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Stakeholder Webcast

Question & Answers

October 21, 2009

STAKEHOLDER WEBCAST QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

APPLICANT PERSPECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR BOB BEATTIE

- 1. We are at the 100+ Grants.gov submissions/year level, and are interested in S2S submission options. In today's Grants.gov Stakeholder Webcast you indicated you could help us get information about S2S software and providers.**

Grants.gov is not in a position to recommend S2S providers so an organization must conduct their own market research.

- 2. How do we contact Bob Beattie to find out the FDP contact for S2S? We are implementing S2S this fiscal year.**

Bob mentioned his e-mail address during the Webcast so you can view the archive to capture his e-mail address. In lieu of placing his e-mail address on this Q&A if you would like to contact Bob please e-mail the Contact Center at support@grants.gov with "Requesting Bob Beattie e-mail address in the subject line".

- 3. Hurrah! For including applicant perspective.**

What kind of training is provided for agency folks who create the packages?

The Grants.gov Program Management Office conducts Grantor training with Agency personnel. Please contact your Grants.gov Program Advisor: <http://www.grants.gov/assets/GrantsgovAgencyContactList.pdf> .

REGISTRATION AND SECURITY UPDATES

- 4. What happens if my password expires? Will I simply be able to login and change it?**

If your password expires you will have the ability to activate it utilizing the change password functionality.

- 5. It was noted that AORs must login once every 12 months or their account will be deactivated. For organizations that compete for funds infrequently (e.g., once ever 18 to 24 months), how often should Ebiz POCs login? Will Ebiz POCs have their accounts deactivated if they don't login once every year?**

E-Biz POC will need to login at least once a year. E-mail notifications will be sent to all users to inform them their account will be deactivated before it is actually deactivated. More details on this and the account deactivation will be provided at a later date.

CERTIFICATES AND SYSTEM-TO- SYSTEM (S2S)

- 6. Please explain what the certificate is and its importance in the grant application process.**

A certificate is digitally signed information that allows the Grants.gov system to identify your system and securely exchange information with it. Just as the graphical user interface (GUI) requires its users to identify themselves with a user ID and password, S2S clients use a certificate (rather than storing user ID's and passwords in code). The primary difference between the two methods is that certificates identify your system but may or may not identify the individual user.

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7. I was not clear on the certificate which may expire and the need to renew it. What is this certification? Is that a certification that all applicants must have? If not, how do I learn if this is required of my agency?

The agency System-to-System (S2S) interface, gives the grantor agency an alternative to the Grants.gov manual-login. The agency System-to-System interface helps your agency save time and resources by providing direct interaction between your system and Grants.gov.

S2S is used by agencies with high submission volume to automatically download and retrieve grant applications, send applicants automated acknowledgement of application receipt and assign agency specific tracking numbers. A digital certificate authenticates your permission to access the Grants.gov system and is required for use of S2S. For more information visit the Agency S2S page:

http://www.grants.gov/agencies/agency_system_to_system.jsp or contact Keenon.James@hhs.gov .

8. I am from a small non-profit...would we need S2S? Could you explain more what it is and why you would need it?

Grants.gov applicant System-to-System (S2S) provides applicants (with a high volume of application submissions) a web services interface for automated submission of completed grant applications and related services.

The system allows applicants who submit more than 100 grant applications per year, to save time and resources by eliminating the need to reenter repetitious data into multiple individual application forms and therefore streamlines the application submission process. For more information visit the Applicant S2S page:

http://www.grants.gov/applicant_s2s/applicant_system_to_system.jsp

GRANTS.GOV VS. FEDCONNECT

9. Will FedConnect take over the system from Grants.gov? What are their differences? If I am looking for a grant opportunity would I look in Grants.gov or FedConnect?

The FedConnect system will not take over the Grants.gov system. Grants.gov is independent of FedConnect. Grants.gov is a central storehouse for information on over 1,000 grant programs from all 26 federal grant making agencies and provides access to approximately \$500 billion in annual awards.

Visit Grants.gov to search for federal grant opportunities. Many if not all grant opportunities found on FedConnect are available at Grants.gov.

10. What progress has been made in keeping the system status shown on the web in synch with reality?

The system has been running smoothly since the May system build was implemented. On average the system takes less than three minutes to validate an application package. The system status shown on the blog is kept in sync with reality. At this time the Grants.gov website does not have the functionality in place to display real time system status.

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11. How does FedConnect work with Grants.gov? What are the differences in the sites? Are they redundant? If I am looking for grant opportunities should I go to Grants.gov first and then FedConnect if I can't find it?

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Visit Grants.gov to search for federal grant opportunities. Many if not all grant opportunities found on FedConnect are available at Grants.gov.

FINDING AND APPLYING FOR GRANTS

12. I haven't used grants.gov but I am registered. Are there any size and revenue limits that would normally prohibit a small 1-3 person company from receiving grants? Especially, for a company like mine that has only been in business for 5 months?

Grants.gov does not restrict grant applications based business size or time in operation. It is important to read the instructions on the application package for details on eligibility. Eligibility requirements are available on the Eligibility page of the website: <http://www.grants.gov/aboutgrants/eligibility.jsp>.

