

financial assistance procedures for non-Federal entities. It also requires executive agencies to allow applicants to electronically apply for and report on the use of funds from any Federal financial assistance program administered by the agency.

Under the Grants.gov initiative, the Federal agencies are in the process of developing an electronic application system using standard core data elements. Part of the application process is the identification of the funding opportunity through www.FedGrants.gov. The posting of standard synopses in an electronic environment, provides government customers the opportunity to locate funding opportunities in one place and to decide whether or not to apply for the opportunity. Establishing data standards for the electronic format of the synopses and the posting of synopses on the Internet are in accordance with Public Law 106–107 and the President's Management Agenda.

4. *Policy.* The format attached to this policy directive is the government standard format for posting synopses at <http://www.FedGrants.gov> for programs that award discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. Agencies are required to post funding opportunities for all discretionary and cooperative agreement programs at <http://www.FedGrants.gov>. Agencies are also encouraged to post all types of Federal funding opportunities at <http://www.FedGrants.gov>.

a. *Applicability.* All Federal agencies will be required to post all discretionary and

cooperative agreement awards at <http://www.FedGrants.gov> except for:

(1) A program that does not issue separate announcements apart from the program description in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA).

(2) A program that has 100 percent of potential eligible applicants who live outside the United States and who demonstrate lack of Internet access, and the agency has requested a waiver from OMB.

b. *Effective Date.* This policy directive is effective 30 days after issuance. All agencies shall begin posting announcement synopses at <http://www.FedGrants.gov> beginning October 1, 2003. For agencies that have funding opportunities which will close after October 1, 2003, and are to be posted prior to October 1, 2003, the agencies may choose to post synopses in the operational pilot which began in February 2003, and is currently available to the public.

Federal funding opportunities posted at <http://www.FedGrants.gov> will coincide with the posting and release of the full announcement information on the same day or within three business days.

c. *Exemptions.* Requests for exemptions must be directed to OMB, Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM).

5. *Agency Responsibilities.*

a. Issue any needed direction to offices that award discretionary grant awards and cooperative agreements on the requirement and format to use to post a synopsis at <http://www.FedGrants.gov>. The synopsis must

follow the format to ensure all required data elements are included.

b. Ensure the synopsis posted at <http://www.FedGrants.gov> will have full instructions regarding where to obtain the full announcement for the funding opportunity. To further satisfy the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), agencies may need to announce the funding opportunity in the **Federal Register**, by placing a short availability announcement of the opportunity with the agency contact name and telephone number in order for the public to receive the full announcement by mail and/or instructions for obtaining the information electronically (and the agency need not publish the full announcement or application package). Agency programs that are required by legislation to publish their full announcement in the **Federal Register** will have to do so until legislatively changed.

c. Obtain a Catalog of Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for all programs that post a synopsis at <http://www.FedGrants.gov>.

6. *Information Contact.* Direct any requests for exemption or questions about this policy directive to Sandra Swab, OFFM, 202–395–5642 (direct) or 202–395–3993 (main office) or via e-mail (sswab@omb.eop.gov).

Linda M. Springer,
Controller.

Attachment (See previous **Federal Register** notice in this separate part).

[FR Doc. 03–15800 Filed 6–20–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110–01–P