse pools of grantees.

- Centralized Audit Report Reviews. Because 49% of grantees receive grants from more than one state agency, the centralized Audit Report Review Management System (ARRMS) annually eliminates approximately 4,100 duplicate audit report reviews. State agencies collectively agree to the grantee's corrective action plans while reducing the administrative burden of the grantees.

  Expenditures reported in the Consolidated Year End Financial Report (CYEFR) provide an audit trail of completed, mandatory state agency reconciliations of grantee expenditures. Proposed ARRMS enhancements scheduled for implementation in state FY 2022 include simplifying the CYEFR to consolidate select sections and removing the requirement that total expenditures tie to audited financial statements.

  The Cooperative Audit Resolution Team (CART) roles, responsibilities and processes were defined in 2021. Databases were established and populated for audit findings, corrective action and resolution for audit findings during the period of 2017-2020.

  During 2021, GATU also began developing a framework to analyze grantee audit report packages to identify substandard audits (audits not performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards). Implementation of the Audit Committee will begin in FY22.

- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). As a result of enhanced oversight procedures and the implementation of corrective action, Illinois cleared a prior annual audit finding repeated since 2002 – inadequate process for compiling the SEFA.

- Indirect Cost Rates. The Illinois Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Election System was fully implemented in March 2021. Accessed through the Grantee Portal, the system generates written indirect cost rate agreements and serves as Illinois' system of record for all grantee indirect cost rate elections and approvals used for reimbursement of Illinois and federal pass-through awards. As of June 2021, 3,498 elections have been recorded in the new system.

- GATA Training. During fiscal year 2021, GOMB began procurement efforts to expand the learning management system and grant training curriculum developed by Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) and Department of Human Services (DHS) for statewide use. This initiative strives to improve equitable access to grant funds so community-based providers with limited grant experience are able to compete for grant awards. The objective is to make grant administration support and grant funds accessible to new entities so they can partner with Illinois to provide programs and services as grant recipients.

- Demonstrating GATA Performance. As required by statute, GATA performance data for the five (5) required measures are documented in this report. However, GATA outcomes are not limited to these five (5) performance measures. Illinois has established GATA legislation to reduce duplication of effort and minimize the grant administration burden. The impact of the

state's limited public funds increases when state agencies and grantees work in partnership to design and execute effective grants to accomplish intended outcomes. The state is positioned to dedicate more resources to grant program and service delivery when administrative functions are simplified and streamlined through a fully implemented grant management system. As statewide grant management becomes more effective and efficient, administrative costs decrease, allowing more funds for program delivery.

GATA Fiscal Year 2021 Report

STATEWIDE BEST PRACTICES IN GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Under federal Uniform Guidance updates effective in the fall of 2020, greater emphasis is placed on program design and grant performance. However, compliance and oversight requirements are not diminished. This, coupled with historic levels of new funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, have complicated grant management across all jurisdictions. Nationally and within Illinois, grant professionals are challenged to heed federal expectations for success-oriented outcomes and utilize effective risk management while promoting equitable access to public funds.

In Illinois, Chief Accountability Officers (CAOs), the GATA Agency Advisory Group, technical subject matter experts within state agencies, and the grantee community are highly valued. These groups are represented in GATA committees and workgroups to share subject matter expertise. GATU has learned many best practices and procedures from these stakeholders. The underlying objective remains - to share and replicate what works statewide. By focusing on the user experience, Illinois looks for better ways to do what's required. This section of the report focuses on state agency best practices to emphasize how GATA is evolving from a compliance focus to a performance driver.

Risk-Based Grantee Oversight

Federal Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR 200.206 Review of Risk Posed by Applicants, requires awarding agencies to consider the internal controls of its grantees. GATA frameworks help awarding agencies identify risk so the agency can target limited support resources to the areas / entities most in need. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Office of Accountability meets regularly with all DCEO program offices to discuss agency-wide grant management best practices that can be applied to all DCEO programs. The Office of Accountability is driving the agency's strategic efforts to build grantee capacity and strengthen controls to identify noncompliance early and proactively respond. This will target technical assistance and minimize the disallowance of expenses and subsequent repayments.

