



Arizona Department of Administration Office of Grants and Federal Resources News Bulletin

January 2019

As partial federal government shutdown continues, grant program managers are advised to be observant

Grants professionals must take preventive steps to ensure grants funds remain available

With only five of 12 appropriations bills enacted for FY 2019, the continuing resolution (CR) that funded the remainder of federal government functions expired on December 21, 2018. The affected spending bills include funding for: Interior and the Environment; Financial Services/General Government; Transportation/ HUD; Agriculture; Homeland Security; Commerce/Justice/Science; and State/Foreign Operations. The newly elected 116th Congress was sworn into office on January 3; however, Congress has not jointly passed appropriations legislation to fund the remaining government functions at this time.

Because so many state agencies receive federal funding, the Office of Grants and Federal Resources (GFR) developed and distributed a [one-page helpful hints guidance](#) document to assist grants program managers with navigating their responsibilities during the shutdown. Some of the key points include:

- Maintain communications with your funding agency liaison, including reviewing their agency's website for any updates or changes to their status quo as these are changing daily.
- Fulfill all grant management and compliance requirements as scheduled, such as filing progress and financial reports on time.
- Do not initiate any activity that requires human interaction, such as requesting a budget modifications or grant adjustment notices.
- Check the operational status of the federal grant payment processing systems. Some may accept drawdown requests but are not staffed to process the requests; therefore, drawdowns may not be completed.

GFR has not heard yet from our grants management community regarding specific difficulties during the partial government shutdown. GFR, along with the General Accounting Office, (GAO) hosted a webinar on the topic of a federal government shutdown and the impact on grant-funded programs and state finance in January 2018; the webinar is [archived on the GFR website](#).

Other Related Information and Resources:

Grants.gov: During the lapse in federal appropriations, the Grants.gov system remains in an operational status. Additionally, the Grants.gov Support Center remains available to provide assistance to applicants.

White House Office of Management and Budget: Agency contingency plans are posted on an [OMB clearinghouse web page](#). OMB has posted a document covering frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)) [regarding the lapse in federal appropriations](#).

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President Trump signs the OPEN Government Data Act

On January 14, President Trump signed the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking (FEBP) Act. Title II of the legislation is entitled the [Open, Public, Electronic and Necessary \(OPEN\) Government Data Act](#), which requires government data assets made available by federal agencies to be published as machine-readable data. When not otherwise prohibited by law, and to the extent practicable, the data must be available: (1) in an open format that does not impede use or reuse and that has standards maintained by a standards organization; and (2) under open licenses with a legal guarantee that the data be available at no cost to the public with no restrictions on copying, publication, distribution, transmittal, citing, or adaptation. Some government agencies are exempt, including the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Federal Election Commission, and others.

The OPEN Government Data Act renames the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Electronic Government as the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer. OMB is charged with developing an online repository of tools, best practices, and schema standards to facilitate the adoption of open data practices in collaboration with the Office of Government Information Services and the GSA.

New eCivis SRM financial reporting functionality now available

GFR staff continues to work with eCivis to bring enhanced functionality to the Subrecipient Manager (SRM)

eCivis SRM had a scheduled new feature roll-out over the holiday weekend. These updates provide some key enhancements for agencies (acting as the grantor) that actively work with subrecipients. These new elements support Financial Reporting, Reimbursement Requests, Financial Dashboards and a more robust Project Closeout process. The build-out of these financial reporting features will allow grant program managers to collect subrecipient data in a format that will facilitate individual and program-level analysis. Once complete, all SRM reporting functionalities will allow for this type of data analysis, which will provide grant program managers with the tools for easier compliance monitoring of their subrecipients.

The eCivis Subrecipient Manager (SRM) deployment schedule is currently underway and on track. The detailed schedule was described as a series of roll-outs in the [November issue of the GFR News Bulletin](#).

Please reach out to the GFR team if there are any questions regarding the new features: Anna Haney, Anna.Haney@azdoa.gov or Dean Johnson, Dean.Johnson@azdoa.gov.

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