

MESSAGE FROM THE PMO

As we gear up for the spring season, we ask all agencies to encourage their grant applicants to register early, submit early and stay in contact with their Grants.gov Program Advisors. Remember, individual registration is quick and easy. It takes just a day or less to complete — and we offer Registration Checklists, Resources and Tools, such as our Quick Tip icons, to help guide applicants through the process.

Please be aware that a funding shortfall has required us to make budget cuts. These have primarily reduced the amount of effort involved in developing forms and making system enhancements. Our aim has been to minimize the impact on applicants/users, so that they do not experience any diminished service.

Regards,
John Etcheverry, Acting Grants.gov Program Manager

GRANTS.GOV STAKEHOLDER MEETING UPDATE

Grants.gov Stakeholder Meeting Focuses on E-Auth

At the February 22 Stakeholder Meeting, Grants.gov welcomed OMB Portfolio Manager Jeanette Thornton. Ms. Thornton presented E-Authentication, one of the original projects that comprised the E-Government component of the President's Management Agenda. E-Auth, as it is more commonly known, enables citizens inside and outside the government to manage their identity credentials (i.e., usernames and passwords) using multiple online identity validation services.

Programs and agencies requiring identity verification are being strongly encouraged to rely on E-Auth with its federation of credential service providers such as ORC, Inc. (Grants.gov's current provider), NSF Fastlane, USDA and Fidelity Investments. Grants.gov has pledged to phase in E-Authentication over two years in a recent agreement with the E-Authentication Project Management Office and OMB.

In phase one (December 23, 2005-August 30, 2006), Grants.gov will reconfigure its GRANTORS system. Beginning August 30, all Grantor agency users will be required to acquire a username and password from an approved credential service provider. Testing will begin in mid to late June. Updates, training sessions and self-guided training materials will be forthcoming as the late August date approaches.

In the second phase (August 31, 2006-August 30, 2007), Grants.gov will move its applicant users to the E-Authentication system. Established users who already hold a Grants.gov username and password through ORC, Inc. will experience very little change. New users, however, will be able to choose from several credential service providers. Testing with a limited number of users will begin in spring 2007; the new system will be fully functional by August 30, 2007.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Russell Wyland, the Grants.gov lead for E-Authentication, at Russell.Wyland@hhs.gov.

GRANTS.GOV'S NEW PROGRAM ADVISORS

Regelman and Wyland Join Grants.gov as Fellows

Judy Regelman and Russell Wyland both come to Grants.gov from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Judy is the Administrative Officer in the Division of Research Programs. She has a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, majoring in Speech and Theatre. During her six months at Grants.gov, Judy's special projects include revising Grants.gov-generated email messages and designing a training plan and manual for new detailees. She is the Program Advisor for DoEd, EPA, NEA, NEH and NARA.

Russell M. Wyland, on detail for one year from the National Endowment for the Humanities, received his Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America in British Literature and Rhetoric. His research is supported by the American Philosophical Association and focuses on the history of classical education at Oxford and Cambridge during the 18th and 19th centuries. He has worked in the NEH Division of Research for sixteen years, during which time he coordinated NEH's online application submission and evaluation efforts and headed the NEH Fellowships program. At Grants.gov, Russ's responsibilities include agency and applicant system-to-system efforts and E-Authentication project management. He is the main point of contact for DOL, DOE, DOC, SBA, and IMLS.

MARCH 7 USER GROUP MEETING

At the recent March 7 User Group Meeting there were numerous items addressed:

- A Funding Opportunity Number (FON) can now be shared by multiple agencies, but within an agency, the number cannot be duplicated amongst its subagencies.
- Agencies and applicants can now find the "Enhancement Form" on the Technical Library section of the website.
- Agencies can now reference a "Best Practices" section in the Technical Library to provide additional resources for migrating to Grants.gov.
- Outreach has redesigned the site architecture and will be relaunching the Grants.gov site later this summer.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 5
Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 26 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Stakeholder Meeting
First Floor Auditorium
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC