

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

2 CFR Subtitle A, Chapter I, Part 25

**Financial Assistance Use of Universal Identifier and
Central Contractor Registration**

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget, Office of Federal
Financial Management

ACTION: Final guidance.

SUMMARY: OMB is issuing guidance to Federal agencies concerning two requirements for financial assistance applicants and recipients, and one requirement for first-tier subrecipients. An agency under the guidance must require applicants other than individuals, with some specific exceptions, to have Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers and maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. An agency must require applicants and recipients of grants and cooperative agreements to comply with the DUNS number and CCR requirements by October 1, 2010 and require applicants and recipients of all other financial assistance types to comply by October 1, 2011. The guidance provides standard wording for a new award term that each agency must include in its financial assistance awards to require recipients to

maintain current CCR registrations, which requires that they also have DUNS numbers. The guidance also specifies that each recipient may make subawards only to entities that have DUNS numbers.

DATES: Effective [Insert date of publication in the Federal Register].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marguerite Pridgen, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, telephone (202) 395-7844.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Summary of Changes

On February 18, 2010 (75 FR 7316), OMB proposed a number of changes to title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR). Some of the proposed changes were to provide new guidance to agencies that was needed to implement section 872 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Pub. L. 110-417, hereafter referred to as "section 872"), as that statute applies to grants. Some of the other proposed changes were to update guidance that existed elsewhere and relocate it in 2 CFR to provide needed context for the new guidance implementing section 872. The remaining changes were administrative in nature, to create seven subchapters in 2 CFR, Chapter I, as a

better organizational framework for existing and future content in that chapter.

OMB now is finalizing some of those proposed changes, with the rest to follow separately. The substantive changes being finalized relate to the use of DUNS numbers and registration in the CCR. These changes are being finalized separately and expedited because they will enhance the quality of information available to the public when recipients begin on October 1, 2010 to report information on subawards, as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-282, as amended, hereafter referred to as "the Transparency Act"). OMB also is finalizing the administrative changes proposed in February 2010, by creating the new subchapters in 2 CFR, Chapter I.

II. Relationship to Existing Requirements

The requirement for applicants to have DUNS numbers is not new. OMB established the DUNS requirement for applicants for grants or cooperative agreements in 2003. The policy was published in the *Federal Register* [68 FR 38402] and communicated to Federal agencies in OMB Memorandum M-03-16. The requirement was broadened to include applicants for other types of Federal financial

assistance subject to the Transparency Act in 2008, in OMB Memorandum 08-19. Therefore, the sole effect of the guidance following this preamble is to relocate the requirement in the Code of Federal Regulations, in 2 CFR part 25.

There are several existing requirements concerning applicants' registration in the CCR. For example, an applicant must be registered in CCR if it wants to submit its applications electronically through Grants.gov. In another example, several providers of payment management services require that recipients be registered in CCR before receiving payments. As yet another example, OMB Memorandum M-09-10 required applicants for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5, hereafter referred to as "the Recovery Act") to register in CCR. The guidance following this preamble broadens the existing requirements to all other applicants for Federal financial assistance awards subject to the Transparency Act.

Similarly, the requirement for recipients to maintain their registration in the CCR throughout the period of performance under their awards is not entirely new. The final OMB guidance on reporting under the Recovery Act, OMB

Memorandum M-09-21, requires recipients to register in CCR in order to access the FederalReporting.gov site at which they must report. That memorandum also allows a recipient to delegate some reporting responsibilities to its first-tier subrecipients, in which case those subrecipients must register in the CCR in order to report (a first-tier subrecipient is one that receives a subaward directly from the prime recipient, as distinct from a lower-tier subrecipient that receives a subaward from another subrecipient). For prime recipients, the guidance following this preamble broadens the existing Recovery Act requirement to recipients of other awards subject to the Transparency Act. Although the guidance proposed in February 2010 would have broadened the CCR requirement to first-tier subrecipients, the final guidance being adopted at this time does not require CCR registration for any subrecipients.

The standard award term that agencies must use to communicate the DUNS and CCR requirements to recipients is new. It will help ensure Government-wide uniformity, a benefit for recipients that receive awards from multiple agencies.