A grant management protocol was created to support the requirements for establishing a grant agreement, authorizing cash disbursements and performing grant close out in consultation with all grant program staff. Benefits include standardizing grant management practices across the agency to maintain consistency for the grantee experience, minimize transition risk of employees leaving the agency and to develop policies that institute a risk-based approach to grant management. The protocol records the due diligence performed by state agency staff, identifies the grant expenditure samples to validate oversight, and documents key information communicated with the grantee. Under this grant management protocol pilot program, launched on October 1, 2020, and ending on March 31, 2021, DCEO staff are developing program-specific policies related to the grant management framework. Weekly meetings highlight agency-wide use of the protocol and guide the development of policy documentation and trainings.

Targeted GATA Training to Enhance Equitable Access to Grant Funds

Last year's GATA Annual Report highlighted $4 million in dedicated appropriations for GATA training awarded to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA). This funding established contracts with the University of Illinois – Springfield to develop grant training materials and a learning management system for the purpose of increasing equitable access to grant funding. The objective is for more entities to be aware of, apply for and receive grant funds to carry out programs and services. The training continues to focus on helping new entities understand and complete the requirements to be awarded state funding.

To date, the training has been almost exclusively targeting ICJIA and DHS potential grantees. In two years, more than 485 organizations have participated in this training. Over 230 state agency personnel have also completed the training to strengthen their pre-application process support. Training participants have recognized the value of the online, self-directed format which enables users to access specific topics of training on demand. GOMB recognizes that potential applicants for other state agencies can also benefit from this training. A procurement is being pursued that will expand this training statewide to more broadly close the access gap to financial assistance funding. Please refer to the GATA Training section of this annual report for more detail about the established third-party training materials and learning management system and GOMB's expansion effort.

STATEWIDE GRANT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Calendar year 2021 was the third year of a four-stage implementation of a new statewide grant management system. Ongoing training, open lines of communication and flexibility are key to the program's success. State agencies and grantees continue to represent stakeholders on various committees and workgroups to draft data flows and articulate rules for implementing GATA frameworks within a centralized, off-the-shelf grant management system. As GATU continues to make improvement to GATA frameworks, the user experience remains front and center. All system design and implementation recommendations are considered within a context of reducing the administrative burden while supporting compliance for our grantees and state grant making agencies.

Illinois' Grant Management System (GMS) is based on AmpliFund software, an established off-the-shelf lifecycle grant administration platform. Users will have a familiarity to GMS as the system is being developed on existing GATA frameworks and templates. During calendar year 2021, Illinois completed the integration between AmpliFund and the state's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) accounting and financial system, SAP. GMS is the system of record for Illinois' life cycle grant administration. All state grant making agencies under the Governor and their grantees will use GMS for grant functions including submitting grant applications, issuing grant agreements, submitting and accepting periodic financial and performance reports, and requesting and generating grant payments.

Following the same sequence as GATA implementation, Stage 2 under the GMS is post-award. Post-award includes all functions related to administering an executed grant agreement. Stage 2 began in July 2020. Because most state agencies have no automation to support grant administration, AmpliFund's out of the box post-award functionality was implemented in January 2021. This allowed Illinois to have an end-to-end GMS while committee recommendations solidified Illinois-specific requirements for financial reporting and monitoring, grant agreement amendments, and performance

reporting and monitoring. It is anticipated that most Stage 2 committee recommendations will be completed and tested by the end of calendar year 2022.

To support state agency implementation, significant WebEx-based train the trainer sessions were and continue to be conducted to provide a hands-on learning experience with access to GMS test environments. Following their grant making cycles, state agencies are incrementally rolling into GMS based upon their respective grant making cycles. GMS implementation maintains a focus on advisory agencies, the eight (8) state agencies that write nearly 75% of all grants in Illinois[3]. During state fiscal year 2021, the GMS was introduced to fifteen (15) additional grant-making agencies. These are small to mid-size agencies that have limited grant management automation. The agencies were assigned to cohorts for group training and individual agency implementation sessions as needed. Additionally, advisory agency training was delivered to Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, Illinois Community College Board, and Illinois Department of Transportation.

