MESSAGE FROM THE PMO

Assuming the role of Grants.gov's Program Manager has been an exciting change – and it has come at a very busy time, as Grants.gov successfully launched a newly designed site on July 7th.

The Grants.gov site has been reworked to better serve the grant community. Now, users will find streamlined and more concise content, a simplified layout, easy-to-follow instructions, a stronger site map and logical navigation that's more intuitive than ever.

Revamping the site was no small undertaking, but it has been a success, thanks to the collaboration of end-users and stakeholders. While the launch of our new site was the end of a very involved process, it's a continual process – one in which your ongoing feedback will enable us to refine and enhance Grants.gov to best meet your applicant's and your agency's needs.

If you haven't had the chance to take a look at the new face of Grants.gov, I encourage you to visit and check it out. Let us know what you think. We're very pleased about our new look – and we hope you will be too.

Regards,
John Etcheverry, Grants.gov Program Manager

JUNE STAKEHOLDER MEETING

On Wednesday, June 28, Grants.gov held its bi-monthly stakeholder meeting at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building.

John Etcheverry opened the meeting and discussed Grants.gov's continuing work with each agency to support their goal of posting 75 percent of their discretionary applications on Grants.gov, the recent budget discussions with OMB, and record-setting submissions and help desk usage. Over 10,000 applications were received in May and over 8,000 in the month of June. To Date, Grants.gov has received over 70,000 applications this fiscal year!

Russ Wyland discussed the E-Authentication milestone report. E-Authentication is creating an identity management accreditation within the Federal Government and will be launched in two phases. In the first phase, Federal grantors can log on to E-Authentication on Thursday, August 30. After the implementation of the second phase in August 2007, grant applicants will also be able to utilize this service. Next, the new Grants.gov web design was previewed with a target launch in July. The site will be easier to navigate and use.

Charles Havekost, HHS CIO, then discussed Grant's Management Line of Business. The vision is to deploy a government-wide solution to support end-to-end grants management activities that promote citizen access, customer service and agency financial and technical stewardship.

INTRODUCTIONS

Phil Irish and Anne Lopez-Buitrago Join Grants.gov

Dr. Philip Irish III is on a two-month detail from the Department of Defense, where he is a Professor of Information Systems Management at the National Defense University. There he has designed and taught courses entitled *"Electronic Government," "Transforming to E-Government," "Best Practices in Organizational Change Management," "Human Capital Strategies," "The Changing World of the Chief Information Officer,"* and *"Overload: The Paradox of Information"* to senior executives throughout the Federal Government. His previous assignments include an academic appointment at the Defense Acquisition University; Director of Research, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Cocoa Beach, FL; Program Manager for the Ergonomic Information Center, Air Force Research Laboratory, Dayton, OH; and Professor of Leadership at The United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. His Ph.D. is in Industrial Psychology and Human Factors Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. At Grants.gov, Phil's responsibilities include grantor training materials development and website usability analysis. He is assisting Keenon James as the point of contact for the Department of Defense.

Anne Lopez-Buitrago is on a six month detail with Grants.gov from the National Endowment for the Humanities. At NEH, she serves as a Program Analyst in the Division of Preservation and Access. Anne is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities from University of Maryland University College. At Grants.gov, Anne will serve as the Program Manager for DoEd, EPA, NEA, NEH, and NARA.

JULY USER GROUP MEETING

Grants.gov's July User Group Meeting convened on July 11 and many areas were addressed:

• Rod Edwards of Northrop Grumman shared information about recent enhancements made to the site and addressed future changes and enhancements.
• Numerous submitted agency enhancement requests were thoroughly vetted. If you would like to submit an enhancement, please contact your agency representative on the user group to have it considered.
• Russell Wyland updated users on E-Authentication developments for grantors regarding the testing of the process and the implementation schedule.
• Mark Sommer of Northrop Grumman gave a system-to-system update, and discussed future enhancements.
• Phil Irish of the National Defense University presented information about training and user assistance initiatives that he is currently working on while on his detail to Grants.gov.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, August 30th
Stakeholder Meeting • Humphrey Building
Room 800 • 200 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC