

Basic Financial Assistance Management Course



FY2017 Workbook

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Basic Financial Assistance Management Course

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Servicewide Training Program
1st Quarter FY2017

DAY ONE

MORNING SESSION

8:30 a.m. Welcome/Introductions/Getting Acquainted
Review Agenda
Course Goals and Objectives

MORNING BREAK

MORNING SESSION (continued)

Using iPads in Class
Introduction to Grants and Cooperative Agreements

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION

Introduction to Grants and Cooperative Agreements (continued)

AFTERNOON BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION (continued)

Award Management Process
Review Day 1/Preview Day 2/Wrap-up

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

DAY TWO

MORNING SESSION

8:00 a.m. Review Day 1/Preview Day 2
Pre-Award

MORNING BREAK

MORNING SESSION (continued)

Pre-Award (continued)

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION
Pre-Award (continued)

AFTERNOON BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION (continued)
Award

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

DAY THREE

MORNING SESSION
8:00 a.m. Review Day 2/Preview Day 3
Post-Award: Managing and Monitoring

MORNING BREAK

MORNING SESSION (continued)
Post-Award: Managing and Monitoring (continued)

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION
Post-Award: Reporting Requirements

AFTERNOON BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION (continued)
Closeout
Post-Closeout: Ongoing Responsibilities
Course evaluations

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Objectives:

1. Understand the goals and purpose of the Servicewide financial assistance training program and the BFA.
2. Review FWS financial assistance training policy requirements.

Handouts:

- BFA 2-1 – 515 FW 1 Responsibilities for Grants and Cooperative Agreements
- BFA 2-2 – Servicewide FA Delegation of Responsibility Org Chart
- BFA 2-3 – Financial Assistance Resources
- BFA 2-4 – Financial Assistance Business Process Health Metrics

Goals and Purpose

The goal of the FWS Servicewide Financial Assistance Training Program is to provide a systematic and ongoing national training program to develop basic and specialized award management knowledge and skills that result in the consistent and sensible application of regulations, processes, and decisions for financial assistance awards.

The purpose of the Basic Financial Assistance Management Course is to provide a fundamental knowledge of Federal requirements in submitting, reviewing, approving, managing, and auditing FWS financial assistance awards.

The FWS “FA Health Metrics” monitors critical areas of compliance by FWS programs issuing FA awards. See Handout 2-4.

[Mention 2009 DOI Review of USFWS Contracting and Financial Assistance Processes as the genesis of the BFA.](#)

Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to

- Describe the organization and functions of the four Financial Assistance branches supporting FWS (Policy, Systems, Compliance, and Training).
 - Describe the award process.
 - Describe the award management roles and responsibilities of FWS and its partners.
 - Use appropriate financial assistance guidance and other information resources.
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Learning Points

- ✓ The goal of the FWS Financial Assistance Training Program is to build a knowledgeable and effective workforce to meet the increasing responsibilities involved in managing its financial assistance programs.
- ✓ The purpose of the Basic Financial Assistance Course is to work towards the FWS FA goal by providing initial training and resources for all personnel involved in managing grants and cooperative agreements.
- ✓ Service policy mandates that FWS personnel working with grant and cooperative agreement awards successfully complete the Basic Financial Assistance Course.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance

Part 515 Financial Assistance Management

Chapter 1 Responsibilities for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

515 FW 1

1.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This chapter describes the responsibilities of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) officials for grant and cooperative agreement administration, policy, oversight, systems, and training.

1.2 What is the scope of this chapter? This chapter applies to all Service employees who work with grants and cooperative agreements.

1.3 What are the authorities for this chapter?

A. 505 DM 1 and 2, Grants Administration – Policy Development and Management, and Procurement Contracts, Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

B. 507 DM 1 and 2, Program Information and Data – Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, and Federal Assistance Communication Requirements.

1.4 What are the overall responsibilities for managing grants and cooperative agreements? See Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 Overall Responsibilities for Managing Grants and Cooperative Agreements	
These employees...	Are responsible for...
A. The Director	<p>(1) Making sure that Service staff comply with Federal laws and Department of the Interior (Department) policies for managing grants and cooperative agreements;</p> <p>(2) Making sure that we have national policy and guidance for managing grants and cooperative agreements;</p> <p>(3) Providing the Department with reasonable assurance on an annual basis that the Service has developed and implemented processes to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Prevent or promptly detect unauthorized use or disposition of assets, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) Implement and monitor corrective actions when we identify compliance or systemic weaknesses; and</p> <p>(4) Ensuring programs respond to audits and reviews in a timely manner.</p>
B. The Deputy Director, Operations	Ensuring that Headquarters and Regional staff resolve any audit or review findings related to grants and cooperative agreements.
C. The Assistant Director – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (AD-WSFR)	<p>(1) Managing the national policy formulation and oversight, systems, and training for grants and cooperative agreements; and</p> <p>(2) Providing administrative and financial support of grant and cooperative agreement awards for Headquarters programs, except for the Migratory Birds and International Affairs programs.</p>
D. Other Directorate Members	<p>(1) Carrying out Servicewide policy and guidance for grants and cooperative agreements;</p> <p>(2) Making sure their employees are aware of and follow grants and cooperative agreements policies and procedures;</p>

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance

Part 515 Financial Assistance Management

Chapter 1 Responsibilities for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

515 FW 1

Table 1-1 Overall Responsibilities for Managing Grants and Cooperative Agreements	
These employees...	Are responsible for...
	<p>(3) Making sure employees who manage grants and cooperative agreements receive the required training;</p> <p>(4) Providing support to the AD-WSFR for audits and reviews, and managing the resolution of any findings related to their programs and Regions;</p> <p>(5) Providing annually to the AD-WSFR a list of staff responsible for grants and cooperative agreements as requested, so that the AD-WSFR can provide the information to the Department and other officials; and</p> <p>(6) Working with the AD-WSFR to respond to information requests from Congress, the Department, and other Federal agencies that oversee the management of grant and cooperative agreement programs.</p>

1.5 What are the responsibilities of the offices reporting to the AD-WSFR? See Table 1-2.

Table 1-2 Responsibilities of the Offices Reporting to the AD-WSFR	
Staff in this office...	Are responsible for...
A. Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM)	<p>(1) Communicating grant and cooperative agreement issues and concerns to the AD-WSFR;</p> <p>(2) Reviewing, processing, and approving grants and cooperative agreements for Headquarters programs, except for the Migratory Birds and International Affairs programs;</p> <p>(3) Developing training strategies, approaches, and materials for grant and cooperative agreement topics that have an impact Servicewide; and</p> <p>(4) Delivering national training on grants and cooperative agreements.</p>
B. Branch of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO)	<p>(1) Serving as the Financial Assistance Communications Liaison with the Department;</p> <p>(2) Developing national policy and guidance;</p> <p>(3) Overseeing program compliance with Federal administrative, financial, and systems requirements;</p> <p>(4) Responding to Departmental data and policy review requests;</p> <p>(5) Conducting internal control and other reviews of grants and cooperative agreements that support the Director's annual assurance statement to the Department;</p> <p>(6) Assisting programs with the resolution of programmatic findings from audits and reviews;</p> <p>(7) Coordinating the corrective action plans programs develop for findings related to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 Single Audits, Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigations, and the</p>

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance

Part 515 Financial Assistance Management

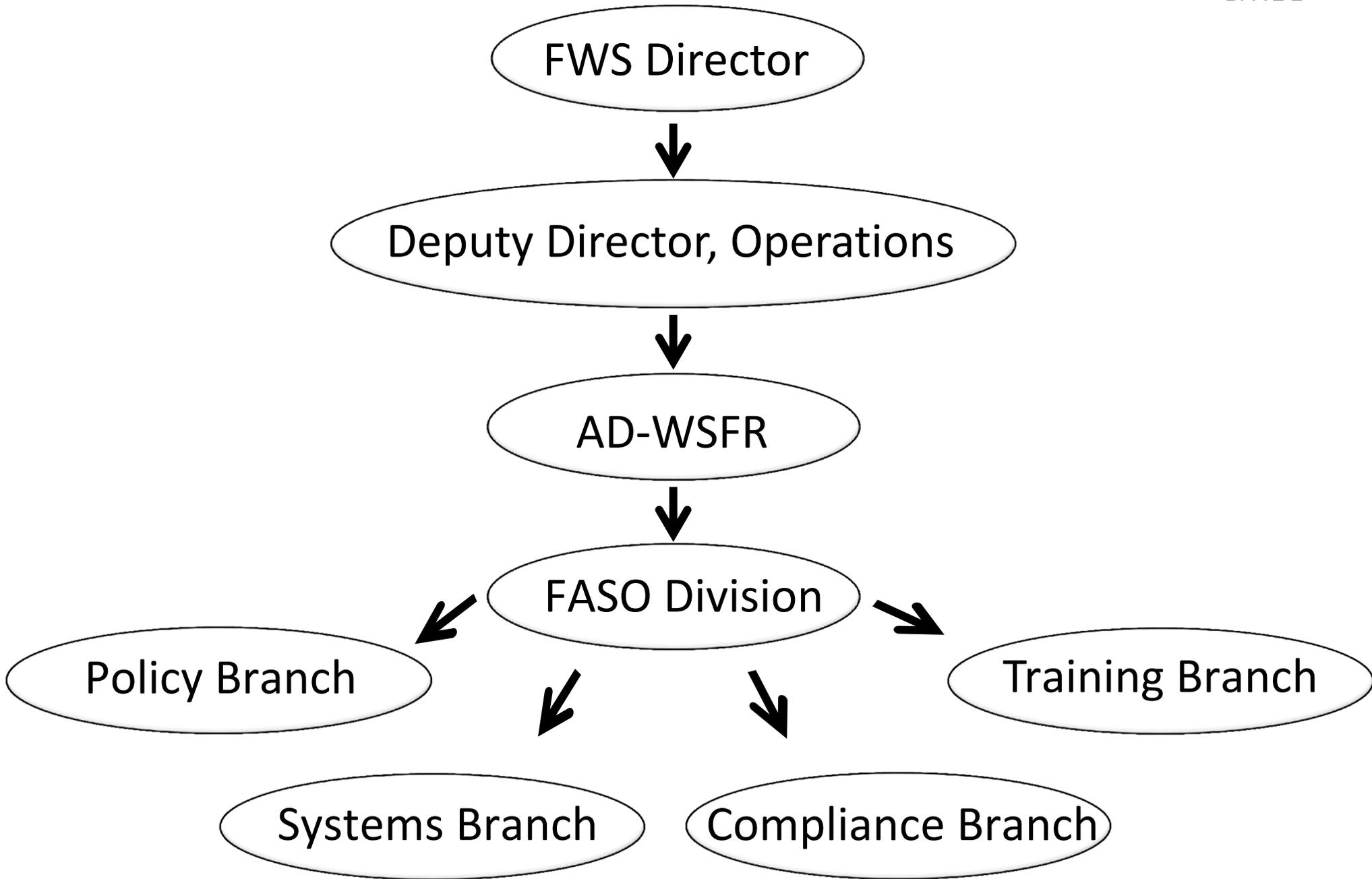
Chapter 1 Responsibilities for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

515 FW 1

Table 1-2 Responsibilities of the Offices Reporting to the AD-WSFR	
Staff in this office...	Are responsible for...
	<p>Department's annual financial audit;</p> <p>(8) Coordinating with programs on submission of Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) profiles and Single Audit Compliance Supplements; and</p> <p>(9) Coordinating with AIM to develop training topics, strategies, approaches, and materials related to Servicewide grant and cooperative agreement policies, procedures, and guidance.</p>
C. Branch of Financial Assistance Systems (FAS)	<p>(1) Helping users to resolve issues with the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) and the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system;</p> <p>(2) Coordinating Service system issues with Service programs, the Department's Project Management Office (PMO), the Interior Business Center (IBC), and the U.S. Treasury;</p> <p>(3) Analyzing, developing, and recommending approaches for Service programs to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of grant and cooperative agreement processes;</p> <p>(4) Analyzing plans and processes to identify, document, or develop business rules pertaining to Service, Departmental, and Federal award and reporting systems including, but not limited to, the System for Award Management (SAM), CFDA, Grants.gov, FBMS, ASAP, and the Federal Assistance Award Data System (FAADS/FAADS Plus);</p> <p>(5) Managing ASAP enrollment and waiver processes in coordination with Service programs;</p> <p>(6) Managing Service users in ASAP and Grants.gov;</p> <p>(7) Monitoring systems' reports and coordinating required system corrections with users to ensure data quality; and</p> <p>(8) Coordinating with AIM to develop training topics, strategies, approaches, and materials related to grant and cooperative agreement systems.</p>

/sgd/ Rowan W. Gould
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: February 12, 2013



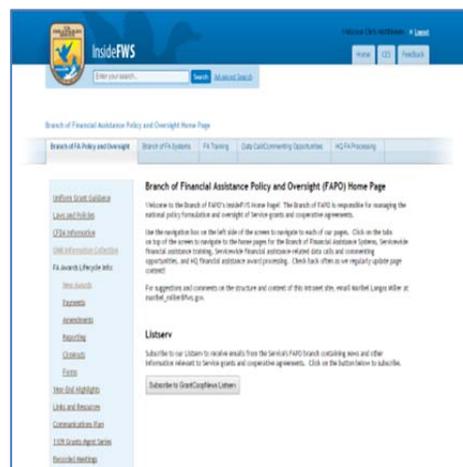
FWS Financial Assistance Resources
Updated September 29, 2016

FASO InsideFWS Webpage

<https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-news?>

Located on the FWS intranet (InsideFWS), the FAPO webpage provides information and guidance on administration of all Servicewide financial assistance (grant and cooperative agreement) programs, from statutes to FWS internal processes governing financial assistance management.

Also available from the FAPO webpage are resource pages for FAS, FA Training, Data Call Commenting, and HQ FA Processing.

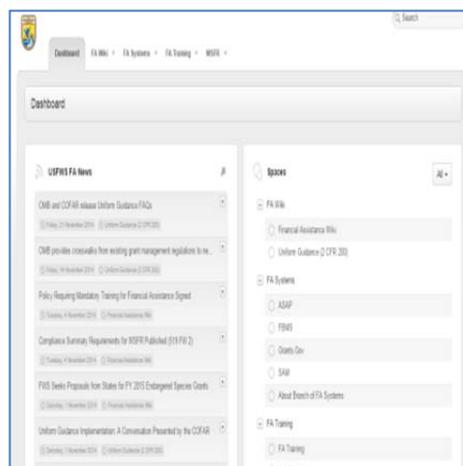


The Financial Assistance Wiki (FAWiki)

<http://fawiki.fws.gov/>

What is a Wiki? A Wiki is a website developed by many users providing content to develop a knowledgebase. In this instance, it is FWS Financial Assistance.

The FA Wiki contains FWS Financial Assistance policies, laws, rules, guidance, and best practices for grant and/or cooperative agreement management responsibilities for both federal awarding agency and non-federal entity recipients



The FWS FA Training Toolkit

<http://fawiki.fws.gov/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=4718598>

The FWS FA Toolkit is a collection of full text, searchable documents pertaining to the Service's grant and cooperative agreement programs.

The link above directs to the FA Wiki, where users may download a zip file containing the latest version of the Toolkit. Once downloaded, the Toolkit will function in any pdf reader, though Adobe provides the optimal navigation features.



FA Training News Email List

<https://www.fws.gov/lists/listinfo/fatrainingnews>

The subscription-only electronic mail list of the Service's financial assistance training program. This list is used to share information about training news and other information on grants and cooperative agreements.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "FWS Training News - FA Training News". It includes a "Sign Up" button in the top right corner. The form contains several sections with text and input fields:

- About FWS Training News:** A brief description of the email list.
- Why FWS Training News:** A section explaining the benefits of the list.
- Subscription Information:** Fields for "First name", "Last name", "Email address", and "Phone number".
- Consent:** A checkbox for "I agree to receive this email list" and a "Submit" button.
- Footer:** Contact information for the FWS Training News team.

FWS Grants Webpage

<http://www.fws.gov/grants/>

The USFWS Grants webpage provides information related to Service financial assistance programs, current and archived award terms and conditions, and key resource links for both Service staff and the public.

The screenshot shows the "U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Financial Assistance" webpage. The header includes the USFWS logo and the tagline "Conserving the Nature of America". Below the header is a search bar and navigation tabs for "Home", "Award Terms and Conditions", "Programs", and "Resources". The main content area contains text about the Service's financial assistance programs, contact information for inquiries, and a disclaimer. The footer includes a "Last updated: February 20, 2015" date and a list of links for "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Home Page", "Department of the Interior", "USA.gov", "About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service", "Accessibility", "Privacy", "Notices", "Disclaimer", and "FOIA".

Grants.gov 'Learn Grants' Portal

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html>

The Grants.gov 'Learn Grants' portal provides information on a range of topics related to financial assistance.

