Data Foundation

DATA Act Training Program

September 29, 2016
Purpose

To provide a status update on the Section 5 Grants Pilot.

Discussion Topics

- DATA Act Section 5 Pilot Overview
- Section 5 Grants Pilot Test Models
- Outreach to Participant Population
- Section 5 Grants Pilot Timeline
- Opportunities for Involvement
In May 2014, Public Law 113-101 Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) was signed into law with the purpose to establish government-wide financial data standards and increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of federal spending information.
The goal of the Pilot is to implement Section 5 of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-101, which requires the Federal Government to, “establish a pilot program with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for:

(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal government (§5(b)(1)(A));

(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting (§5(b)(1)(B));

(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards (§5(b)(1)(C)).”
DATA Act Overview - One Pilot, Two Tracks

While Federal awarding and reporting processes have similarities, there are unique burden areas that merit exploration for burden reduction. To accommodate those award-specific areas, two tracks are underway:

- **Federal Grants**
- **Federal Procurement**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has partnered with HHS to serve as the executing agent for the Section 5 Grants Pilot.
The Section 5 Grants Pilot consists of the following Test Models:

### Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library

CDER Library is designed to be a Federal-wide, online repository for grants-specific data standards, definitions, and context.

**Test 1:** Provide grant recipients with data element definitions to identify potential changes in accuracy and speed of grant lifecycle form completion.

**Test 2:** Identify form duplication and provide recommendations for updating/reducing forms to reduce grant recipient burden.

### Notice of Award – Proof of Concept (NOA – POC)

NOA – POC is a document containing information a grant recipient needs in order to perform routine accounting and finance operations.

**Test:** Provide grant recipients with a standard NOA – POC cover sheet for Federal awards to populate a data collection tool. Identify how standardizing the NOA could result in efficiencies for grant recipients.

### Learn Grants

Learn Grants is a tab on the Grants.gov website that provides grant recipients access to Federal grants lifecycle information.

**Test:** Assess the effectiveness of Learn Grants for increasing a grant recipient’s knowledge of the grants lifecycle.
Section 5 Grants Pilot Test Models (Continued)

Single Audit

**Single Audit** is an organization-wide financial statement and Federal awards’ audit.

**Test:** Provide non-Federal entities with the draft 2016 expanded Single Audit Concept Form (SF-SAC only), and allow participants to assess the potential to reduce grant recipient reporting burden.

**Discussion:** Present the draft expanded Single Audit form and allow participants to assess the potential to reduce grant recipient reporting burden.

Consolidated Federal Financial Report (FFR)

**Federal Financial Report (FFR)** is a form that Federal grant recipients are required to fill out and submit to their grant-awarding agency.

**ACF Form Completion:** Provide grant recipients with one consolidated process for submitting the FFR to identify potential time savings and/or improved accuracy by entering all information through one system.

**Discussion:** Review the Consolidated FFR submission process. Guide participants through the piloted changes to the FFR submittal process and assess the potential to reduce grant recipient reporting burden.
Outreach to Participant Population

The Section 5 Grants Pilot sample population aims to satisfy the following legislative requirements:

- A diverse group of recipients.
- Recipients of Federal grants from multiple programs.

The following graphic shows the sources of the Pilot participant pool.

DAP has solicited Pilot Participants from:

- State Governments
- County Governments
- City/Township Governments
- Special District Governments
- Independent School Districts
- State Controlled Institutions of Higher Learning
- Indian Tribes
- Other Nonprofit Organizations
- Private Higher Education Institutions
- Individuals
- For-profit Organizations
- Small Businesses
- Other organizations not covered in these categories
Over 10,000 Federal award recipients have been contacted to participate in the Pilot. To date, more than 250 volunteers have been assigned to a Test Model.

- Test Model enlistment is ongoing! If your OpDiv/StaffDiv is interested in helping enlist volunteers, email DATAActPMO@hhs.gov, retweet DAP, and spread the word on your Facebook pages.
- This month, DAP presented DATA Act and Pilot updates at the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP), Data Foundation’s Data Transparency 2016 event, and Data Foundation's DATA Act Training.
Opportunities for Involvement

There are several ways to participate in DATA Act activities.

Send inquiries and feedback to DATAActPMO@hhs.gov.

Visit the DAP Website at http://www.hhs.gov/dataactpmo.

Follow DAP on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HHS_DAP.


Visit the CDER Library at https://repository.usaspending.gov/poc-tool/.


For more information on the DATA Act, visit https://www.usaspending.gov/Pages/Data-Act.aspx.