NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN COVID-19 GRANTS MANAGEMENT

May 06, 2020
2-3pm ET

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Navigating Challenges and Opportunities in COVID-19 Grants Management

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Agenda

- Funding Summary
- OMB Guidance Overview
- Transparency & Accountability
- 5 Steps to Navigate COVID-19 Funding
  - Assemble Your Grants Management Team
  - Prepare Your Budget Appropriation and Spending Authority
  - Maximize Your Funding
  - Revisit Cost Allocation Plans and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate
  - Prepare for the Inspector General
- Q&A
Congress’s Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

**Phase 1**
Initial support and vaccine development

H.R. 6074 — Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- $8.3 billion in COVID-19 response funding for developing a vaccine and preventing further spread of the virus
- Became law on 3/6/20

**Phase 2**
Paid leave, unemployment and food assistance

H.R. 6201 — Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- $100 billion in worker assistance, including emergency paid sick leave, food assistance, and unemployment payments
- Became law on 3/18/20

**Phase 3**
Major economic stimulus package

H.R. 748 Stimulus package
- Major stimulus package ($2 trillion)
- Loans and support to major industries, including airlines and small businesses
- Direct payments to individuals and families
- Became law on 3/27/20
Congress’s Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Phase 3b

Additional funding for small businesses / hospitals

S. Amdt. 1580 to H.R. 266—Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement (COVID 3.5)

- $310 billion for the depleted Paycheck Protection Program, additional funding for hospitals and testing
- Became law on 4/24/20
State & Local COVID-19 Funding Overview

- Coronavirus Relief Fund allocates $150 billion in federal aid to state and local governments
  - Allocation based on population
  - Minimum distribution is $1.25 billion
- 80% of appropriated funds in CARES Act are allocated to state and local government
State & Local COVID-19 Funding Allocation

- Direct Relief: COVID response, revenue shortfall
- FEMA ($45.1B): COVID response
  - Stafford ($25B): Major disaster areas (declared states)
- Education: COVID response, continuation of business, distance learning
- Mass Transit: Formula appropriation
- Airports: COVID response, continuation of business
- CDC/PHEP: COVID response
- Justice/PS: (Byrne/JAG) COVID response, continuation of business
- Elections Security

Source: NCSL, Deltek
OMB Guidance Overview

1. SAM registration/renewal
2. Flexibility with application deadlines
3. NOFO
4. No-cost extension on expiring awards
5. Non-competitive continuation grants requests
6. Expenditures for salaries and other project activities
7. Allowability of costs not normally charged to awards
8. Prior approval
9. Exemption of certain procurement requirements
10. Extension of financial, performance & other reporting
11. Extension of currently approved indirect cost rates
12. Extension of closeout
13. Extension of single audit submission

Breaking Down M-20-17
Transparency & Accountability

Creates Special Pandemic Inspector General
• Oversight of loans
• Creates Pandemic Response Accountability Committee

Real-time Reporting
• Publicly available information
• Terms of loans
• Investments
• Assistance to corporations

Creates Congressional Oversight Commission
• Five members
• Bipartisan

Public Reporting
• Transaction reports required within 72 hours
• Weekly detailed reports to Congress
5 Steps to Navigate COVID-19 Funding

Step 1
Assemble Your Grants Management Team

Step 2
Prepare Your Budget Appropriation and Spending Authority

Step 3
Maximize Your Funding

Step 4
Revisit Cost Allocation Plans and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate

Step 5
Prepare for the IG
Step 1: Assemble Your Centralized Grants Management Team

Grants Manager
Dedicated grants specialist to oversee compliance and minute details of funding requirements.

Senior Procurement Officer
Provides cradle-to-grave assistance with sub-award/subcontracting, and procurement support for grant funding.

Coordinating Officer
Manages at the organizational level from start to finish.

Internal Auditor
Provides general guidance to ensure agency/dept. creates a clear audit trail and is in compliance.
Step 2: Prepare Your Budget Appropriation & Spending Authority

With the urgency of COVID-19 and the importance of an effective, targeted response, the last thing governments want to do is rush to get their hands on funding without a plan in place for their appropriation and spending authority.

Most may already have budget prepared and gone after appropriation. In that case, you need to prepare budget amendments in advance.

Be on the lookout for:

- Emergency appropriations
- Contingency appropriations
- Special appropriations
Step 3: Maximize Your Funding

CARES Act emphasizes goals + metrics. You need to make sure your reports cover the following:

- Show that adequate progress is being made.
- Ensure compliance.
- Contain information useful for performance measures under COVID-19 guidance.
Step 4: Revisit Your Cost Allocation Plans and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate
Step 5: Prepare for the Inspector General

- **Financial Data**
- **Recent Budget**
- **Compliance Reports**
- **Evaluation Data**

Check these are up to date
Resources

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
• M-20-21 Implementation Guidance for Supplemental Funding

Federal Emergency Management Agency
• Bringing Resources to State, Local, Tribal & Territorial Governments
• Disaster Financial Management Guide
• Procurement Under Grants: Under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances
• Rumor Control

GrantThornton
COVID-19 Resource Center

eCivis
COVID-19 Resource Hub
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