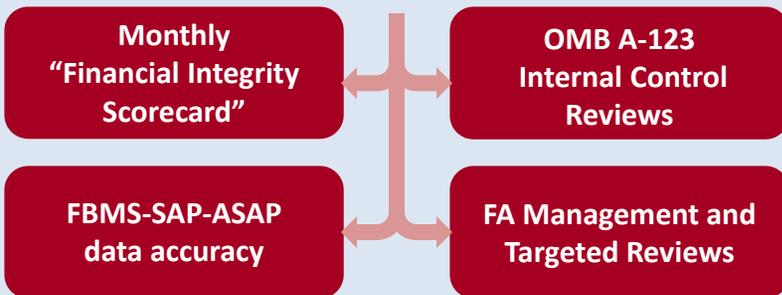
The screenshot shows the "Grants.gov 'Learn Grants' Portal". The header includes the "GRANTS.GOV" logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with tabs for "HOME", "LEARN GRANTS", "SEARCH", "APPLICANTS", "SEARCHERS", "SYSTEMS/OPERATOR", "TOOLS", "OUTREACH", and "SUPPORT". The main content area features a large graphic with the text "System Family Applicant Fees Apply Track Grant Opportunities" and a "LEARN GRANTS" heading. Below this are several sections with icons and text:

- Grants 101:** A section for new users.
- Rules & Legislation:** A section for legal information.
- Are You Eligible?:** A section for eligibility requirements.
- Grant Terminology:** A section for key terms.
- Who Gives Grants?:** A section for funding sources.
- Community Central:** A section for community resources.
- Grant Systems:** A section for system information.
- Fraud Funding:** A section for fraud prevention.
- Reporting & Oversight:** A section for reporting requirements.
- Fraud & Abuse:** A section for fraud and abuse reporting.

FWS Financial Assistance Health Metrics

FASO Division Monitoring Activities:

- ✓ Increase administrative compliance
- ✓ Improve data quality to external systems
- ✓ Provide a tool for FA operations management
- ✓ Improve FWS ratings in DOI monitoring metrics



ASAP-SAP Reconciliation

Timely and accurate synchronization of data between FBMS SAP and ASAP.



Payment Method

Proper method of payment for recipients established prior to award obligation.



FAADS Data Issues

Complete and accurate reporting of awards and modifications to USASpending.gov and FSRs.gov.



SAP-PRISM Out of Sync

Agreement of obligations and de-obligations of award lines between SAP and PRISM.



Milestone Plan Monitoring

A milestone plan established for each award in PRISM.



SAM Registration Compliance

Confirm SAM registration for applicants and monitor throughout life of the award.



Timely Award Closeout

Close of awards within one year of POP end date.



Get the data at:

<https://sites.google.com/a/fws.gov/service-financial-assistance-health-metrics/home>



Objectives:

1. Identify the proper award instrument.
2. Review new Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200).

Handouts:

- BFA 3-1 – Selection of Funding Instrument Decision Diagram (Attachment 3).



Exercise: Choosing the Correct Award Instrument

The first step when a Federal agency decides to fund an activity is to determine the appropriate award instrument.

The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity must decide on the appropriate instrument for the Federal award (i.e., grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract) in accordance with the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (31 U.S.C. 6301-08).

2 CFR 200.201(a)

Please answer the following questions, using **505 DM 2** and the **New Award Guidance**. Cite your references.

1. According to the New Award Guidance, what are two funding tools used by FWS program offices?

[Acquisition/contract, financial assistance, FAPO Step 1A \(p.6\).](#)

2. If the appropriate funding tool is something other than Financial Assistance, the New Award Guidance instructs what course of action?

[Stop and contact the appropriate office within your region \(Contracting?\)](#)

[FAPO Step 1A \(p.6\).](#)

3. Per 505 DM 2, what are the three legal award instruments used by DOI and its bureaus? What is the principal purpose of each instrument?

[Procurement contract, grant, cooperative agreement. 505 DM 2.6 \(pp. 2-3\)..](#)

[Procurement - Acquire goods/svcs for direct benefit/use of Service.](#)

[Grant - transfer a thing of value for public purpose **authorized by law**. NO substantial involvement. Coop – Has substantial involvement.](#)

4. The New Award Guidance states that the difference between a grant agreement and a cooperative agreement is what?

[Presence or absence of substantial involvement. FAPO Step 1B \(pp. 6-7\).](#)

[NOTE: Some programs restricted to FA type based on program authority.](#)



Exercise: Choosing the Correct Award Instrument

5. True or false. According to the New Award Guidance, grants and cooperative agreements are subject to the same government-wide regulatory and policy framework.

True. FAPO Step 1B, pg. 6.

6. Read 505 DM 2.9B and give a description of Substantial Involvement. What is Substantial Involvement? What is not Substantial Involvement?

505 DM 2.9B – Relative rather than absolute. Occurs during POP of award and focuses on programmatic management and performance of work.

Not administrative oversight (2.9B(3)(b)).

Interestingly enough, 'substantial involvement' is not defined explicitly in the FGCA.

7. The New Award Guidance Who determines the appropriate Financial Assistance award instrument?

The Program Office. FAPO Step 1B (p.6). This is preliminary.. the GMO, or equivalent, makes final determination. Communicate early to avoid probs.

Substantial Involvement

Substantial Involvement occurs when the recipient and FWS participate together in the management and/or performance of the activity/project. Substantial involvement is programmatic in nature and may provide benefits that otherwise would be unavailable to the recipient.

Substantial Involvement is **NOT**:

- ✗ Preaward plan approval
- ✗ Site visits
- ✗ Reporting requirements
- ✗ Compliance oversight
- ✗ OMB administrative requirements

OMB requires that Federal awarding agencies provide detailed Substantial Involvement statements in financial assistance agreements to non-federal entity recipients:

“Each cooperative agreement should include an explicit statement of the nature, character, and extent of anticipated Federal involvement. These statements must be developed with care to avoid unnecessarily increasing Federal liability under the assistance instrument.”

-FGCAA Implementation Guidance (OMB, 1978)

Substantial Involvement is not the same as the FWS standard Federal stewardship responsibilities and should not be used solely as a means of exercising greater control over the recipient.



For Discussion

Improperly awarding a Cooperative Agreement instead of a Grant Agreement

The FWS awarded a cooperative agreement for a adaptive management project on tribal land in the Southwest. During a sample of notice of award letters, auditors reviewed this award and discovered it lacked substantial Federal involvement terms in the statement of work. It was determined that because of this the agreement would have been more appropriately funded as a grant.

What would be the correct action going forward for future awards?

Include substantial involvement details in NOA. OIG allowed USFWS to allow award to close according to established POP, stating that closing and reissuing proper award instrument not in Govt's best interest.

Defining an Award's Intended Purpose

A primary purpose of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA) of 1977 (which addresses federal agencies' proper use of procurement contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements) is to *"curb the misuse of financial assistance agreements in procurement situations."*(DOI OIG Report # W-IN-MOA-0086-2004, p.5). Federal agencies **MUST** select the correct award instrument using the criteria established in the FGCAA, based on award purpose.

The purposes of these award instruments are as follows:

- Financial Assistance awards support the recipient in its carrying out of a public purpose authorized by Federal Law.
- Procurement contract awards acquire goods or services for direct benefit to FWS.

Authorized by Public Law?

Federal agencies must have specific legal authority, authorized by legislation (often called “program”, or “statutory” authority), to enter into grant or cooperative agreements. Without this legal authority, agencies cannot award funds through financial assistance. Legal reviews by the FWS Policy Branch and the Office of the Solicitor (SOL) are readily available to assist Program Offices in making the correct determination.

Statutory authority is identified with the Program’s Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number. We’ll discuss this in Module Five.

“If grant agreements or cooperative agreements are considered, DOI must have the legal authority to provide financial assistance, because unlike procurement contracts, agencies must have express statutory authority to spend money using a grant or cooperative agreement.”

-OIG Advisory Report WR-EV-BIA-0017-2013 (July 2013)