Applicants and recipients of grants and cooperative agreements must comply with the policy by October 1, 2010. Applicants and recipients of all other financial assistance types must comply by a date to be provided by the agency.

III. Comments and Responses

We received comments on the proposed guidance in 2 CFR part 25 from three State agencies and three Federal agencies. We considered the comments in developing the final guidance, which closely parallels the proposed guidance. We made some changes based on the recommendations and others for clarity. The following paragraphs summarize the comments and our responses:

Comment: Three State agencies commented on the requirements for first-tier subrecipients in the award term in Appendix A to the proposed 2 CFR part 25. Two agencies cited burdens on subrecipients and the Transparency Act's definition of "Federal award" as reasons to exempt a subrecipient from the requirement to register in the CCR if the amount of the subaward is \$25,000 or less. The third agency asked whether the prime recipient would be required to submit verification of subrecipients' compliance with the CCR requirement to the federal agency and, if so, how

frequently it would be required to do so. One of the agencies also recommended exempting subrecipients with awards of \$25,000 or less from the requirement to obtain a DUNS number.

Response: Agree in part. We revised the final guidance so that there is no requirement at this time for any subrecipient to register in the CCR. Concerning the requirement for first-tier subrecipients to obtain a DUNS number, we did not adopt a \$25,000 threshold. The DUNS number still is the only identifier with the advantages that led us to establish it in 2003 as the universal identifier for recipients of grants and cooperative agreements (see the preamble to 68 FR 38403, June 27, 2003). We do not agree that the one-time requirement to obtain a DUNS number is an undue hardship. We appreciate that first-tier subrecipients who are not also prime recipients of other Federal awards may need to adjust their procedures and systems initially to accommodate the DUNS number requirement, but we believe that the long-term benefits to transparency justify those changes.

Comment: Two Federal agencies commented on the definition of "award" in section 25.305 of the proposed 2 CFR part 25. One agency questioned whether excluding

technical assistance and transfers of federally owned property from the definition could have the inadvertent effect of exempting them from the effects of suspension and debarment actions taken under 2 CFR part 180, in which the term "nonprocurement transaction" is defined in a way that would include them. The second agency suggested adding the words "for the purposes of this part" to the definition.

Response: Agree to add "for the purposes of this part" for added clarity, as the term "award" must be defined in each part of 2 CFR in a way that conforms to the purpose of that part. For example, the definitions of "award" in 2 CFR parts 182 and 225 differ significantly. Part 182 implements the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. 701-707, as amended) and defines "award" to include grants and cooperative agreements. The definition of "award" in 2 CFR part 225, "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments (OMB Circular A-87)," includes not only grants and other financial assistance awards but also cost reimbursement contracts, because that part specifies principles and standards for determining costs for that wider range of Federal funding instruments.

Comment: A Federal agency suggested that we delete paragraph 25.200(a)(2) in the proposed 2 CFR part 25

because it would be burdensome for an agency to modify every program announcement it already had issued under which it anticipated making awards after October 1, 2010. It further noted that the wording included some announcements under which applications already had been submitted.

Response: We disagree. We did not delete paragraph 25.200(a)(2), as suggested. We revised it to require agencies to notify potential applicants only in previously issued announcements that have due dates for applications or plans after October 1, 2010, and not all announcements under which awards would be made after that date. This does not change the fact that all new awards, as defined in the policy, after October 1, 2010 must reflect this reporting requirement. Providing potential applicants with more complete information about the requirements with which they will have to comply if their applications are successful is important, in order to enable them to make better informed decisions on whether to invest the time and expense in preparing applications. That benefit for potential applicants justifies the burdens on agencies associated with issuing amendments to the previously issued announcements.

List of Subjects in 2 CFR Part 25

Administrative practice and procedures, Grants administration, Grant programs, Loan programs.

Danny Werfel,
Controller.