Eight state grant making agencies are currently using the GMS: Department on Aging, Illinois Community College Board, Department of Children and Family Services, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Illinois Racing Board and Illinois State Police. Most agencies will be using GMS by July 2022. Select larger agencies with greater integration needs will require additional coordination.

ERP / SAP Integration

Another key deliverable for Stage 2 was ERP / SAP integration. The AmpliFund / ERP integration was deployed July 2021. For state agencies currently using SAP, this functionality will enable the agency to manage grantee-specific budgets from award through payments and close-out. State grant staff and grantees will use a single login to access GMS as well as all grant-related financial/accounting transactions that integrate into SAP. Automation will compare state agency submitted grant vouchers to the stop payment list. If the grantee is on the stop payment list, the transaction will be flagged for payment verification by the state agency prior to a warrant being generated. With 983 entities on temporary stop payment status, the stop payment list has been an effective tool to promote transparency and drive grantee compliance.

Grant Portfolio Management

A core objective of grant portfolio management is to maximize Illinois' federal funding in support of the Administration's priorities and state agency missions. Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS) data shows that Illinois is seventh among the states in federal expenditures but ranks 36th out of 50 states in Federal grants per capita.[4] The GMS grant portfolio management initiative will centralize federal grant application notices to increase awareness and access to available grant opportunities. The initiative encourages state agencies to consider funding from new sources and work collaboratively on applications where more than one state agency will be involved in service/program delivery. Job aids

---

[3] The GATA Advisory Agencies are: Aging, DCEO, DCFS, DHS, DPH, ICCB, IDOT and ISBE.
[4] Federal FY21 per FFIS and US Census Bureau population numbers.

will help state agency decision makers consider the merits of available funding based on three dimensions of portfolio management: 1) Efficiency – consider administrative costs prior to state agency application for federal funding; 2) Applicability – alignment to the Administration's priorities and state agency mission; and 3) Effectiveness – driving equity among diverse pools of state grantees.

Enhanced grant portfolio data also adds transparency to the use of state general revenue. State agencies should seek supplemental federal, public and private funding sources to expand services and programs that may currently be restricted due to limited state funding.

Through GMS portfolio management, Illinois will have a mechanism to drill down from federal funds received to grants awarded, outcomes produced, and funds expended. Aggregate reporting capabilities will improve grant and program oversight and enhance data analytics on the utilization of available funds for targeted purposes.

CENTRALIZED AUDIT REPORT REVIEWS

Centralized audit report reviews remain a key driver of GATA cost avoidance / savings as 49 percent of grantees receive funds from more than one agency and/or agency division.[5] Prior to GATA, each state agency was responsible for reviewing grantee audit reports and approving corrective action plans (CAPs) for each grantee. Through the centralized audit report review management system, annually over 4,100 duplicative audit report reviews are eliminated. Independent assessments often led to differing opinions on the CAP which resulted in multiple grantee responses. Now, state agencies collectively agree to the grantee's CAP which reduces the administrative burden on the grantees.

Prior to GATA, audit requirements, including thresholds and auditing standards, differed for grantees not subject to the Single Audit. Illinois adopted uniform audit requirements to improve accountability and consistency of this function in fiscal year 2016. Since fiscal year 2019, the first full year of implementation of the Audit Report Review Management System (ARRMS), the system has provided transparency for state agencies to view their grantees' audit reports, and the capability to monitor their grantees' expenditures and provide the support needed to ensure compliance with applicable auditing standards.

Through the ARRMS, a single reporting template, the Consolidated Year End Financial Report (CYEFR), captures the expenditure detail of all state and federal pass-through grants received from Illinois for each grantee. The expenditures reported on the CYEFR provide an audit trail of the completed mandatory state agency reconciliations and a mechanism for state agency monitoring. CYEFR reported expenditures help determine if an external audit is required and what type of audit is to be performed. Accurate reporting by the grantee for their fiscal year, enables the grantee to certify that it has met a particular audit threshold and that the audit conducted meets federal and/or state audit reporting requirements.

ARRMS provides centralized transparency regarding whether or not an audit is required and which type of audit must be conducted. ARRMS, or any other audit system, cannot replace the professional judgement that must be applied as part of the audit review. State agencies are developing capacity to complete the technical aspects of their required tasks in ARRMS. Audit report review expertise

---

[5] Based on fiscal year 2021 CSFA records.

continues to improve. GATU offers weekly technical assistance sessions with state agency audit liaisons and audit report review subject matter experts.

Representatives from the audit liaisons and audit report review subject matter experts (SMEs) and GATU have been working diligently to enhance the ARRMS process. Improvements include simplifying the CYEFR to consolidate select sections and removing the requirement that CYEFR total expenditures tie to audited financial statements. Consideration is also being given to removing direct federal funding from the expenditure thresholds. Doing so would further align with the Federal audit requirements. ARRMS process enhancements are scheduled for implementation in state fiscal year 2022.

Fiscal year 2021 was a notable year for implementation of the Cooperative Audit Resolution Team (CART).[6] CART is a multi-disciplinary team of stakeholders consisting of the grantee organization, state awarding agencies and GATU. Disagreements on the acceptance of a grantee's corrective action plan are addressed through the CART process. During FY2021, GATU began the CART process by analyzing grantee audit findings dating between 2017-2020. Repeat audit findings were also considered in the scope of the analysis. Of the 1,750 grantees in ARRMS during the 2017-2020 timeframe, 70 had continuous repeat findings from 2017 to 2020 and 525 had repeat findings from 2018-2020. During the CART process, web-based meetings will be held with the grantee and the affected state agencies to address the root cause of the audit findings and establish acceptable corrective action plans.

Illinois strives to place greater reliance on audit reports to reduce the monitoring burden on state grant making agencies. The quality of the audit determines how reliable the audit is. During 2021, GATU began the development of a framework to analyze grantee audit report packets to identify substandard audits - audits not performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Under the framework, an audit committee of licensed certified public accountants (CPAs), or previously licensed CPAs with adequate governmental and non-profit audit experience, will be formed. The audit committee is responsible for reviewing substandard audits and preparing written notice to the audit firm articulating the requirements for auditing State of Illinois grantees and the importance of appropriate continuing professional education with an emphasis on governmental and/or non-profit auditing. These audit controls drive accountability and transparency and strengthen the quality of the audits conducted on Illinois grantees.

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS (SEFA)

Starting with the state fiscal year 2019 Statewide Single Audit, GATU was assigned responsibility for compiling the statewide Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). The SEFA is an integral piece of the Single Audit requirements for non-federal entities and is heavily relied upon by auditing firms and/ or oversight agencies to review and report compliance. Accurate subrecipient expenditures are a key piece of state agency SEFA reporting. Through GMS implementation, GATU will expand the use of the CSFA to accurately capture the subrecipient expenditures for all state and

---

[6] In prior years, CART roles and responsibilities and processes were defined and audit finding, corrective action and resolution databases were established and populated.

federal awards. State agencies will view subrecipient expenditures for each federal award in one system, improving the accuracy of the statewide SEFA.

GATU compiles individual state agency SEFAs into one statewide report and ensures the report is accurate and meets all federal requirements of 2 CFR 200. Because external stakeholders rely on the statewide SEFA, it is imperative that Illinois have a complete and accurate report. As a result of enhanced oversight procedures and the implementation of corrective action for the FY2020 SEFA, the State cleared a prior annual audit finding repeated from 2002 - inadequate process for compiling the SEFA.

INDIRECT COST RATES

Federal requirements mandate that states negotiate and pay their fair share of grant administrative and/or overhead costs as required by Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised 2 CFR 200.414(f), Indirect (F&A) Costs effective November 12, 2020. The revision expanded the use of the de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) to all non-federal entities (except Local Governments over $35 million)[7]. Uniform Guidance updates also clarified entities need not maintain proof of covered costs when a non-Federal entity is using the de minimis rate for federal grants. This revision and the implementation of the new Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Election System were two significant changes for the Illinois grantee community in 2021.

