

AT-A-GLANCE

PREPARING TO APPLY THROUGH GRANTS.GOV is this edition's feature article and provides information on the steps necessary to be allowed to apply for grants through Grants.gov.

From vision to reality, A YEAR IN REVIEW takes you through key milestones in the progress of Grants.gov, one of the President's Management Agenda initiatives.

THE WORD ON THE STREET highlights what key stakeholders are saying about Grants.gov! (Page 2)

IN THE NEWS features information on the Grants.gov launch event and highlights recent awards Grants.gov has been honored with. (Page 2)

See **GET INVOLVED** to learn how you can shape the future of Grants.gov. (Page 2)

PREPARING TO APPLY THROUGH GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov provides the grant community with two primary capabilities: the ability to Find Grant Opportunities and a unified process to Apply for Grants. Everything else on the site is designed to support the use of these features. While users can begin searching for grant opportunities for which they would like to apply and begin completing the application immediately, it is recommended that a series of additional "Prepare to Apply" steps be completed. These additional steps must be finished in advance of submitting a grant application through Grants.gov. The "Prepare to Apply" steps are described in detail on the site, but an overview of and the rationale for each are provided below as a primer:

Grant applicant organizations need to be registered with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) before being able to submit a grant application through Grants.gov. When an organization registers with the CCR, they are required to designate an E-Business Point of Contact (E-BIZ POC). The E-BIZ POC is the sole authority of the organization capable of designating, or revoking, an individual's ability to submit grant applications on behalf of his organization via Grants.gov. The CCR also houses organizational information that Grants.gov uses to verify applicant organization identity.

In order to safeguard the security of electronic information, Grants.gov utilizes E-Authentication, the Federal program that ensures secure transactions. E-Authentication defines the level of trust or trustworthiness of the parties involved in a transaction through the use of Credential Providers. It is the process of determining, with certainty, that someone really is who they claim to be. The Credential Provider for Grants.gov is Operational Research Consultants (ORC).

When a grant applicant registers with ORC, they receive a username and password, which is then used to Register with Grants.gov as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). AORs are individuals designated by their organization's E-BIZ POC as authorized to submit grant applications via Grants.gov. Once an individual has registered with Grants.gov as an AOR, their E-BIZ POC is asked to validate the registration. Once the E-BIZ POC validates the request, the individual requesting AOR status for their organization will receive notification via email confirming they are able to submit grant applications through Grants.gov.

From the surface, it may seem like grant applicants have a lot to accomplish before they can apply for grants through Grants.gov. The good news is that these are one-time requirements that facilitate the validity and security of the grant application process for all. Now, Get Started and Find. Apply. Succeed.

GRANTS.GOV: A YEAR IN REVIEW

The vision of consolidating information and applications for the 900+ grant programs offered by the 26 Federal agencies in one online location is now a reality. A number of key milestones marked progress toward this achievement. Here's how it happened:

The "Find Grant Opportunities" feature was launched in February 2003 – having gone from pilot to full implementation across the Federal government in just 16 months. Development of the "Apply for Grants" feature was launched in early 2003 and went from pilot to production by the end of October. (Continued on Page 2)

MANAGING PARTNER



*Fulfilling the President's
Management Agenda*

GRANTS.GOV: A YEAR IN REVIEW (Continued)

Throughout the Spring and Summer of 2003, Grants.gov implemented a range of research activities, surveys and pilots to elicit feedback and further define understanding of customers' needs and identify user requirements. This made the difference between what could have been an adequate solution and certain success.

The Grants.gov website was launched on October 31, 2003, fully operational, on time and on budget. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson officially introduced the site amid much fanfare on December 9, 2003. Coincidentally, this occurred on the same day that the Virginia Institute of Marine Science submitted the first application received through the site.

Today, the Find feature hosts over 120,000 hits per day, with over 3,000 emails sent daily to notify interested parties of relevant grant opportunities. There are currently 999 active grant synopses posted, with a total of 2,235 stored in the system. Interest in the Apply feature is equally strong, with almost 13,000 unique visits and 48,000 page views daily. There are currently 14 grant application packages available through this feature and 8 applications have been submitted through the site.

Grants.gov recognizes that the accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of grantors and the grant community. Likewise, we look forward to continued collaboration as we move ahead. In 2004, there will be a rapid ramp up of additional agencies and grant programs on the Apply feature. There will also be significant focus on advancing the grantor and grant community system-to-system interface, allowing organizations' grant management systems to directly communicate with the Grants.gov system. Grants.gov will also continue to refine the Find and Apply features, as well as implement the addition of mandatory grants to the system in the Fall.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

"President Bush has made it a priority for his administration to provide government information and applications in ways that are more accessible and easier to understand. Grants.gov is a strong step forward in that effort, as it makes the Federal grant-making process simpler and more efficient for applicants."

- Joshua Bolten, Office Management Budget Director

"We love Grants.gov because they have made it possible for the small Federal agencies like The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to get involved and help even out the playing field."

-Jane Lopez, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
First Grants.Gov applicant

IN THE NEWS

On December 9, 2003, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson officially launched the Grants.gov site noting, "For the first time, there will be a single government-wide source for information about grants programs across the Federal government. By putting relevant information in one place, we're helping to level the playing field for organizations less familiar with Federal grant programs so that they too can identify and apply for appropriate grants." Please visit the Grants.gov homepage for a link to the official news release.

Grants.gov is also proud to announce that it has been honored with the two following awards:

- Federal Office Systems Expo (FOSE) Showcase of Excellence – Grants.gov was selected as 1 of 10 Federal government IT projects representing the finest implementations of citizen-centric electronic government to be highlighted at the FOSE E-Town on March 23-25 at the DC Convention Center.
- Federal Computer Week's Federal 100 Award – Program Manager Charles Havekost has been chosen as one of the top executives with the greatest impact on the government information systems community in 2003.

GET INVOLVED

We want to hear from you!

- HELP PROMOTE GRANTS.GOV – Get the word out to those who would benefit from Grants.gov.
- TELL US WHAT YOU THINK – We need your input to shape the future of Grants.gov.
- BE A PART OF THE GRANTS.GOV TEAM – The Grants.gov Program Management Office is staffed with professionals on detail from a range of Federal agencies. Join the Team and make a difference.

Contact us at info@grants.gov. We value your opinion!