Authority and Issuance

For the reasons set forth above, the Office of Management and Budget amends 2 CFR, subtitle A, as follows:

1. In subtitle A to title 2, parts 2 through 99, which are currently reserved, are transferred to chapter I.

2. Subchapter A to chapter I, consisting of parts 2 through 19, is established and reserved to read as follows:

Subchapter A - General Matters [Reserved]

Parts 2 - 19 [Reserved]

3. Subchapter B to chapter I, consisting of parts 20 through 39, is established and added to read as follows:

Subchapter B - Pre-Award Responsibilities

Parts 20 - 24 [Reserved]

**PART 25--UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND CENTRAL CONTRACTOR
REGISTRATION**

Sec.

Subpart A--General

25.100 Purposes of this part.

25.105 Types of awards to which this part applies.

25.110 Types of recipient and subrecipient entities to which this part applies.

25.115 Deviations.

Subpart B--Policy

25.200 Requirements for program announcements, regulations, and application instructions.

25.205 Effect of noncompliance with a requirement to obtain a DUNS number or register in the CCR.

25.210 Authority to modify agency application forms or formats.

25.215 Requirements for agency information systems.

25.220 Use of award term.

Subpart C--Definitions

25.300 Agency.

25.305 Award.

25.310 Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

25.315 Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number.

25.320 Entity.

25.325 For-profit organization.

25.330 Foreign public entity.

25.335 Indian tribe (or "Federally recognized Indian tribe").

25.340 Local government.

25.345 Nonprofit organization.

25.350 State.

25.355 Subaward.

25.360 Subrecipient.

Appendix A to Part 25--Award Term

Authority: Pub. L. 109-282; 31 U.S.C. 6102.

Subpart A-General

§25.100 Purposes of this part.

This part provides guidance to agencies to establish:

(a) The Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number as a universal identifier for Federal financial assistance applicants, as well as recipients and their direct subrecipients.

(b) The Central Contractor Registration (CCR) as the repository for standard information about applicants and recipients.

§25.105 Types of awards to which this part applies.

This part applies to an agency's grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and other types of Federal financial assistance included in the definition of "award" in §25.305. The requirements in this part must be implemented for grants and cooperative agreements by October 1, 2010. The requirements in this part must be implemented for all other award forms listed in §25.200 requirement at a date to be specified in the future.

§25.110 Types of recipient and subrecipient entities to which this part applies.

(a) General. Through an agency's implementation of the guidance in this part, this part applies to all entities, other than those exempted in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, that--

(1) Apply for or receive agency awards; or

(2) Receive subawards directly from recipients of those agency awards.

(b) Exemptions for individuals. None of the requirements in this part apply to an individual who applies for or receives Federal financial assistance as a natural person (i.e., unrelated to any business or non-profit organization he or she may own or operate in his or her name).

(c) Exemptions for Federal agencies. The requirement in this part to maintain a current registration in the CCR does not apply to an agency of the Federal Government that receives an award from another agency.

(d) Other exemptions. (1) Under a condition identified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, an agency may exempt an entity from an applicable requirement to obtain a DUNS number, register in the CCR, or both.

(i) In that case, the agency must use a generic DUNS number in data it reports to USASpending.gov

if reporting for a prime award to the entity is required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (Pub. L. 109-282, hereafter cited as "Transparency Act").

(ii) Agency use of a generic DUNS should be used rarely for prime award reporting because it prevents prime awardees from being able to fulfill the subaward or executive compensation reporting required by the Transparency Act.

(2) The conditions under which an agency may exempt an entity are--

(i) For any entity, if the agency determines that it must protect information about the entity from disclosure, to avoid compromising classified information or national security or jeopardizing the personal safety of the entity's clients.

(ii) For a foreign entity applying for or receiving an award or subaward for a project or program performed outside the United States valued at less than \$25,000, if the agency deems it to be impractical for the entity to comply with the requirement(s).

(3) Agencies' use of generic DUNS numbers, as described in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this section, should be rare. Having a generic DUNS number limits a

recipient's ability to use Governmentwide systems that are needed to comply with some reporting requirements.

§25.115 Deviations.

Deviations from this part require the prior approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Subpart B--Policy

§25.200 Requirements for program announcements, regulations, and application instructions.

(a) Each agency that awards types of Federal financial assistance included in the definition of "award" in §25.305 must include the requirements described in paragraph (b) of this section in each program announcement, regulation, or other issuance containing instructions for applicants that either:

(1) Is issued on or after the effective date of this part; or

(2) Has application or plan due dates after October 1, 2010.