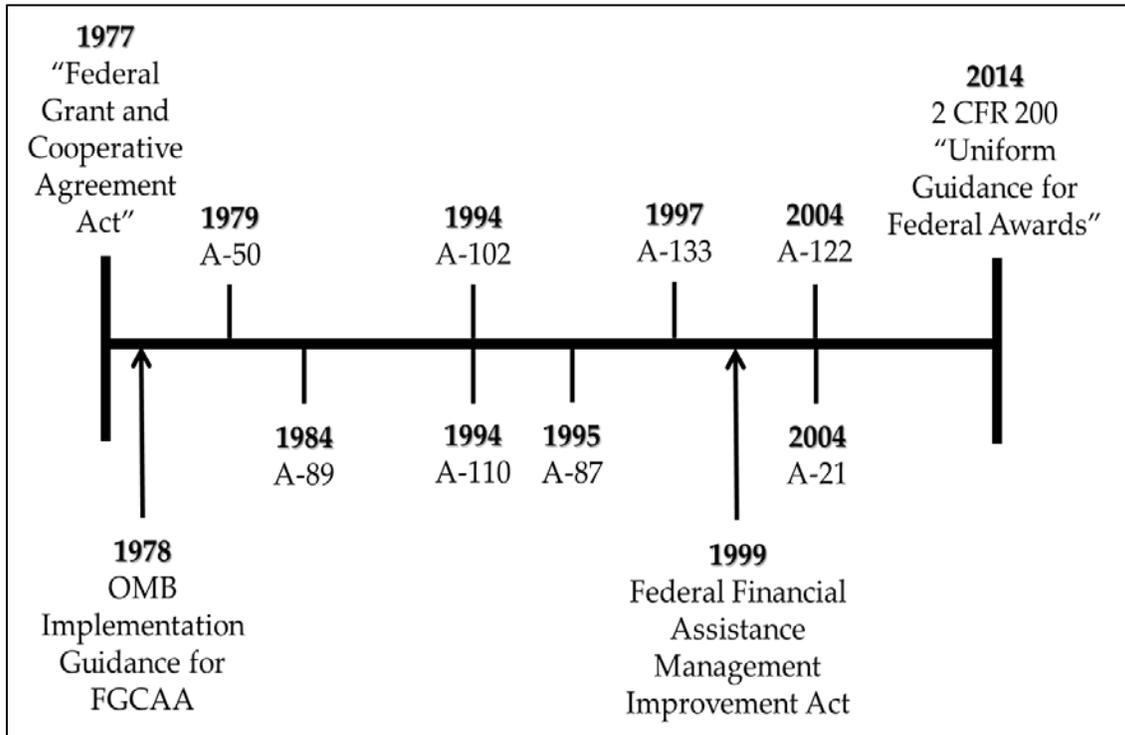
Additionally, agencies are required to cite in the Notice of Award (NOA) letter the correct legal authority used to award the grant or cooperative agreement.

LCC audit found one LCC consistently citing the FGCAA, which has no grant making authority. Additionally, 505 DM 2 specifically states that Act has no legal authority to award financial assistance. Another LCC cited the LWCF, which also has no grant-making authority.



2 CFR 200 – Building a Better Regulation

2 CFR 200, finalized on December 26, 2014, is the Federal government's common (or, 'cross-cutting') regulation for Federal financial assistance awards. Previously known as the Super-Circular or Omni-Circular, and now as the **Uniform Guidance**, this rule incorporates eight superseded OMB Circulars (A-102, A-110, A-21, A-87, A-122, A-133, A-50, A-89) which individually addressed administration, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awarding agencies and their non-federal award recipients.



The Uniform Guidance represents the Federal government's most comprehensive effort to-date in establishing a more consistent regulation for all participants (Federal and non-federal) of Federal financial assistance programs.



Exercise: Administrative Regulations

Using **2 CFR 200**, please answer questions 1 through 9.

1. The Uniform Guidance is formally known as what?

[Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#)

2. Briefly describe each of the Uniform Guidance's subparts.

[Subpart A—Acronyms and Definitions; Subpart B—General Provisions; Subpart C—Pre-award; Subpart D—Post Award; Subpart E—Cost Principles; Subpart F—Audits.](#)

3. What are the sections of Subpart D?

[Standards For Financial and Program Mgmt; Property Standards; Procurement Standards; Performance and Financial Monitoring and Reporting; Sub-recipient Monitoring and Management; Record Retention and Access; Remedies for noncompliance; Closeout, Post-Close; Collection of Amts Due.](#)

4. How many Appendices are in the Uniform Guidance?

[Twelve.](#)

5. Which Appendix contains the Notice of Funding Opportunity requirements?

[Appendix I.](#)



Exercise: Administrative Regulations cont'd

6. Where in the Uniform Guidance is the definition for 'federal financial assistance'? What types of assistance are considered federal financial assistance? What types are not?

[§200.40 \(pg 37\). Grants, cooperative agreements, non-cash contributions, donations of property \(eg donated surplus property\), direct appropriations, food commodities; also, loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, insurance](#)
[Not medicare to NFEs that provide care; medicad to subrecp for care §502](#)

7. According to 200.100, can Federal awarding agencies impose upon recipients any requirements beyond the Uniform Guidance? If so, under what circumstances?

[§100\(a\)\(1\)—only with OMB approval or by authority of law, reg, or Executive Order.](#)

8. Where in the Uniform Guidance is Notice of Award requirements addressed? Are there requirements for subawards?

[§200.210. Yes, §200.331 Requirements for pass-through entities, states that award information must be passed down to sub-recipients.](#)

9. What section deals with risk assessment of financial assistance applicants? Does this section include suggested areas federal agencies should consider when assessing the risk of applicants? If so, briefly describe them.

[§205 \(pg. 69\). Yes \(§205\(c\), which lists the following: Financial stability; Quality of mgmt. systems; Performance history; Audit reports; ability to Implement federal statutes, reg, etc.](#)



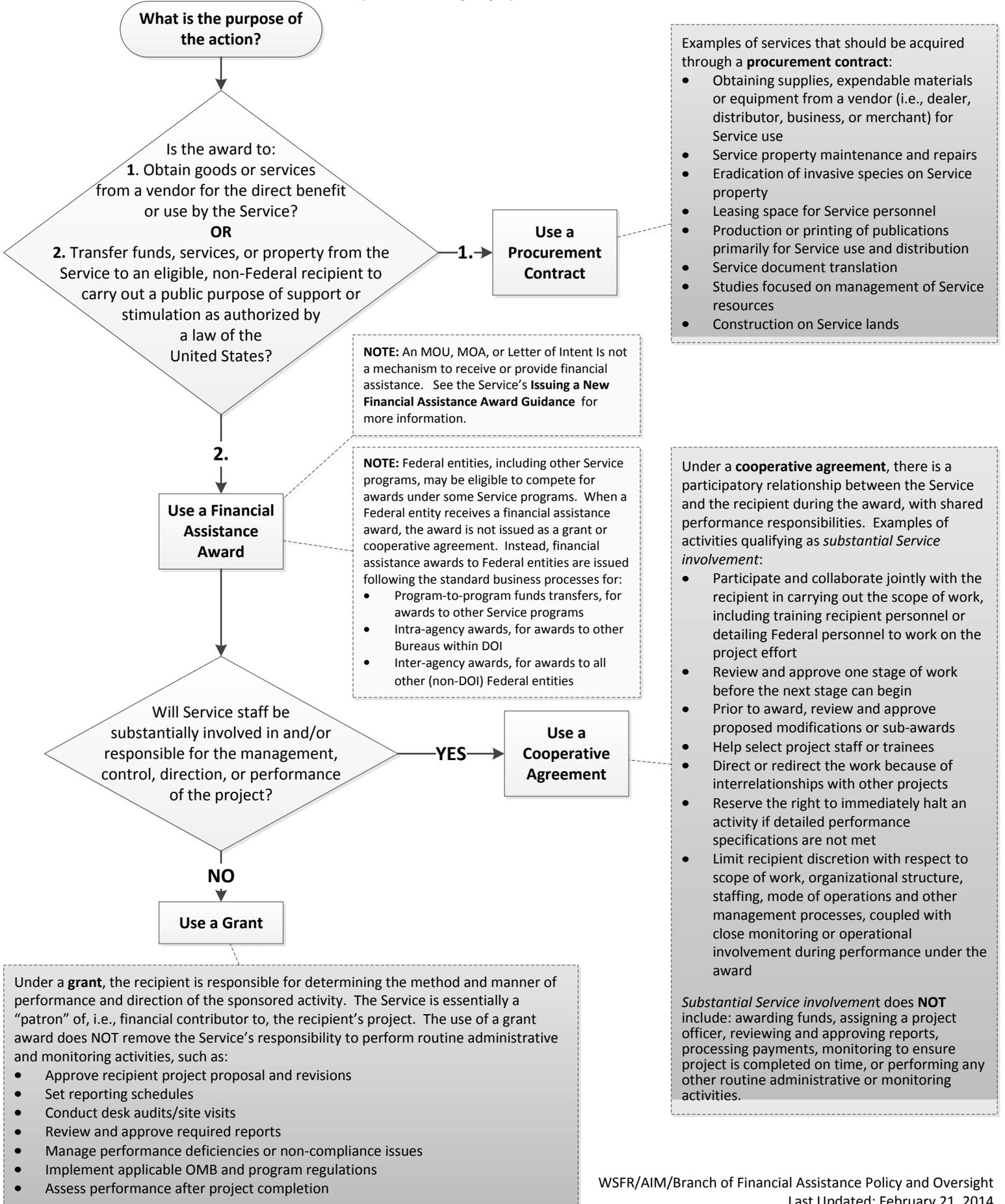
Learning Points

- ✓ Program Offices are responsible for determining and implementing the proper award instrument for their program's funding activities.
- ✓ Only Substantial Involvement differentiates grant agreements from cooperative agreements.
- ✓ Federal Agencies must have statutory authority to award money using financial assistance.
- ✓ All grants and cooperative agreements awarded after December 26, 2014 will adhere to 2 CFR 200, referred to as the Uniform Guidance.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SELECTION OF FUNDING INSTRUMENT DECISION DIAGRAM