All state agencies are required to accept the grantee or subrecipient's negotiated indirect cost rate or election unless a program-specific limitation or restriction applies. Some funding sources set statutory limitations on indirect costs or salary caps. The framework for Illinois' Centralized Indirect Cost Rate System is built to accommodate this. In the new system, if a grantee or subrecipient previously elected the 10 percent de minimis rate option for indirect cost reimbursement and subsequently elects to negotiate a State of Illinois indirect cost rate, the 10 percent de minimis rate election will remain valid until the negotiated rate is approved and finalized.

Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Negotiation

Illinois received federal government approval to establish a centralized indirect cost rate system in accordance with the Federal Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.331 (4). The Illinois Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Election System was implemented in March 2021. This system is accessed by all State of Illinois grantees and subrecipients. Grantees/subrecipients used a separate vendor system for all indirect cost rate elections prior to this release. All entities now access the new Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Election System through the Grantee Portal. A separate login to the vendor system is only required if the entity negotiates an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois or is a unit of local government that maintains its rate(s) internally.

Grantees complete the election process for waive (no rate), the de minimis rate and federally negotiated indirect cost rate in the new Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Election System. The system records initial elections, election changes and indirect cost rates based on the grantee's fiscal year. The

---

[7] Previously, the de minimis rate could only be used for non-Federal entities that had never received a negotiated indirect cost rate.

system also generates written indirect cost rate agreements and serves as Illinois' system of record for all grantee/subrecipient indirect cost rate elections and approvals used for reimbursement of State of Illinois and federal pass-through awards.

From the implementation of the Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Election System (March 2021) through the end of FY21, there were 3,498 elections made in the Centralized Indirect Cost Rate Election System.

Waive	1,794
10% De Minimis	1,467
State Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)	112
Federal NICRA	115
Federal Rate Maintained Internally (FRMI)	10
Total	**3,498**

Grantees/subrecipients that elected to waive indirect costs or elected the 10% de minimis were given the opportunity to explain why they elected these options in lieu of negotiating a rate with the State of Illinois. This information will help shape future GATU technical assistance and support.

GATA TRAINING

GATU has always supported capacity building within state agencies and the grantee community by offering grant-related training and providing guidance and support regarding fiscal administration and programmatic requirements. During state fiscal year 2021, GOMB began procurement discussion to expand the learning management system and grant training curriculums developed by ICJIA and DHS for statewide use. The objective is to broaden awareness and accessibility to grant funds so that new entities can partner with Illinois to provide needed programs and services as grant recipients. Under contract with the University of Illinois – Springfield, training modules were developed for ICJIA and DHS to provide pre-award support to entities that may be interested in becoming grantees. Illinois is committed to expanding equitable access to public funding. This curriculum, and additional training modules to support entities once they receive a grant, will be a foundational component to the success of new grantees and the development of state agency staff that administer grants.

The training courses for community-based organizations help convey the technical requirements and GATA frameworks through a relatable cooking analogy to emphasize the ingredients and the sequence of steps in the application process. The objective of the training is to increase equitable access to grant funding so more entities can apply for and receive grant funds to carry out programs and services. In response to adult learning styles, the training courses are available in multiple mediums and formats including self-paced on-line study and web-enabled offerings. Hybrid models, including an instructor-led approach, and language preference are also available.

ICJIA's learning management system, Moodle, allows participants to log on and follow the course. The online training, Your Recipe for Grant Success, includes self-paced study and bi-monthly participant-led live "Q&A" online sessions, where additional support is provided. This new Q&A format of open-ended technical assistance enables entities to seek direct, on-demand support from

ICJIA subject matter experts. During 2021, ICJIA expanded the training to include in-depth information and resources for grant writing and budget development. The online course was made available in August 2021 and nearly 170 participants have registered to date. ICJIA will be expanding the training in 2022 to include additional topics: "I didn't receive the Grant, Now What?" and "Understanding the Grant Agreement, Following the Program and Program Requirements."

