



GATA News

Spring 2016 Issue – GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS UNDER GATA

In response to federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) effective December 2014 and the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) effective July 2014, Illinois is implementing a state-wide initiative to establish a compliant, uniform framework for grant management. GATA is a collaborative effort between grant making agencies and the grantee community to standardize policies and procedures and remove redundancy in grant management. The initial implementation focus is on the pre-award phase which includes documentation of funding opportunities through the issuance of grant awards. The Spring 2016 Issue of GATA News is dedicated to an overview of the uniform, state-wide approach to the grant pre-award phase for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17).

Grantees should continue the FY17 grant application process with their grant-making agency. Due to a lack of funding, two centralized systems under the grant pre-award phase are still in development – the grantee registration portal and risk assessments. Short-term workarounds are available to state agencies. **Staggered implementation will not delay the FY17 grant award process.**

A public notice is still required for all competitive or discretionary grants. A uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity, NOFO, template was created to comply with public notification requirements. The awarding agency customizes the NOFO to include program-specific requirements. A uniform grant application template customized by the agency has also been implemented. Please note: Not all grants require a public notice or an application. **The awarding agency will communicate the application requirements for each program it administers.**

A uniform grant agreement template and a uniform budget template has been implemented for FY17. Both templates are customized by the agency for program-specific parameters. There are statutory-driven variances in budget and grant agreement requirements. **The awarding agency will communicate the budget and grant agreement requirements for each program it administers.**

For FY17, all grantees must register with the State of Illinois through an automated grantee portal. **Grantees can complete the application process before registering.** **Agencies and the GATA website will promote the grantee portal as soon as it is available. Grantees will be instructed to register in the portal as a final step for FY17 grant execution.** Grantees will access the portal from the GATA website, www.grants.illinois.gov. Registration will include verification of 6 statuses: current DUNS number, current SAM Cage Code, good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, Illinois debarred and suspended list, Federal excluded parties list and the HFS Sanctioned Party list. A real-time response will be returned confirming that the grantee is qualified for a grant award, not qualified but can remediate the specific issue, or not qualified due to a debarred status. (Please note: Under prior federal regulation, agencies were mandated to perform similar verifications. New procedures centralize and automate the verification eliminating agencies from performing separate verifications.)

Grantee risk assessments continue to be required under Uniform Guidance and GATA. New regulations require the assessment to be conducted prior to awarding a grant. **In FY17, risk assessments will be performed as a final requirement for grant awards.** The financial and administrative risk assessment has been centralized and will be performed once for each grantee through an automated questionnaire from the GATA website, www.grants.illinois.gov. Each grantee must complete an *Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)* which will calculate the fiscal and administrative risk profile of the grantee. Specific conditions may be imposed if the grantee is determined to be higher risk. The Notice of State Award distributed by the agency prior to the grant agreement will communicate applicable specific conditions. The agency will distribute a *Programmatic Risk Assessment questionnaire* to evaluate the programmatic risk profile of the grantee. Similar to the ICQ, specific conditions may be imposed and will be communicated through the Notice of State Award. **The automated ICQ has not been implemented, yet. However, a uniform questionnaire is available. Grantees can complete the application process before completing the ICQ.** Agencies and the GATA website will promote the automated ICQ as soon as it is available.

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