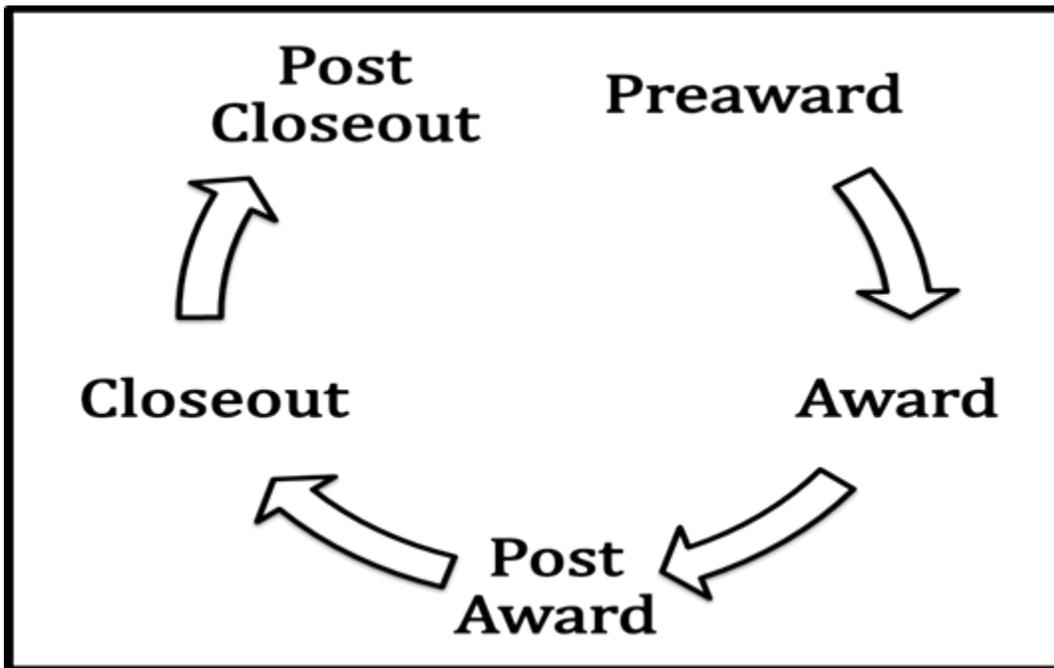
For more information, see the Service's *Issuing a New Financial Assistance Award Guidance* posted on InsideFWS at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards>



Objectives:

1. Become familiar with the Award Management Process.
2. Understand the cooperation, communication, and coordination required to support the Award Management Process.
3. Describe the roles and responsibilities in award management.

The Award Life Cycle



The Award Management Process follows the life cycle of a financial assistance award. Various activities are performed during each phase of the process.

Consider your roles and responsibilities in managing federal financial assistance awards throughout their life cycle. In addition, consider the people that you will interact and communicate with to effectively manage the award.

Award Life Cycle Phases

Pre-Award: The Program Office completes required prerequisites for the new award opportunity. The applicant develops and submits application package and addresses compliance requirements. The Program Office reviews application package and communicates with applicant to approve award.

Award: Once an award is approved, the Program Office obligates the funds and sends the official award letter to the recipient. Included in letter are the authorized award amount, terms and conditions, and start and end dates of award.

2 CFR 200 follows the Award Management Process in its content layout.

Post-Award: The recipient begins work and charges allowable costs, submits payment requests, and manages and monitors activities. Award revisions are made if needed. Interim reporting requirements will vary depending on program/award period/recipient type. Compliance concerns may arise (e.g. species found not previously known to be present or artifacts/remains discovered). The Program Office monitors recipient's progress via performance and financial reporting. If a cooperative agreement is used, the Program Office conducts joint programmatic duties as outlined in the award letter.

Close-Out: Recipient finishes the work, submits the final payment request, prepares and submits the final performance and financial reports. The Program Office receives final reports, determines status of undisbursed funds, real property, equipment and inventory, and completes award file.

Post Close-Out: Continued monitoring requirements, such as real property, equipment, subrecipients, etc., if applicable. Records maintained.



Learning Points

- ✓ The Award Management Process is a organized set of procedures to collect, evaluate, and document specific information for the award.
- ✓ The primary role/responsibility of the recipient is to initiate and implement the award.
- ✓ The Federal role is to review, approve, and monitor the award.
- ✓ The Award Management Process requires communication and cooperation to effectively and efficiently manage awards.

Grant Lifecycle Timeline

Grants.gov brings together Federal awarding agencies and applicants, helping to streamline the grant process. Read below to learn more about the roles of Grantors and Applicants in the Federal grant lifecycle.

GRANTOR		APPLICANT
Pre-Award Phase		
In the early stages of the grant process, the grant-making agency plans and develops a funding program based on its mission, the Administration, and congressional initiatives.	Planning an Opportunity	
Next, the grant-making agency formally announces the funding opportunity, advertising it to applicant communities and inviting proposals tailored to address the program mission. The grant-making agency will publish details of the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.	Announcing an Opportunity	
	Searching for Opportunities	Potential applicants will use the Grants.gov search tool to find funding opportunities that they are eligible for and are a mission match for their organization.
	Registering on Grants.gov	When potential applicants have identified an opportunity to apply for, they need to register with Grants.gov as an organization or individual. Applicants should also check the funding opportunity for additional registration requirements specified by the grant-making agency.
	Completing an Application	Completing a grant application can take weeks. The application package can be downloaded from Grants.gov in the form of a PDF, and progress can be saved as form fields are filled in. These fields require everything from basic organizational information, to explanations of proposed work and financial data. When an application package has been completed per the opportunity instructions and checked for errors, it can be submitted through Grants.gov.
When an application has been submitted, the application is retrieved by the grant-making agency and screened for compliance. If it passes initial screening, the application is routed to the appropriate agency program for consideration.	Retrieving the Application	Once an application has been retrieved by the agency from Grants.gov, the applicant is automatically notified via email. At this point, the grantor application processing begins.
	Staying in the Loop	Applicants can track the status of their application by communicating with the grant-making agency. The application status process is handled differently by each agency.
As the funding agency reviews applications, a range of program stakeholders will participate. The review process takes time and varies based on grant type. As the review process takes place, grant-making agencies may update applicants on the status of their application.	Finishing the Review Process	
Award Phase		
When the review process has been completed, the funding agency notifies the applicants whether or not they have been awarded a grant. The agency also begins working with the award recipient to finalize the legal framework for the funding agreement. Following this, the funds are disbursed.	Notifying the Award Recipient	
	Beginning the Hard Work	After an applicant receives a Notice of Award and the funds have been disbursed, they will begin their project. The award recipient is responsible for meeting the administrative, financial, and programmatic reporting requirements of the award.
Post Award Phase		
After an award has been disbursed, a grants management officer at the funding agency oversees an awardee's reporting compliance. This process extends across the life of the grant award and involves reviewing reports submitted by the awardees. Representatives from the grantor agency may perform on-site visits with the project director and implementation staff. Oversight may also occur in the form of auditing.	Providing Support and Oversight	
	Reporting Your Progress	Award recipients conduct two primary types of reporting to the funding agency on a regular basis: financial reporting and programmatic reporting. These reports provide information about the overall financial status and program performance of the grant project. Recipients must also respond to any audit requests that pertain to the grant.
As reports and financial data are passed along to the grantor agency, the program stakeholders ensure that all requirements are being met. Upon completing all the closeout requirements, including a review of the final financial and technical reports from the awardee, the grant lifecycle comes to an end.	Award Closeout	

Objectives:

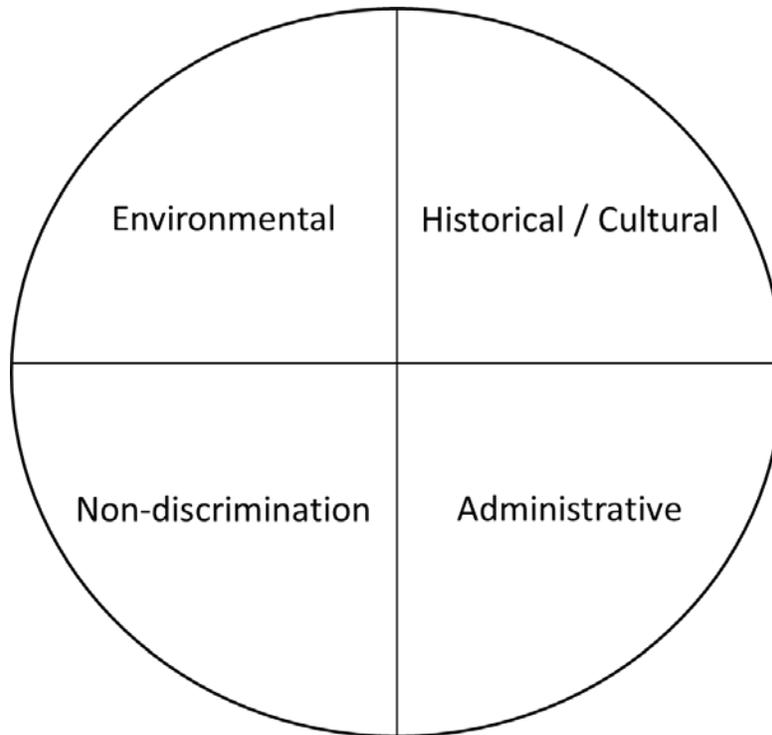
1. Review and determine Federal compliance issues and general award administrative requirements.
2. Identify and discuss specific compliance documentation requirements.
3. Explain the purposes and general requirements of the Statement of Assurances.
4. Identify and explain the purpose of the components of the award proposal package.
5. Determine reasons for compliance and other supporting documents in the proposal package.
6. Determine applicant eligibility.
7. Describe the communication / personnel involved in developing, reviewing and approving the award proposal.