(b) The program announcement, regulation, or other issuance must require each entity that applies and does not have an exemption under §25.110 to:

(1) Be registered in the CCR prior to submitting an application or plan;

(2) Maintain an active CCR registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by an agency; and

(3) Provide its DUNS number in each application or plan it submits to the agency.

(c) For purposes of this policy:

(1) The applicant is the entity that meets the agency's or program's eligibility criteria and has the legal authority to apply and to receive the award. For example, if a consortium applies for an award to be made to the consortium as the recipient, the consortium must have a DUNS number. If a consortium is eligible to receive funding under an agency program but the agency's policy is to make the award to a lead entity for the consortium, the DUNS number of the lead entity will be used.

(2) A "program announcement" is any paper or electronic issuance that an agency uses to announce a funding opportunity, whether it is called a "program announcement," "notice of funding availability," "broad agency announcement," "research announcement," "solicitation," or some other term.

(3) To remain registered in the CCR database after the initial registration, the applicant is required to review and update on an annual basis from the date of initial registration or subsequent updates its information in the CCR database to ensure it is current, accurate and complete.

§25.205 Effect of noncompliance with a requirement to obtain a DUNS number or register in the CCR.

(a) An agency may not make an award to an entity until the entity has complied with the requirements described in §25.200 to provide a valid DUNS number and maintain an active CCR registration with current information (other than any requirement that is not applicable because the entity is exempted under §25.110).

(b) At the time an agency is ready to make an award, if the intended recipient has not complied with an applicable requirement to provide a DUNS number or maintain an active CCR registration with current information, the agency:

(1) May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and

(2) May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

§25.210 Authority to modify agency application forms or formats.

To implement the policies in §§25.200 and 25.205, an agency may add a DUNS number field to application forms or formats previously approved by OMB, without having to obtain further approval to add the field.

§25.215 Requirements for agency information systems.

Each agency that makes awards (as defined in §25.325) must ensure that systems processing information related to the awards, and other systems as appropriate, are able to accept and use the DUNS number as the universal identifier for financial assistance applicants and recipients.

§25.220 Use of award term.

(a) To accomplish the purposes described in §25.100, an agency must include in each award (as defined in §25.305) the award term in Appendix A to this part.

(b) An agency may use different letters and numbers than those in Appendix A to this part to designate the paragraphs of the award term, if necessary, to conform the system of paragraph designations with the one used in other terms and conditions in the agency's awards.

Subpart C--Definitions

§25.300 Agency.

Agency means a Federal agency as defined at 5 U.S.C. 551(1) and further clarified by 5 U.S.C. 552(f).

§25.305 Award.

(a) Award, for the purposes of this part, means an award of Federal financial assistance that a non-Federal entity described in §25.110(a) receives or administers in the form of--

- (1) A grant;
- (2) A cooperative agreement (which does not include a cooperative research and development agreement pursuant to the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986, as amended (15 U.S.C 3710a));
- (3) A loan;
- (4) A loan guarantee;
- (5) A subsidy;
- (6) Insurance;
- (7) Food commodities;
- (8) A direct appropriation;
- (9) Assessed or voluntary contributions; or

(10) Any other financial assistance transaction that authorizes the non-Federal entity's expenditure of Federal funds.

(b) An Award does not include:

(1) Technical assistance, which provides services in lieu of money; and

(2) A transfer of title to federally owned property provided in lieu of money, even if the award is called a grant.

§25.310 Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

Central Contractor Registration (CCR) has the meaning given in paragraph C.1 of the award term in Appendix A to this part.

§25.315 Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number.

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number has the meaning given in paragraph C.2 of the award term in Appendix A to this part.

§25.320 Entity.

Entity, as it is used in this part, has the meaning given in paragraph C.3 of the award term in Appendix A to this part.

§25.325 For-profit organization.

For-profit organization means a non-Federal entity organized for profit. It includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) An "S corporation" incorporated under Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (b) A corporation incorporated under another authority;
- (c) A partnership;
- (d) A limited liability corporation or partnership; and
- (e) A sole proprietorship.

