

have been part of a pilot test for Grants.gov FIND, which is to serve as a single site where Federal agencies will post electronic synopses of opportunities for financial assistance awards. That function is expected to be fully operational by October 1, 2003. In response to the **Federal Register** notice, OMB received comments from 22 entities: Two State governments, two local governments; four universities; a group of universities that participate with Federal agencies in a demonstration program on research administration; one organization representing non-profit entities; two non-profit organizations; three for-profit organizations; and seven Federal agencies. All comments were considered in developing the final data elements.

We will continue to consider some of the comments separately from this notice because they address issues that are beyond the scope of the proposed data elements. Some of the comments (e.g., the general ability of the public to access the Internet) relate broadly to all of the E-Government initiatives of the President's Management Agenda (of which E-Grants is one) and will be considered in that context. Other comments relate more specifically either to the E-Grants initiative's policies for, or design of, the Grants.gov FIND site. We and the E-Grants Program Management Office will address the policy issues as we establish the requirement for agencies to use the Grants.gov FIND site. We will consider comments related to system design (e.g., what search capabilities the system will have) as the E-Grants Program Management Office finalizes the design of the initial system or makes plans for future enhancements. Some of these comments may be addressed in a limited way in this notice, to the extent that they relate to other comments within the scope of the proposal.

In addition to changes we made in response to comments on the proposed data elements, we made two other significant changes. First, we added a data element for "Announcement Type" that an agency will use to indicate whether the Grants.gov FIND synopsis relates to a new announcement or to a modification of one that the agency issued previously. Second, we eliminated the data element for "type of help available from Federal agency contact," because we believe that the name of the data element "Federal agency contact for electronic access problems" is self-explanatory.

The following sections present a summary of the major comments grouped by subject and our responses to

them. Changes to the Grants.gov FIND data elements are discussed in the responses to the comments.

## II. Comments and Responses

### A. General

*Comment:* One commenter asked us to clarify the relationship of Grants.gov FIND to the **Federal Register**. For example, the commenter asked if every announcement published in the **Federal Register** would also appear at Grants.gov FIND and vice versa.

*Response:* Grants.gov FIND and the **Federal Register** are complementary. Grants.gov FIND's primary purposes are to provide: (1) A synopsis of each funding opportunity, the minimum information people need in order to quickly decide whether they want to review the full announcement for that opportunity; and (2) a way to access the full announcement electronically. The **Federal Register** is one place an agency may locate the full announcement to which the synopsis links electronically.

It is our expectation that, with few exceptions, announcements of opportunities published in the **Federal Register** will appear in Grants.gov FIND. Whether a given opportunity that is synopsized at Grants.gov FIND will have its full announcement published in the **Federal Register** is a question for agencies and their program offices. Other locations they could consider include the agency's own or an alternative Internet location.

*Comment:* Twelve commenters suggested additional data elements, including: A point of contact for programmatic information; if collaboration is required; the population to be served; any geographic restrictions; the countries eligible to be beneficiaries; the source of funding; whether the opportunity is new; whether there are mandatory outcomes or performance standards; whether there are any special security requirements; any limit on the number of applications an organization may submit; the anticipated number of awards; the duration of awards; anticipated award amounts (suggestions included a range; upper and lower limits; or information on awards in various subranges, such as between \$100,000 and \$500,000); if matching is required; and, if so, whether matching may be either in cash or in-kind and at what percentage of the award amount.

*Response:* Agree in part. The proposal already included two of the suggested elements—whether cost sharing is required and the funding agency. Grants.gov FIND should provide the minimum summary information that

potential applicants need to quickly decide whether they want to read the full announcement. As we reviewed the other suggested data elements, we considered that factor and also whether abbreviated synopsis information would be useful or could instead mislead potential applicants. Based on that analysis, we added two required data elements—any ceiling setting a maximum amount for an individual award; and any floor setting a minimum amount for an individual award. We also added two optional data elements for the estimated total program funding and expected number of awards, with a policy statement encouraging a funding agency to provide this information whenever it is possible to do so. The funding agency may include the other suggested information, and an appropriate level of additional detail, in the full announcement for the funding opportunity.

*Comment:* Two commenters suggested that information at Grants.gov FIND be harmonized in content and sequential order with the overview section of the standard format that we proposed for full announcements of funding opportunities (a notice at 67 FR 52548, immediately preceding the August 12, 2002, notice on the proposed Grants.gov FIND data elements).

*Response:* Agree in part. To the extent that the same or similar data elements appear in Grants.gov FIND and the overview portion of the full announcement, we revised the announcement overview data elements to ensure substantive consistency with Grants.gov FIND and the same sequential order. However, it is important to note that Grants.gov FIND and the overview portion of the full announcement serve different purposes and all of the information elements should not be identical. Grants.gov FIND is intended to provide sufficient information to allow a potential applicant to decide whether to read the full announcement. A full announcement's overview section provides additional, more detailed information for people who have decided to review the announcement and who may be preparing applications.

### B. Specific Data Elements

*Comment:* One commenter asked where to find the issuing Federal agency's name.

*Response:* The proposed data elements included the Federal agency name within the element entitled "Federal agency mailing address." The final set of data elements has an element entitled "Federal agency name" (see response to next comment).