Handouts:

- BFA 5-1 – OMB SF-424B Assurances (non-construction)
- BFA 5-2 – OMB SF-424D Assurances (construction)
- BFA 5-3 – New Award Checklist Form FWS 3-2460 (Attachment 4)
- BFA 5-4 – CFDA FAQs
- BFA 5-5 – 516 FW 6 Single Source Awards
- BFA 5-6 – Single Source Award Form FWS 3-2452
- BFA 5-7 – FWS “Information Collection - Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995”
- BFA 5-8 – Notice of Funding Opportunity Template (Attachment 2)
- BFA 5-9 – FWS Budget Review Guidance (Attachment 6)
- BFA 5-10 – Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements (Attachment 7)
- BFA 5-11 – 516 FW 5 DUNS and SAM Registration Requirements
- BFA 5-12 – FWS FA Risk Assessment Guidance (Attachment 9)
- BFA 5-13 – FWS FA Risk Assessment Form FWS-3-2462

Compliance

The FWS divides financial assistance compliance into four broad categories:



Program Offices **initially** address each of these categories in the Pre-award phase. Applicants acknowledge Federal compliance requirements via the SF-424B/D, which is submitted with the application package.

The Statement of Assurances

Applicants demonstrate their intent to comply with standard assurances via the SF-424B (“non-construction”) or SF-424D (“construction”) forms. By signing this form, applicants certify their willingness to follow all applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies. Federal awarding agencies use this form for general administration of Federal assistance awards.

For Discussion

Work as a group to review the Statement of Assurances. Use the Statement of Assurances forms (**SF424B, SF424D**) found in the back of **Tab 5**.

1. Read the Statement of Assurance that is assigned to your group and be prepared to give a one sentence summary.

[SF-424D "Construction". 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19.](#)

2. What is the OMB Information Clearance number for this form? Expiration date? Estimated burden for applicants?

3. Are all of these assurances applicable to FA applicants?

[Not necessarily. See "Note" at top of first page.](#)

Addressing Compliance during Pre-award

As part of the pre-award process, Programs must consider specific compliance requirements required by statute, regulation, and Executive Order.

Two compliance requirements specifically addressed by FWS, due to the nature of the majority of work our Programs fund, are environmental and historic/cultural preservation. In particular, Program Offices must consider three Federal Laws related to these requirements:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

As part of our Federal Stewardship responsibilities, Program Offices must (1) note on the FWS Form 3-2460 (see below) that they have considered NEPA, Section 7 of the ESA, and Section 106 of the NHPA, and (2) include all relevant documentation in the official award file (or central file, as applicable).

CHECKLIST ITEM	RESPONSE
<p>11. Section 106 NHPA review: A Section 106 NHPA review was conducted. The NHPA circumstance for this award is (select from the drop down list): <input type="text"/></p> <p>All related documentation will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> centralized subject-matter file.</p>	<input type="text"/>
<p>12. NEPA review: A NEPA review was conducted. The NEPA circumstance for this award is (select from the drop down list): <input type="text"/></p> <p>All related documentation will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> centralized subject-matter file.</p>	<input type="text"/>
<p>13. Section 7 ESA review: A Section 7 ESA review was conducted. The Section 7 ESA circumstance for this award is (select from the drop down list): <input type="text"/></p> <p>All related documentation will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> centralized subject-matter file.</p>	<input type="text"/>

For Discussion

What documentation is required for a NEPA determination?

What about for Section 7 of the ESA?

Section 106 of the NHPA?

Additional Compliance Considerations

A few other award-dependent compliance considerations may include:

- Permits
 - Engineering Diagrams
 - Appraisals
 - Third party agreements
 - State Single Point of Contact
 - Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (EO 12372)
 - Lobbying
 - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
-
-
-

Identifying the CFDA Number

The Program Office must identify the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number under which the FA award is being funded. Use of non-Service numbers is prohibited.

If the proposed funding activity **does not** have a CFDA number, select the most appropriate general FWS CFDA number:

- 15.649 - Training and Technical Assistance projects
- 15.650 - Research Grants
- 15.664 - Fish and Wildlife Coordination and Assistance

How is the CFDA used?

- Single Audit
- Grants.gov
- FAADS
- USASpending.gov
- Recovery.gov

[CFDA FAQs handout, BFA 5-4](#)

Still unsure which CFDA number is applicable?

It may be necessary for a Program Office to reevaluate a proposed funding activity if no CFDA number can be identified.

Two questions to ask are:

- Will the proposed activity accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by federal statute?
- Will the primary beneficiary be the public, as opposed to the Federal Government?

If still unsure, ask the FWS Policy Branch for assistance.

If the answer to these questions is no, the Program Office should reconsider financial assistance as the intended award instrument. A procurement contract may be more appropriate.



Single Source Awards

A funding opportunity specifically awarded to an appropriate partner based on demonstrable criteria, e.g.

- Unsolicited proposal
- Continuation of activity
- Statutorily designated
- Unique Expertise
- Emergencies

Documentation of single source decisions must be included in the award file. Use **FWS Form 3-2452**.

Single Source award documentation applies only to discretionary awards; this requirement is not applicable to mandatory formula awards.

[What is region process?](#)

Considerations when making Single Source Award determinations

- Does it withstand scrutiny?
- Does it protect the public interest?
- Is it consistent with
 - Management priorities?
 - Agency objectives?
 - Statutory requirements?

Programs **must** justify issuing an award without competition (i.e. via single source), regardless of award amount.

For Discussion

Single Source Awards and the Appearance of Conflict of Interest

Audit Finding

A FWS program awarded grants to four state natural resource agencies without proper competition, and without single source justification.

Auditors discovered these four state agencies regularly partner with this FWS program and hold positions on the program’s steering committee. Members of this steering committee also have responsibility for recommending awards. This creates the appearance of a conflict of interest since the agencies represented by these steering committee members received Federal grant funds without competition and without public posting of a single-source justification. Auditor interviews indicated that the grants officer was unaware that the four agreements had been awarded without competition. These awards to State agencies, which support the agencies’ participation with the Service, should have been appropriately justified and documented as single-source awards.

FWS Response

FWS partially concurred with the recommendation. In its response, FWS indicated that in some instances, single-source awards are the only option for recipients in this program (e.g., awards to States). Therefore, FWS does not concur with the portion of the recommendation to limit the use of single-source awards.

OIG Followup Comment

OIG’s recommendation stood as written since they believed the recommendation did allow FWS discretion in the use of single-source awards: “We recognize that circumstances exist when the use of sole-source agreements is necessary; therefore we consider this recommendation resolved but not implemented.”

OMB Information Collection Clearance

Paperwork Reduction Act (5 CFR 1320)

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requires that, when a Federal agency collects information, those collections minimize duplication and burden on the public, have practical utility, and support the proper performance of the agency's mission. OMB reviews approves the collection of the following types of information from applicants and recipients:

- Application project and budget narratives and any other required documentation other than OMB approved Government-wide application forms (SF-424 “Family”);
- Program-specific application forms;
- Recipient technical , progress, and performance reporting information;
- Other program or project-specific reporting required other than the information requested on OMB approved forms such the SF-425 (Federal Financial Report), SF-429 (Real Property Status Report), SF 270 (Request for Advance or Reimbursement), and SF 271 (Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs); and
- Revisions to project and budget narratives and written requests required prior to award amendment other than the information requested on OMB approved Government-wide application forms (SF 424 Family).

See BFA 5-7 for the FAFWS FAQ on the PRA and OMB Information Clearance.

FWS Programs (by CFDA) that have current OMB Collection Clearance

15.605	15.611	15.614	15.615	15.616
15.619	15.620	15.621	15.622	15.623
15.625	15.626	15.628	15.629	15.633
15.634	15.635	15.639	15.640	15.641
15.645	15.649	15.650	15.651	15.653
15.668	15.672	15.673	15.676	

 <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/OMB-ICC> | www.reginfo.gov

Posting the Funding Opportunity

The Program Office must post a funding opportunity on Grants.gov for all discretionary programs regardless of the funding amount.