§25.330 Foreign public entity.

Foreign public entity means:

- (a) A foreign government or foreign governmental entity;
- (b) A public international organization, which is an organization entitled to enjoy privileges, exemptions, and immunities as an international organization under the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288-288f);
- (c) An entity owned (in whole or in part) or controlled by a foreign government; and
- (d) Any other entity consisting wholly or partially of one or more foreign governments or foreign governmental entities.

§25.335 Indian tribe (or "Federally recognized Indian tribe").

Indian tribe (or "Federally recognized Indian tribe") means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native village or regional or village corporation (as defined in, or established under, the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.)) that is recognized by the United States as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

§25.340 Local government.

Local government means a:

- (a) County;
- (b) Borough;
- (c) Municipality;
- (d) City;
- (e) Town;
- (f) Township;
- (g) Parish;
- (h) Local public authority, including any public housing agency under the United States Housing Act of 1937;
- (i) Special district;
- (j) School district;
- (k) Intrastate district;

(l) Council of governments, whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law; and

(m) Any other instrumentality of a local government.

§25.345 Nonprofit organization.

Nonprofit organization--

(a) Means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that--

(1) Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;

(2) Is not organized primarily for profit; and

(3) Uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization.

(b) Includes nonprofit--

(1) Institutions of higher education;

(2) Hospitals; and

(3) Tribal organizations other than those included in the definition of "Indian tribe."

§25.350 State.

State means--

(a) Any State of the United States;

(b) The District of Columbia;

(c) Any agency or instrumentality of a State other than a local government or State-controlled institution of higher education;

(d) The Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(e) The United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and a territory or possession of the United States.

§25.355 Subaward.

Subaward has the meaning given in paragraph C.4 of the award term in Appendix A to this part.

§25.360 Subrecipient.

Subrecipient has the meaning given in paragraph C.5 of the award term in Appendix A to this part.

Appendix A to Part 25 - Award Term

I. Central Contractor Registration and Universal Identifier Requirements.

A. Requirement for Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

Unless you are exempted from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110, you as the recipient must maintain the currency of your information in the CCR until you submit the final financial report required under this award or receive the final payment, whichever is later. This requires that you review and update the information at least annually after the

initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in your information or another award term.

B. Requirement for Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers. If you are authorized to make subawards under this award, you:

1. Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph C of this award term) may receive a subaward from you unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.

2. May not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.

C. Definitions. For purposes of this award term:

1. Central Contractor Registration (CCR) means the Federal repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the CCR Internet site (currently at <http://www.ccr.gov>).

2. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number means the nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by telephone (currently 866-705-5711) or the Internet (currently at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).

3. Entity, as it is used in this award term, means all of the following, as defined at 2 CFR part 25, subpart C:

a. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;

b. A foreign public entity;

c. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;

d. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization;

and

e. A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.

4. Subaward:

a. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.

b. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see Sec. --.210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations").

c. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you consider a contract.

5. Subrecipient means an entity that:

a. Receives a subaward from you under this award;

and

b. Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.

Part 26 - 39 [Reserved]

4. Subchapter C to chapter I, consisting of parts 40 through 59, is established and reserved to read as follows:

Subchapter C - Award Content and Format [Reserved]

Parts 40 - 59 [Reserved]

5. Subchapter D to chapter I, consisting of parts 60 through 79, is established and added to read as follows:

Subchapter D - Post-Award Responsibilities

Parts 60 - 79 [Reserved]

6. Subchapter E to chapter I, consisting of parts 80 through 99, is established and reserved to read as follows:

Subchapter E - Cost Principles [Reserved]

Parts 80 - 99 [Reserved]

7. Subchapter F to chapter I, consisting of parts 100 through 119, is established and reserved to read as follows:

Subchapter F - Audit Requirements [Reserved]

Parts 100 - 119 [Reserved]

8. Subchapter G to chapter I, consisting of parts 120 through 199, is established, and a new subchapter heading is added to read as follows:

Subchapter G - National Policy Requirements

[FR Doc. 2010-22706 Filed 09/13/2010 at 8:45 am;

Publication Date: 09/14/2010]