

*Response:* No change. It is extremely difficult to identify a single and unchanging set of keywords that can properly categorize the many overlapping areas across the broad spectrum of Federal programs. The use of a set of keywords that inadequately categorizes opportunities could lead a potential applicant to forego reading an announcement and thereby miss a relevant opportunity. A better approach is for program officials to ensure that each full announcement describes program areas using the current terminology that performers for that program—e.g., principal investigators for a research program—would use, so potential applicants' full text searches will find opportunities of interest (note also that Grants.gov FIND synopses of funding opportunities will have full text search capabilities). We will consider adding keywords in future enhancements of the announcement format, if an appropriate set can be identified.

*Comment:* One research institution suggested adding an activity type classification that identifies the funding opportunity to facilitate classification of projects in the OMB Circular A-133 Schedule of Federal Expenditures and identification of R&D expenditures in the National Science Foundation (NSF) expenditure survey.

*Response:* No change. The information needed by a potential applicant differs significantly from the information required for either OMB Circular A-133 or the NSF expenditure survey. The CFDA number is the key for OMB Circular A-133, and the announcement format includes that number. For the NSF expenditure survey of research funding, one has the same complication described in the response to the previous comment; a recipient ultimately reports data based on researchers' actual disciplines, which frequently cannot be predicted at the time of announcement.

*Comment:* One commenter suggested that the overview element entitled "Agency Name" should not include the agency mailing address and zip code.

*Response:* Agree. The agency mailing address does not serve a purpose in the overview. In the full text of the announcement, mailing addresses are provided in the appropriate contexts (e.g., where to submit a hard-copy application).

*Comment:* Four commenters recommended that the agency contact information in Section VII (including name, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers) also appear in the overview section.

*Response:* No change. We did not include that information in the overview section because a person generally should not contact the agency after reading only the overview. If he or she has questions after reviewing the full announcement, it would be more appropriate to contact the agency at that time for clarification or further information.

*Comment:* Seven commenters suggested that we include additional information in the overview to help a potential applicant decide whether to review the full text of the announcement. The suggestions include information about eligible organizations; eligible expenses; whether funding will be for one year or a multi-year period; the total amount expected to be awarded; the anticipated number and average dollar amount of individual awards; types of funding instruments; geographic restrictions; cost-sharing requirements; and limits on numbers of proposals.

*Response:* Agree in part. We added the total amount expected to be awarded, anticipated amounts and/or numbers of awards, cost sharing, types of funding instruments, and limits on numbers of applications as examples of information that an agency might appropriately include in an overview in addition to the required elements. The proposed format already included eligible organizations as an example. We have not included the other suggested information elements for two reasons. First, an overview's primary purpose is to provide a high-level summary to help a potential applicant quickly decide whether to read the details of the full announcement. Second, the level of detail that an overview provides is much less than the level in the full announcement; trying to treat some of the suggested information in a shorthand fashion easily could mislead rather than aid the reader.

*Comment:* One commenter suggested that we change the description of the overview information element under the heading "Funding Opportunity Number—Optional." The description in the proposed format read: "Your agency may wish to assign identifying numbers to announcements." The commenter suggested changing it to: "Required if agency has assigned one. If your agency has assigned an identifying number to an announcement, list it here so that the announcement will be easier to locate on an agency or department web site by number."

*Response:* Agree with the substance of the comment and modified the language to require the information, if applicable.

*Comment:* One commenter said that if we use both a CFDA number and agency-based Funding Opportunity Number, we should explain the difference between the two and provide clear directions about when to use which number, or when both are required.

*Response:* No change to the announcement format. An agency must include the CFDA number in the announcement so that a potential applicant may consult the CFDA to obtain further information about the program. Because an agency may issue multiple announcements of funding opportunities under a given CFDA number, it may assign a number to each funding opportunity to: (1) Associate each incoming question or application with the specific announcement to which it relates; and (2) allow potential applicants to align any published changes to an announcement with the original announcement.

*Comment:* One commenter suggested the CFDA number and title are not necessary in the overview because that information is useful when preparing an application but not for preliminary review to determine interest in the announced opportunity as a potential source of funding.

*Response:* No change. The CFDA number serves the purposes described in the response to the comment immediately preceding this one.

*Comment:* One commenter indicated that it is reasonable to mandate an executive summary but the "cover and/or inside cover" seems redundant in relation to what is provided elsewhere in the overview.

*Response:* The executive summary and the cover/inside cover are not redundant. Rather, they are two alternative ways that an agency may present the overview information (i.e., an agency could use one or the other, but would not use both). We revised the format to clarify that distinction.

*Comment:* One commenter asked us to clarify in the "dates" section whether the due date is the day the proposal must arrive at the agency or whether it is the postmark date.

*Response:* No change at this time. This announcement format is an interim product of the grants streamlining effort under the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-107). We are issuing it now so that potential applicants can begin to realize the benefits of a standard format while we continue to consider other suggestions contained in the public comments we received under Pub. L. 106-107. One of those suggestions was to establish a uniform approach to