This posting must include

- a summary
- a NOFO full text, and
- an application package (to include instructions).

DOI requires its Bureaus to post new funding opportunities for a minimum of 60 calendar days (unless exempt).

Mandatory programs are not required to post funding opportunities, but may do so if desired.

[Mandatory programs may use Grants.gov to receive applications.](#)

[Allows for Grants.gov – FBMS \(PRISM\) interface.](#)

Funding Opportunity Posting Exemptions

The following exemptions exist for posting a NOFO to Grants.gov.

- Award is under \$25,000 and 100-percent of eligible applicants reside outside of the US.
 - Single source award under \$25,000.
 - Awards made under the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act.
 - An award for which there is insufficient time available (due to compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health and safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.
-
-
-



Reviewing and Approving the Application Package

Program Offices are responsible for (1) receiving, (2) reviewing, and (3) approving application packages. Included in the application package are proposal documents outlining in sufficient detail the scope of work, objectives, costs, and other required information for the proposed project(s). The FWS 'Notice of Funding Opportunity Template' (BFA 5-8) provides guidance on the required elements for financial assistance applications.

Applicants submit:

- Standard application forms (SF-424 family, or OMB-cleared alternate).
 - Program-specific requirements (per NOFO).
 - As needed:
 - Notice of conflicts of interest.
 - SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activity.
 - Indirect cost rate statement.
 - Single Audit reporting status statement.
-
-



2 CFR 200.203 | New Award Guidance Step 4.A

Program Offices review:

- Eligibility of applicant
- Merit (discretionary awards)
- Budget
- Compliance
- Legal concerns (?)
- Risk assessment

The New Award Checklist (FWS 3-2460) addresses each of these areas to assist Programs in the Preaward process.



New Award Guidance Step 4

Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility consists of two components: (1) System for Award Management review and, (2) program (NOFO) requirements.

SAM review:

- Does applicant have a current SAM registration, if applicable?

Program requirements:

- Is the applicant an eligible entity based on statutory authority and/or program plans, etc.?



SAM
Registration
Compliance



2 CFR 200.205 | New Award Guidance Step 6

Merit Review

Discretionary programs must establish a merit review and selection process that

- uses qualified reviewers to evaluate all awards,
- scores applications based on announced criteria,
- considers applicant risk and past performance,
- ranks competitive applications, and
- determines funding.

Programs must include their merit review plan in the funding announcement.

Please note: All staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must review DOI-AAAP-0008 'Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures for Financial assistance' and sign the accompanying Conflict of Interest form prior to participating in the merit review process.



2 CFR 200.204 | DOI-AAAP-0009 | New Award Guidance Step 4. B-C

Budget Review

Programs must review application budgets using the FWS 'Budget Review Guidance'.

Broadly, Programs review the following:

- Cost Principles compliance.
- Program restrictions.
- Indirect costs and pre-award cost justifications.

The FWS 'Budget Review Guidance' is Attachment 6 of the New Award Guidance.

Compliance Reviews

Programs must complete all legally required environmental and historical/cultural compliance reviews prior to award, OR before the recipient begins any potentially impactful activities under the approved award.

The common compliance reviews across the Service are NEPA, Section 7 of the ESA, and Section 106 of the NHPA, all of which are on the New Award Checklist

Single Audits

Programs are required to confirm an applicant's submission of their Single Audit report to the Single Audit Database, if applicable. This is accomplished via a dated screen print showing the applicant's information on the database website, which is included in the award file.

Applicants disclose their Single Audit status in the application.



Legal Reviews

Legal reviews are generally optional. However, in cases of high complexity, intellectual property issues, potential conflicts of interest, etc., Programs may need to seek a legal review.

See 505 DM 2.8 D-E for Department guidance on legal reviews.

Risk Assessment

According to 2 CFR 200, Federal awarding agencies must review risk posed by applicants. Risk assessments fall broadly into two categories:

1. OMB-designated data repositories.
2. Risk assessment matrix.

Federal awarding agencies use SAM to comply with the requirement to use OMB-designated data repositories when assessing applicant risk. Currently, Programs conduct SAM Exclusion reviews for every award.

For all discretionary awards, Programs must use the FWS Risk Assessment matrix.

FWS Form 3-2462 is used to document risk assessments and assists Programs in establishing monitoring priorities of recipients.

Coming soon: Programs will also have to review the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity System (FAPIIS) for awards where the federal share is expected to exceed \$150,000.



A few final pre-award tasks...

Once Programs have reviewed and selected the successful applicant(s), it's important to remember a few tasks prior to finishing the pre-award process.

1. Establish a payment method for the successful applicant(s).
2. Create a milestone plan in FBMS.
3. Establish an official award file.
4. Complete a Notice of Award (NOA) letter to be sent to the successful applicant.





Exercise: Reviewing the Application Package

Using the New Award Guidance, 516 FW 5, and NOFO Template, answer the following questions. Cite your references.

1. Which policy addresses DUNS and SAM registration? According to this policy, which FA applicants are exempt from DUNS and SAM registration? When can the DUNS and SAM requirement be waived?

[516 FW 5.](#)

[Individuals, 5.3B](#)

[Protection of info, or a foreign entity working 100% outside US, < \\$25K, 5.8.](#)

2. From the NOFO, list the required documents for an application. Are NEPA, Section 7, and Section 106 documents required as well?

[See NOFO, page 12](#)

[Normally, no. Some programs work with their applicants \(e.g. WSFR and State Fish and Wildlife Agencies.](#)

[See 2 CFR 200, App I D.2.iv.](#)

3. How does the New Award Guidance define pre-award costs? How does an applicant qualify for pre-award costs?

[“Any award-associated costs incurred prior to the award project period](#)

[start date. Demonstrate in the application that some pre-award activities](#)

[were necessary and reasonable for accomplishing the overall](#)

[Program objectives and would have been approved had they occurred](#)

[within the project period. NAG Step #4 D.2.](#)

**Exercise: Reviewing the Application Package**

4. According to the New Award Guidance, when is an applicant required to have a Single Audit? How does the applicant disclose this? What are the Service's documentation requirements?

[Domestic recipient expending \\$750K+ in federal award funds in](#)

[the recipient's fiscal year. NAG Step 4 G. \(p. 15\).](#)

[Disclosure statement in application \(p. 16\)](#)

[See pg 16 'Documentation Required' box for documentation requirements.](#)

5. Does the New Award Guidance allow review of applications from entities with active exclusions in SAM? Who must Programs check for exclusions? When must the exclusions check happen? How is it documented?

[Yes, under certain conditions. Check list on the day award is issued.](#)

[Check for exclusion specifics. NAG Step 5.B. p. 18.](#)

[SAM-waived entities \(including individuals\) and each key/principal project person\(s\) must also be checked \(NAG Step 5.B.2. pg. 19\).](#)

6. When must the payment method be established for expected recipients?

[Before releasing the award and obligating funds in FBMS.](#)

[NAG Step 7. Pg. 19.](#)

7. What is the New Award Guidance's requirement for housing centralized subject-matter files for financial assistance awards?

[Well marked, well maintained, accessible to appropriate staff, readily](#)

[available upon request for review or audit. Not all award files can be](#)

[centralized, NAG Step 14. Pg. 23.](#)



Learning Points

- ✓ Compliance requirements include administrative, environmental, historical, cultural and non-discrimination.
- ✓ The Statement of Assurances documents the recipient's acceptance of the compliance requirements listed on the assurance form.
- ✓ Compliance requirements will vary depending upon the project type.
- ✓ Unless exempt, funding opportunities must be posted to Grants.gov.
- ✓ Awards cannot be approved without submission of appropriate documents.
- ✓ Unless exempt, all applicants must have a valid DUNS number and an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM).
- ✓ FWS must verify in SAM that applicants and key personnel are not excluded from receiving Federal awards.
- ✓ Recipients expending \$750,000 or more in Federal funds in their fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. FWS must verify submission.
- ✓ If charging indirect costs the recipient must have an approved indirect cost rate from their cognizant Federal agency.
- ✓ Award file documentation must be housed in the appropriate file locations.