DHS is currently utilizing six (6) training modules within its grant learning management system: "Preparing to Apply for a Grant," "To Apply or Not to Apply," "Putting Together a Successful Application," "Building Your Budget," "Staying True to the Recipe," and "Wrapping up Your Project." The DHS self-guided learning management system enhances training interaction and improves learning environment accessibility. Based on weekly statistics, DHS has had 317 external registrations; completing a total of 655 modules across 101 agencies. A concerted effort was made in 2021 to target the modules to DHS employees. To date, 235 DHS employees have completed all six modules and eight additional employees have registered or completed at least one module. The agency continues to work with UIS curriculum developers to build out additional modules for external uses and new modules for state agency staff responsible for grant administration.

As stated in the Statewide Best Practices and Systems section of this report, both ICJIA and DHS are heavily engaged in strengthening their outreach to new entities to equip them to become Illinois grantees. The Pritzker Administration is committed to removing barriers to grant funds. Ensuring that community-based organizations are aware of public funds and able to compete for this funding promotes equitable access. Expanding the DHS and ICJIA training curriculum and learning management system statewide creates opportunity for these materials to benefit many entities that could be funded from grant-making agencies. This purpose for training is much bigger than driving compliance. A relatable, self-paced, accessible grant training available on demand for both the state agency users and the grantees breaks down participation barriers and puts grant administration on a continuum for equitable access to public funds.

Demonstrating GATA Performance

Illinois uses GATA frameworks to support compliance with federal and state requirements for lifecycle grant management. GATA frameworks provide statewide rules, templates and systems for grant performance oversight. Correctly implemented, the frameworks are designed to reduce audit findings. GATA's impact on performance is evident through the number of state agency grant-related findings. Illinois' statewide single audit had 69 audit findings in FY19 vs. 29 in FY20.

GATA statute (30 ILCS 708/10) mandates that state awarding agencies shall not impose additional or inconsistent requirements except as provided in 2 CFR 200.102, unless specifically required by state or federal statute.   GATA listening sessions and stakeholder engagements have highlighted instances where standard templates or rules have been inconsistently implemented. The intention of the GATA is to simplify grant administration while providing transparency and accountability. As processes are being implemented across state agencies, duplications are being eliminated where they are found. GMS automated workflows will help drive compliance as the standard frameworks are built into the system.

GATA statute (30 ILCS 708/95) requires the annual report to provide information on five measures. However, the outcomes of Illinois' grant legislation cannot be realized by considering these factors alone. New and existing grantees bring programs and services to the people of Illinois. When limited public funds are used with greater transparency there is greater awareness of outcomes and grant performance. By removing the barriers that have prevented entities from receiving financial assistance, we are expanding grant potential and reaching more populations with targeted financial assistance. Illinois grantees are the lifeblood that delivers programs and services to carry out public missions. By knowing more about the entities receiving public funds, working in partnership with them to determine the best way to do what's required, and actively overseeing the results and outcomes of their efforts Illinois is advancing good government. GATA frameworks provide administrative guidance to shape Illinois' grant focus. The standard templates, systems and rules remove the administrative burden of the "how" so state agencies and grantees can focus on the "what."

The following section address the five measures mandated by GATA statute.

1. Number of entities placed on the Illinois debarred and suspended list;
2. Savings realized as a result of the implementation of this Act;
3. Reduction in the number of duplicative audits;
4. Number of persons trained to assist grantees and subrecipients; and
5. Number of grantees and subrecipients to whom a fiscal agent was assigned[8].

As of the report date, the following values are recorded by GATU:

1. At the time of this report, there are 983 entities on the temporary Illinois stop payment list. In addition, the automated GATA registration and pre-qualification process has verified 12,180 entities against the Federal do not pay list as required.

2. State agencies have experienced efficiencies through streamlined, centralized grant processes based on standard rules and templates. GATA frameworks clarify "how" state agencies will do what's required. When used as designed, automated systems and shared data minimize duplication of effort for grantees and state agencies. Cost avoidance estimates consider state agency workload pre- and post- GATA. GOMB estimates a $276 million net cost avoidance impact of implementing GATA frameworks, standardization and automation.[9]

3. Forty-nine percent of grantees with active awards in state fiscal year 2021 received grants from more than one agency. The GATA Audit Report Review Management System (ARRMS) allows grantees to submit one copy of their audit which is shared with all agencies funding that grantee. In addition, ARRMS centralizes program-level grant expenditure reconciliations state agencies are required to perform.

