

SYSTEM INTEGRATOR TRANSITION COMPLETE - ANTEON ON BOARD

The operation of the Grants.gov system has been fully transitioned to the new System Integrator contractor! The new System Integrator, Anteon Corporation, and Grants.gov are moving forward with an aggressive program to upgrade functionalities to better meet the needs of the grant community.

The Grants.gov PMO has enjoyed working with the previous System Integrator contractor, Northrop Grumman, and together they were able to lay down a solid foundation for the Grants.gov operational system. Terry Nicolosi, Acting Program Manager, explains, "Our combined focus has consistently been on the user on both the front end and the back end of Grants.gov. The new System Integrator clearly understands this and we look forward to continuing our user-community focus in working with Anteon."

The next phase of the system integration work will be the deployment of the 2007 System Solution which will build on the successes of the existing system by conserving healthy components and leveraging existing infrastructure while seizing opportunities for improvement. It will include the deployment of an Adobe-based system by Anteon that is scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2007. Development and much of the focus will be to achieve significant improvements in search performance by eliminating the load on the database for full-text searching and by employing high quality Google appliances to enhance the user experience with dramatically reduced search time. Improved search capability is only one of many exciting opportunities on the horizon under the new System Integrator. Other improvements include increased throughput at peak times, a reduction in processing bottlenecks and the achievement of true platform independence. The intention is to maintain a familiar interface while adding enhancements, like spellchecking with suggestions for misspelled words, and the power to cache at least 50,000 grant opportunities.

MANAGING PARTNER



*Fulfilling the President's
Management Agenda*

A Joint Application Design (JAD) team, consisting of 20 representatives from the end user community, will be a built-in part of the 2007 System Solution. The Grants.gov PMO has worked with the Federal Demonstration Partnership and Council on Government Relations in recruiting representatives for the JAD from the research community as

well as the National Grants Partnership for nominations from the grantee community of state and local, not for profit and from the Grants Executive Board (GEB) for other applicant community representatives. Grants.gov is seeking the involvement of end-user representatives for their feedback.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Because South Dakotans expect an especially high degree of service from their elected officials, Senator Johnson works hard to seek out any and all Federal funding sources that may help to meet the needs and priorities of his constituents. In the time I have assisted the Senator with this task, I have found Grants.gov to be a truly indispensable tool."

- Matt Varilek, Economic Development Director,
Office of Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD)

GRANTS.GOV FISCAL YEAR '06 HIGHLIGHTS

Based on the FY06 year-end statistical assessment of Grants.gov usage and performance, the program is rapidly growing in acceptance and usefulness to both grant-making agencies and applicants. Agencies continued to post 100% of their discretionary funding opportunities on Grants.gov and statistical results reveal that Grants.gov is moving from being a new concept to being widely accepted as a mainstream tool.

80% of the 26 grant-making agencies succeeded in meeting the goal set for them by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of posting an application package for at least 75% of the synopses posted in FY06. Ten agencies exceeded this goal by achieving 100%. As of September 30, 2006, 2,821 synopses were posted on the website, with 2,117 of those having a matching application posted.

Utilization grew tremendously during FY06, with over 52,000 Authorized Organization Representatives currently registered with Grants.gov vs. less than 18,000 at the end of FY05. An average of 1.3 million email notifications are sent weekly, and the number of received submissions far exceeded the FY06 goal of receiving 45,000 submissions, hitting 90,045 on September 30, 2006. In fact, the number of submissions increased by 400% in FY06.

GET CONNECTED

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<http://www.grants.gov/resources/subscribe.jsp>

RECENT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

FEMA Grants Training in Washington, DC on October 18, 2006: 100 participants

Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute with Senator Carl Levin (MI) in Detroit, MI on October 19, 2006

Grants.gov Stakeholder Meeting on October 25, 2006: Some 112 attendees participated in discussions of Grants.gov highlights of 2006 and had an advance look at planned 2007 business process improvements, as well as meeting the new Grants.gov System Integrator Team.

Indian Health Service Regional Conference in Minneapolis, MN on October 26, 2006: 50 attendees

National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) in Washington, DC on November 6-7, 2006: 1,500 attendees

FY07 WILL BE AN EXCITING YEAR FOR GRANTS.GOV!

GRANTS.GOV FY07 MISSION

- Establish and strengthen grant community communications with Grants.gov
- Grants.gov system conversion, development and deployment
- Data standardization, conversion, development and clearance of forms with OMB, GEB and the Grants Policy Committee (GPC)
- Maintain systems operations and maintenance
- Enhance Grants.gov program operations through standard operating procedures, communication management, earned value management and return on investment and productive communications with grant community

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS AND STAFF CHANGES

The position of HHS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grants has been accepted by Terry Hurst, a familiar name to some as the Program Management Office Director for the Unified Financial Management System (UFMS).

We are pleased to announce new additions to the PMO team and, as always, we say goodbye with thanks to those team members who are departing. Terry Nicolosi has been reassigned as the Acting Program Manager to take the place of John Etcheverry, who has accepted the position of HHS Director of Grants Systems Modernization.

Christopher Zeleznik, Management Analyst Officer, will be taking

over the role of Operations Lead for the PMO from Terry Nicolosi. Mr. Zeleznik came on board from the Transportation Security Administration, where he was Lead Contracting Officer for IT acquisitions, and is currently leading the activities of the SI contracts.

Michael Pellegrino, Management Analyst Officer, is joining the PMO from the Defense Logistics Agency, where he was a Management Program Analyst. Leveraging his experience with Customer Relationship Management, Mr. Pellegrino is managing the Contact Center and the Outreach team.

Federal agencies continue to support Grants.gov by providing highly qualified staff on temporary details to Grants.gov. The PMO is very pleased that Jennifer Flach will stay on with Grants.gov as her two-month detail from NIH has been extended until the end of the calendar year. Ms. Flach has served as Technical Development Manager/System-to-System Coordinator for Electronic Grant Application Submission (eSubmission) at NIH and is helping to develop a more structured change control process at Grants.gov.

MACINTOSH VIEWER UPDATE

IBM has made available a pre-release version of their IBM Workplace Forms Viewer for the Macintosh. The software is available on the Grants.gov "Download Software" page at www.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp.

CONTACT CENTER UPDATE

Help has arrived – and the numbers prove it! During FY06 Grants.gov users found a Contact Center with friendly, knowledgeable staff who took more calls and emails and provided more answers and solutions than ever before.

- Number of calls FY06: 104,307
- Number of emails FY06: 43,508

Throughout a year of strong partnership between the Contact Center and Grants.gov, we learned a great deal – such as how call volume can be expected to surge as a result of numerous closings on a single day – and these lessons will help us to staff and plan for even better service in FY07.

QUICK TIP!

Do you have to scroll left to right to view the quick links on the right hand side of the website? If so, please visit our FAQ's at http://www.grants.gov/help/general_faqs.jsp for directions on how to change your screen resolution settings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connect with Grants.gov at the following upcoming events:

- 1/17/07 Grants.gov Stakeholder Meeting via WEBCAST (Information Forthcoming)