

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

In a **Federal Register** notice [68 FR 37379], published on June 23, 2003, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) finalized a standard set of data elements for use by Federal agencies to electronically post synopses of announcements of funding opportunities under programs that award discretionary grants and cooperative agreements at <http://www.Grants.gov>, the current Web site for the Grants.gov FIND module. Also on June 23, 2003, another **Federal Register** notice [68 FR 37385] proposed an OFFM policy to establish the requirement for agencies to post funding opportunity synopses in the Grants.gov FIND module.

We received comments from seven Federal agencies on the proposed policy. We considered all comments in developing this final OFFM policy directive. Comments on the policy supported establishing the requirement for agencies to post synopses of funding opportunities in the Grants.gov FIND module. The following paragraphs summarize the comments and our responses.

**II. Comments and Responses**

*Comment:* One commenter noted a discrepancy in one of the FIND data elements. Specifically, the "Additional information on eligibility" data element notes that it is "Required if agency selects either category 25 or category 99 in the 'Eligible applicants' field" data element. The commenter notes there is no category 25 in the June 23, 2003, published standard [68 FR 37379].

*Response:* Agree. The commenter has correctly noted a shortcoming in the FIND data elements published on June 23, 2003. The full set of codes is available in the attachment to this policy and on the Grants.gov Web site. To clarify in this response, code 25 is for "Others (see text field entitled 'Additional information on eligibility' for clarification)".

*Comment:* One commenter recommended that the policy be changed to ensure the policy applies to postings of an initial announcement and any modification of the announcement.

*Response:* Agree. Section 4(a), "Applicability" of the policy directive, and the Grants.gov FIND Data Elements/Format have been revised to reflect that

postings include initial announcements and modifications to announcements.

*Comment:* A commenter recommended there be a separate FIND template for modifications of announcements. In accordance with the OMB announcement format policy, agencies should only have to provide the date of the announcement and identify what has been modified.

*Response:* The Grants.gov instructions for input to the FIND module have been clarified to be consistent with the standard announcement format notice [68 FR 37376], Overview Information, Announcement Type. For a modification entry, only the date of the previous announcement synopsis and information that has been changed need to be entered. A separate FIND template for a modification is not necessary because the current FIND module accommodates any modifications.

*Comment:* The commenter recommended that Section 4, "Policy" which references the uniform resource locator (URL), be amended to add, "or such web/Internet address as may be identified by the Grants.gov Project Management Office." It is suggested that this would alleviate revising the policy directive in the event the URL changed.

*Response:* Agree. Language has been revised to reflect "or such Web site/Internet address as may be identified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)" since this policy is issued by OMB.

*Comment:* A commenter indicated that the second sentence of the introductory paragraph appears to make Grants.gov FIND (the terminology that will supersede "FedGrants.gov") the primary location for publication of the complete funding opportunity, since it states that agencies are required to post funding opportunities for all discretionary grant and cooperative agreement programs at that site. Their understanding is that the posting requirement is for the synopsis with a link to the full announcement (unless uploaded in Grants.gov FIND) and that agencies will continue to post their full announcements at a location(s) consistent with any applicable statutory requirements and policies. This needs to be clarified.

*Response:* Agree in part. Grants.gov has a search mechanism to be used to locate synopses and link to full announcements. As such, Grants.gov will continue to be the site used to post synopses and, for some agencies, full announcements unless, or until, another web/Internet site has been identified by OMB.

The policy has been revised to state that the synopsis should be posted with

URL links through which the full announcement can be obtained. However, when agencies post the full announcement at Grants.gov, a URL link from the synopsis to the full announcement is not necessary because the synopsis and full announcement share the same URL; in this event, the synopsis must indicate that the full announcement can be found at Grants.gov FIND.

*Comment:* Two commenters indicated that under Section 4(a), "Applicability," the intent was to post synopses of funding opportunities, not grant awards.

*Response:* Agree. The language in the policy, Section 4(a), "Applicability," has been changed to "funding opportunity announcements and modifications to the announcements."

*Comment:* With respect to Section 4(a), "Applicability," several commenters recommended that limited eligibility and sole source funding opportunities be considered exceptions to the policy. One commenter wanted to add the word "competitive" before the terms "discretionary grants and cooperative agreements." In addition, a commenter wanted to add the word "grant awards" after "discretionary."

*Response:* Agree with "single-source" funding opportunities ["sole source" is an acquisition term with a definition that does not apply to grants] being excepted because a single-source award is not considered a true funding opportunity for anyone other than the intended recipient. As such, a third exception has been added to Section 4(a), indicating that synopses of single-source announcements will not need to be posted. Since an exception has been added for single-source awards, which are not competitive, adding the word "competitive" would be unnecessary.

An exception, however, was not added for limited eligibility announcements because limited eligibility announcements are, in fact, true funding opportunities which often include a competitive component. As such, these announcements must be posted to Grants.gov FIND in order to provide the public maximum opportunity to view potential funding opportunities, thereby maintaining transparency consistent with the customer service mandates prescribed in Public Law 106-107. Furthermore, this requirement should not be burdensome to agencies because most agencies use systems which automatically extract from the full announcement the information needed to develop and post the synopses to Grants.gov FIND. Inserting "grant awards" has not been added since the intent is to post announcements and not