13. Having just registered, could you give me information on how I use the FIND Component? Finding grants is so important and I could sure use some advice regarding this.

On Grants.gov, click on "Find Grant Opportunities" at the left of the page then click on search grant opportunities. On the next screen, please click on "Advanced Search." A new screen will open, giving you a number of different search fields:

- Keyword Search
- Search by Funding Opportunity Number
- Dates to Search
- Search by CFDA Number
- Search by Funding Activity Category
- Search by Funding Instrument Type
- Search by Eligibility
- Search by Agency and Sub Agency Search

Select any of the fields you wish to search within and then click Search. The Search by Eligibility option is where you will be able to narrow down the Grant Opportunities for Individuals only. Also, you should be able to download the application package from this site with little difficulty.

There are animated tutorials on the site that you can utilize as an additional learning tool:
<http://www.grants.gov/applicants/resources.jsp#animated>

If you have additional questions please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726.

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14. Why can't Grants.gov let us work on forms and save them in the Grants.gov system so that last minute budget changes can be made without having to re-do the whole form over again?

The current Grants.gov infrastructure and system configuration does not support this functionality. Grants.gov has identified this applicant requirement for consideration moving forward with the next generation of Grants.gov. More information will be available on the next generation of the system as it becomes available.

15. We own a small construction company in the Lowell Ma. Area. Our primary charter is the repair and Renovate residential housing, both senior and other. My question to you is this, are there any such grants that we may qualify for to repair and renovate senior type residential properties? We employ minority skilled labor. I would appreciate information on where and how to apply for such grant types if available.

Go to Find Grant Opportunities (on the left side of the screen), select Basic Search to use the Keyword Search. Enter keywords such as “construction”, “repair”, “residential housing”, “senior housing”, etc. to begin your query. A listing of opportunities will appear on the screen, use your mouse to double click an opportunity listing and read the synopsis. The synopsis is a summary about the grant and will let you know whether you are interested or eligible to apply.

There are also helpful animated tutorials: <http://www.grants.gov/applicants/resources.jsp#animated> which will guide you step by step through the process of finding and applying for federal grants on Grants.gov.

16. I need some direction to apply for an individual Grant....

The process for finding grants on Grants.gov is the same for both organizations and individuals. Watch the animated tutorial: [Finding Grant Opportunities on Grants.gov](#) to learn how to find grant opportunities and understand your search results.

COMPATIBLE VERSIONS OF ADOBE READER

17. I have received conflicting information on whether everyone touching a proposal needs to be using the same version of Adobe. Can different versions of Adobe be used – as long as they are compatible versions – and submissions via grants.gov still be successful?

The [compatible version of Adobe Reader](#) is required for viewing, editing and submitting a complete grant application package to Grants.gov. Any and all edits made to the Adobe Reader application package must be made with the compatible version of Adobe Reader. Different compatible versions of Adobe Reader (or comparable Adobe professional) software may be used to complete an application package successfully.

AGENCY USE OF GRANTS.GOV

18. What are the primary agencies that are not using Grants.gov at this time?

Due to the increase in system activity resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has authorized steps to alleviate system strain and quickly increase system capacity. As part of this strategy, select programs may choose to use alternate systems to process grant applications during this heightened period of demand.

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The following agencies opted to use alternative methods for accepting some or all of their application submissions outside of Grants.gov: NASA, NSF, ED, and DOJ.

19. Do the agencies not already using Grants.gov plan to use the system? Are state and local governments using Grants.gov?

Federal grant-making agencies that previously used Grants.gov do plan to resume posting funding opportunities on Grants.gov. Grants.gov offers a unified portal for accessing federal level grant opportunities; state and local government grants are advertised and distributed through other means.

20. It's quite frustrating that there seem to be more and more government agencies requiring Principle Investigators to submit via portals other than Grants.gov. Is this going to continue or will agencies start using Grants.gov again for submissions?

Federal grant-making agencies that previously used Grants.gov do plan to resume posting funding opportunities on Grants.gov. At this time we do not have an expected date for these Agencies to begin utilizing Grants.gov.

VIEWING THE WEBCAST

21. I don't usually read my mail enough to catch the webcast, today I tried to watch but somehow my machine did not want to recognize my free downloaded RealPlayer. Unable to comment.

The webcast presentation is archived shortly after every Stakeholder Webcast. This presentation has been archived on the Stakeholder Webcast page of the website:

http://www.grants.gov/help/stakeholder_communications.jsp . Try viewing the presentation from another machine that allows the use of RealPlayer.

CONTACT US

22. Can you repeat and slowly the address to receive automatic updates Grants.gov/applicants/email...?

To receive updated information about critical issues, new tips for users and other time sensitive updates as information is available [Grants.gov Updates](#). *To unsubscribe from this update you will need to follow the instructions provided in the bottom of the email.*

To Contact the Grants Program Management Office email: support@grants.gov Grants.gov Contact Center Phone: 1-800-518-4726. Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are closed on [Federal Holidays](#).