

imposes or any new requirements or changes made to existing requirements after the agency issued its announcement.

This new approach for a consolidated assurance has a number of advantages:

- It is easier to give potential applicants up-to-date information on applicable requirements. National policy and administrative requirements change over time, due to enactment or adoption of new policies and repeal or revision of existing ones. Updating a standard form is a cumbersome and lengthy process, so it is difficult to keep forms up to date with the latest policy changes. The SF-424B and SF-424D, for example, are not fully up to date at this time.
- The consolidated assurance eliminates the need to update the electronic submission format each time a requirement changes. As the Federal Government moves from paper forms to electronic transactions, periodically updating the list of national policy and administrative requirements would require reprogramming the format for electronic submission of applications if each requirement was individually listed in the assurances of compliance. Reprogramming would increase costs and administrative burdens. Instead, the change would be addressed in agencies' terms and conditions, which are more easily updated.

- Potential applicants only need to consult a single source, the agency's terms and conditions, for all applicable requirements before providing assurance. Currently, an awarding agency or program office must supplement the SF-424B or SF-424D with information about agency-or program-specific requirements because the standard forms list only government-wide requirements.

It is anticipated that OMB would change the SF-424 to reflect the above assurance language changes when the additional data elements are added to the form and public comment supports such a change. Current grant application forms can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>.

Questions and Comments

We welcome your input on any aspect of the data elements and inclusion of the consolidated assurance in place of those found on the SF-424B and SF-424D. Questions that you may wish to address include:

- Are the proposed data elements found on the current SF-424 the essential ones needed to apply for Federal grants? If you recommend adding or deleting any data elements, please explain why.
- Are the current definitions found on the SF-424 clear and explicitly define what is required for applicants to

enter on the SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance?"

- Are the names of data elements and any terms used in describing them readily understandable? Are the terms generic enough to cover all programs and agencies in which you might have an interest? Do you have suggestions for alternate terms?
- Is the current SF-424, plus the five additional proposed data elements and assurance language, sufficient enough to establish the SF-424 as the data standard? If comments indicate a more in-depth change to the SF-424, should OMB establish this as the data standard and then proceed with a more complete revision at a later date?
- Is the assurance language feasible for use by Federal agencies in lieu of those found on the SF-424B and SF-424D?

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Deputy Controller.

Attachment: The attachment is a series of tables that list the name of the data element found on the SF-424 with the description found on the grant application form. The attachment also lists the data element name found in the 194 Transaction Data Set for comparison. Use of the 194 Transaction Data Set is to help define data layout for electronic transmission. Each table is titled to help better understand the groups of the data elements.

TABLE 1.—ALL FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

SF-424 Caption or Block No.	SF-424 Description	194 Data element name for electronic submission
Type of Submission (No. 1)	Self-explanatory (Identify if project application or pre-application, construction or non-construction.)	Construction Application Indicator.
Date Submitted (No. 2)	Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable)	Application Date.
Applicant Identifier	Applicant's control number (if applicable)	Applicant's Application Identification.
Date received by State (No. 3)	State use only (if applicable)	Date Received by State/Other Reviewer.
State Application Identifier	State use only (if applicable)	Reviewing Organization Application Number.
Date Received by Federal Agency (No. 4).	If this application is to continue or revise an existing award, enter date of present award.	Date Received by Federal Agency.
Federal Identifier	If this application is to continue or revise an existing award, enter present Federal identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank.	Federal Agency Application Number.
Type of Application (No. 8)	Check appropriate box and enter appropriate letter(s) in the space(s) provided: —“New” means a new assistance award —“Continuation” means an extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. —“Revision” means any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation.	Application Type.
If Revision	Enter the appropriate choice to specify reason for renewal. (List: New, Continuation, Revision. If revision, indicate: List: Increase Award, Decrease Award, Increase Duration, Decrease Duration, Other (Specify)).	Application Purpose.
CFDA Number (No. 10)	Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number of the program under which assistance is requested.	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number.
CFDA Title (No. 10)	Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) title of the program under which assistance is requested.	Program Name.