---

[8] The assignment of fiscal agents is not a state agency or GATU function. Grantees and Subrecipients self-elect to utilize fiscal agents.

[9] This estimate is based on CSFA FY21 data. Assumptions are applied for pre- and post-GATA state agency manhours for standard financial and administrative grant functions. The federal government estimates that on average 15% of grant funds disbursed are lost to improper payment. Centralized GATA systems add transparency in the administration of funds thereby reducing the risk of improper payment. This estimate includes a 1% calculation of FY21 grants subject to GATA as the value of risk mitigated or avoided as a result of GATA systems.

4. GATU provides training and technical assistance to state agencies, grantees and external stakeholders through a mix of tools. Because COVID-19 has limited face-to-face instruction, WebEx sessions and on-line learning continue to be the primary training mediums. The GATA website offers on-demand support with recorded training videos, on-line manuals, presentations and templates. In addition, over 500 technical support resources are available in the AmpliFund Zendesk to state agency and grantee users of the Grant Management System.

2021 GATA Annual Report Conclusion

GOMB and GATU express sincere appreciation to our state agency and grantee partners that continue to be instrumental in designing, enhancing and driving implementation of GATA frameworks and the GMS. This report highlighted notable accomplishments during fiscal year 2021. This work couldn't have been done without you. We humbly acknowledge that there is still a lot of opportunity to simplify grant administration. We remain open to specific feedback and suggestions as we work collaboratively to reduce grant administrative burdens.

We remain committed to working closely with external stakeholders and partners to build on best practices. Engagement from the Pritzker Administration and members of the General Assembly have strengthened the critical importance of keeping user experience along with accountability and transparency at the forefront of GATA implementation. Based on input from users and government officials alike, GATA systems are being enhanced. We share the goal of making it easier for grantees and state agencies to do what's required. Training and technical support will remain a priority with additional emphasis placed on equitable access for new community-based organizations.

The value of open communication cannot be overstated. We remain focused on building and maintaining strong relationships with our internal and external stakeholder partners. Together, we will continue to make a difference.

Appendices

I. Chief Accountability Officers
II. GATA-related Internet Links

APPENDIX I: CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICERS

Pius Zacharias	Illinois Arts Council Agency	Lisa Cotner	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Andy Munemoto	Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice	Vena Nelson	Illinois Department of Public Health
Dreena Jones	Illinois Capital Development Board	Cory Staley	Illinois Department of Revenue
Jennifer Franklin	Illinois Community College Board	Melanie Turner	Illinois Department of Transportation
Adriana Perez	Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority	Connie Watson	Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Angela Derhake	Illinois Department of Agriculture	Theresa McKeon	Illinois Department on Aging
Leslie Rice	Illinois Department of Children & Family Services	MyongAe Kim	Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Jared Walkowitz	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity	Max Paller	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Debra Miller	Illinois Department of Corrections	Kris Pickford	Illinois State Board of Education
Dominic Citarelli	Illinois Department of Employment Security	Trudy Malkey	Illinois State Police
Thanh Melick	Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation	Scott Taylor	Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Ron McKechan	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services	Denise Matthew	Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
Sai Kanu	Illinois Board of Higher Education	Larita Reed-Clark	Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority
Gary Kramer	Illinois Department of Human Services	Ronny Wickenhauser	Office of the State Fire Marshal
Elena Goutsalenko	Illinois Department of Military Affairs	Vito Okoye	Illinois Racing Board

APPENDIX II: GATA RELATED INTERNET LINKS

a. Statute 30 ILCS 708 Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3559&ChapterID=7

b. Federal Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1

c. GATA Website
www.grants.illinois.gov

d. GATA Administrative Rules
ilga.gov/commission/JCAR/admincode/044/04407000sections.html

e. National Grant Management Association
www.NGMA.org

f. COVID links – US Treasury
The CARES Act Provides Assistance for State, Local, and Tribal Governments | U.S. Department of the Treasury

g. Federal Funds Information for States
www.ffis.org