

awards. As previously indicated, the policy has been changed to reflect the posting of funding opportunities rather than awards in Grants.gov FIND.

*Comment:* One commenter expressed concern about having funding opportunity announcements that are targeted for a set of pre-cleared potential applicants (in terms of top-secret or sensitive work associated with national security) included as synopses in Grants.gov FIND and requested another exception be added to meet this need.

*Response:* Disagree. The policy in Section 4 already states that "agencies should continue to post their full announcement at location(s) consistent with any applicable statutory requirements and policy." If such requirements prohibit an agency from the public posting of a funding opportunity announcement, then there would be no requirement for a synopsis to be posted in Grants.gov FIND.

*Comment:* One commenter thought the exception at Section 4a (2), is too restrictive and did not address the "nature of overseas awards." In addition, the commenter thought the definition of the exception stating, "A program with 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," is very narrow and potentially burdensome and questioned how it could be applied. In addition the commenter agreed with the policy, but suggested the policy should reflect flexibility with respect to posting announcements for overseas recipients and the second exception should be removed altogether.

*Response:* Agree in part. Reference to lack of internet access and requiring agencies to request a waiver from OMB has been eliminated from the policy directive. Instead, the policy exception has been revised to state, "announcements of funding opportunities for awards less than \$25,000 for which 100 percent of potential eligible applicants live outside of the United States." It should be noted that while the exceptions to the policy do not require agencies to post synopses, agencies are not precluded from the option of posting a synopsis in Grants.gov FIND. The second option was therefore modified, but not eliminated.

*Comment:* One agency commenter was concerned about the effective date of postings in Grants.gov FIND. Specifically, the commenter was concerned that when a funding announcement is published that may result in the award of a contract, grant

or cooperative agreement, the proposed three-day requirement is in conflict with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 5.203(a) which requires agencies to publish a notice of solicitation at least fifteen days prior to the issuance of the solicitation (with certain exceptions).

*Response:* No change. The requirements to post the synopsis within three days of posting the full announcement represents the latest timeframe during which the synopsis must be posted. Agencies have the flexibility to post the synopsis prior to this timeframe to meet statutory or regulatory requirements.

*Comment:* Four commenters recommended changes to the policy regarding reference to the Administrative Procedures Act and suggested the reference be removed and be replaced with "statutory or regulatory requirements." Also, one commenter recommended that the word "some" be inserted before "agencies" in reference to "agencies may need to announce the funding opportunity in the **Federal Register**." As noted by the commenter, not all agencies are required to publish in the **Federal Register**.

*Response:* Agree. The reference to the Administrative Procedures Act has been replaced with "statutory or regulatory requirements." In addition, the word "some" has been inserted in front of "agencies."

*Comment:* One commenter noted that "the notice is still vague about whether agencies can post grant opportunity announcements solely at Grants.gov, and therefore, bypass the **Federal Register**." The commenter asked whether or not it was acceptable to post the full information on agency Web sites with a link from Grants.gov FIND.

*Response:* No change. The policy indicates that agencies must post synopses of funding opportunities in Grants.gov FIND, which, in turn, states methods through which an agencies' full announcement can be accessed. The policy indicates that agencies may also put an "availability notice" of the funding opportunity in the **Federal Register**, which identifies the funding opportunity availability and contact information, for those that do not have Internet access. However, the policy indicates that the agency will have to follow its own statutory or regulatory requirements with regard to publishing in the **Federal Register**. And in response to a similar comment on the Grants.gov FIND Notice of Standard Data Elements [68 FR 3780, IIA. Comments and Responses], OMB responded as follows: Grants.gov FIND and the **Federal Register** are complementary. The Grants.gov FIND's primary purposes are

to provide: (1) A synopsis of each funding opportunity with 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. Whether a given opportunity that is synopsized in Grants.gov FIND will have its full announcement published in the **Federal Register**, on the agency's web site, or at Grants.gov FIND, is a question for the agency and their program offices.

*Comment:* An agency commented that it is not required to obtain a Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number, since many of its announcements are advertised as "Broad Agency Announcements," which may result in contracts, grants or cooperative agreements.

*Response:* Agree. The Grants.gov FIND Notice of Standard Data Elements [68 FR 37382], states the following with respect to the CFDA element, "Is agency input required?" At least one entry is required (may list more than one), if the Federal agency is subject to the requirement in 31 U.S.C. Chapter 61, to report to the CFDA. Federal agencies that have programs that are not domestic assistance, and therefore, are not listed in the CFDA, may arrange with Grants.gov to insert an alternate number that will allow listing of the funding opportunity. Consistent with this approach, language has been added to clarify that agencies should work with Grants.gov to obtain an alternate number in situations where the CFDA does not apply.

**Linda M. Springer,**  
Controller.

## **To the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies**

*Subject:* Requirement to Post Funding Opportunity Announcement Synopses at Grants.gov and Related Data Elements/Format.

*1. Purpose.* This policy directive establishes a government-wide requirement for Federal agencies to electronically post synopses of announcements of funding opportunities under financial assistance programs that award discretionary grants and cooperative agreements, using a standard set of data elements. The purpose of the synopsis is to provide potential applicants (1) enough information about the funding opportunity to decide whether they are interested in viewing the full