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION 	DATE SUBMITTED

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 01/31/2019

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

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NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant:, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION 	DATE SUBMITTED

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award

CHECKLIST ITEM

RESPONSE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>11. Section 106 NHPA review: A Section 106 NHPA review was conducted. The NHPA circumstance for this award is (select from the drop down list):
 <input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/></p> <p>All related documentation will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> centralized subject-matter file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>12. NEPA review: A NEPA review was conducted. The NEPA circumstance for this award is (select from the drop down list):
 <input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/></p> <p>All related documentation will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> centralized subject-matter file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>13. Section 7 ESA review: A Section 7 ESA review was conducted. The Section 7 ESA circumstance for this award is (select from the drop down list):
 <input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/></p> <p>All related documentation will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> centralized subject-matter file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>14. Legal review: An Office of the Solicitor review was requested. A copy of the request and any response received will be maintained in the official award file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>15. Single Audit status: The recipient's single audit status was reviewed. The entity is (select from the drop down list):
 <input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/></p> <p>For recipients who were required to submit a Single Audit in their most recently closed FY, the required Single Audit Database screen print dated prior to award will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> cen. subject-matter file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>16. Risk assessment: FWS Form 3-2462 was completed. Monitoring activities will be incorporated into the notice of award following the requirements in the Service's "Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance". The completed form will be maintained in the (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> official award file or <input type="checkbox"/> centralized subject-matter file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>17. SAM.gov registration status: The recipient's SAM.gov registration status was reviewed. The entity (select from the drop down list):
 <input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/></p> <p>As applicable to the above circumstance, the required approved SAM waiver or SAM Entity Overview screen print dated prior to award showing an "Active" registration will be maintained in the official award file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>18. SAM.gov exclusions search: A search of the SAM Exclusions database was conducted for the intended recipient and key/principal project personnel. The results were that (select from the drop down list):
 <input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/></p> <p>Dated copies of the SAM Exclusions search/review results will be maintained in the official award file.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |
| <p>19. Payment method establishment: All steps required in the "Establishing a Recipient's Payment Method Guidance" are complete.</p> | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> |

<p><i>I, as the last point of review before this award is passed to the Agreements Officer for obligation, certify that all pre-award actions and documentation that the program is required to complete are complete.</i></p>
<p>Program Representative Sign and Date</p>
<p>Printed Name of person signing</p>

<p><i>I, as the last point of review before funds are obligated, certify that all required pre-award actions and documentation are complete.</i></p>
<p>Agreements Officer Sign and Date</p>
<p>Printed Name of person signing</p>

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)?

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a government-wide compendium, managed by the General Services Administration (GSA), of Federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. The CFDA contains financial and non-financial assistance programs administered by departments and establishments of the Federal government. The primary purpose of the CFDA is to help the public obtain general information about Federal assistance programs.

What is a CFDA Number?

Based on an application process, GSA assigns each Federal assistance program a unique, 5-digit number by agency and program. The CFDA Number promotes transparency to the public of program data and funds tracking through the Federal assistance lifecycle. The CFDA Number is a required data element in a variety of government-wide financial assistance management and transparency reporting systems such as Grants.gov, Federal Assistance Award Data System (FAADS), FAADS Plus (USASpending.gov) and Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward Reporting System (FSRS.gov).

How do I find my assistance program's CFDA Number?

Many CFDA programs are established based on their authorizing legislation. Other programs are established based on their unique purpose, goals and objectives. To find your program's CFDA number, start by reviewing the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Program Profiles](#) document posted on InsideFWS at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/CFDA>. The first column of this document contains the CFDA Number for each of the Service's active CFDA programs. To view the full program posting for any of the Service's CFDA programs, go to <https://www.cfda.gov/> and search by the CFDA Number. If you have any questions about a particular CFDA program, contact your servicing office, the program point(s) of contact identified in the last column of the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Program Profiles](#) document or the Service's CFDA Coordinator.

What if I am having trouble identifying my assistance program's CFDA Number?

If you are having difficulty identifying your program's CFDA Number, please contact the Service's CFDA Coordinator for assistance. It is important that you do not randomly assign a CFDA Number to a Grants.gov Funding Opportunity or to a grant or cooperative agreement award.

What if my assistance program does not have a CFDA Number?

All Service assistance programs that have existed for longer than one year must apply to be included in the CFDA and assigned a unique CFDA Number. To obtain a CFDA Number for your financial assistance program, complete the [New CFDA Requests-Program Profile Template](#) posted on InsideFWS at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/CFDA> and submit it to the Service's CFDA Coordinator.

New/emergent financial assistance programs may use one of Service's three general CFDA Numbers, as appropriate to the type of award, until the program's unique CFDA Number is applied for and assigned. The Service's general CFDA programs are:

- 15.649 for training and technical assistance projects
- 15.650 for research projects
- 15.664 for Congressionally mandated or directed (earmarked) awards

Once my assistance program obtains a CFDA Number, how do we keep program information current on www.cfda.gov?

All CFDA Program profiles must be updated annually. Each year, typically in early December, the Service's CFDA Coordinator will issue a data call for CFDA Program profile updates under the Director's signature. The request will be accompanied by a profile update template and detailed instructions on how to complete the template. Annual CFDA updates are typically due to the Service's CFDA Coordinator between January and early February. Bureau annual CFDA updates are due to the Department on March 1st. Contact the Service's CFDA Coordinator with any questions on annual updates.

What if my CFDA program is not expected to receive any new funding?

CFDA programs that do not receive any new funding should be archived (deactivated) once all open awards associated with the CFDA are closed. CFDA programs become archived (deactivated) in two ways:

1. When the CFDA program contact requests that the program be archived, or
2. When a complete annual update is not submitted for the CFDA in a given year.

Although, CFDA programs may be archived by request at any time, by sending an e-mail request to the Service CFDA Coordinator, we recommend archive requests be submitted during the open period for updates, February through September 30.

Can an archived CFDA program be reactivated?

Yes. Archived CFDA programs can be reactivated at the program's request anytime. To request the reactivation of an archived CFDA, complete the [New CFDA Requests-Program Profile Template](#) posted on InsideFWS at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/CFDA> and submit it to the Service's CFDA Coordinator along with a justification on why the CFDA needs to be reactivated.

What if my office does not have a formal financial assistance program but does occasionally award non-competitive (single source) grants and/or cooperative agreements?

Programs issuing non-competitive (single source) awards should use one of the Service's three general CFDA Numbers, as appropriate to the type of award. The Service's general CFDA programs are:

- 15.649 for training and technical assistance projects
- 15.650 for research projects
- 15.664 for Congressionally mandated or directed (earmarked) awards

If the Service general CFDA programs do not address your non-competitive (single source) award, please contact the Service's CFDA Coordinator.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 6 Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition 516 FW 6

6.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This policy provides the information necessary for employees working with grant and cooperative agreement awards to justify and document issuing discretionary awards without engaging in competition (i.e., single source awards) in accordance with Department of the Interior (Department) policy.

6.2 What are the objective and scope of this chapter?

A. Objective: Our objective is for employees who administer and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards to be aware of and follow the documentation and public notice requirements for issuing discretionary awards without engaging in competition (i.e., single source awards).

B. Scope: This chapter:

(1) Covers all Service programs that administer and manage discretionary grant and cooperative agreement awards. A discretionary award is a grant or cooperative agreement for which we may:

- (a)** Select the award recipient from among all eligible applicants,
- (b)** Decide to make or not to make an award based on the content of an application, and
- (c)** Decide the amount of funding to be awarded.

(2) Does not apply to awards made under mandatory programs. Under a mandatory program, the authorizing statute requires us to make an award to each eligible entity under the conditions and in the amount or based on the formula specified in the statute. Table 6-1 lists the Service's mandatory programs by Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number.

CFDA Number	Program Title	Award Type
15.605	Sport Fish Restoration Program	Formula Grants
15.611	Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education	Formula Grants
15.625	Wildlife Conservation and Restoration	Formula Grants
15.626	Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety Program	Formula Grants
15.634	State Wildlife Grants (this program also has a discretionary portion, to which this policy applies)	Formula Grants
15.659	National Wildlife Refuge Fund (Refuge Revenue Sharing)	Direct Payments with Unrestricted Use
15.663	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Project Grants
15.668	Coastal Impact Assistance Program	Formula Grants

6.3 What is a single source award? A single source award is a discretionary award we give to a known entity without engaging in competition because it is appropriate based on the entity or the project meeting at least one of the criteria in Table 6-3.

6.4 What is the Service's policy on single source awards? In general, we must give members of the public who meet the eligibility requirements the opportunity to compete for discretionary awards. We may issue single source awards only when at least one of the criteria in Table 6-3 is met.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 6 Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition 516 FW 6

6.5 What are the authorities for this chapter?

- A. 505 Departmental Manual (DM) 2, Procurement Contracts, Grant and Cooperative Agreements.
- B. Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C .552a).

6.6 Who is responsible for decisions related to issuing single source awards? See Table 6-2.

Table 6-2: Responsibilities for Single Source Awards	
These employees . . .	Are responsible for . . .
A. The Director	Making sure the Service has effective policy in place for issuing discretionary grants and cooperative agreements without competition.
B. The Assistant Director – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (AD - WSFR), through the Division of Administration and Information Management, Branch of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO)	(1) Developing policy to maximize transparency when issuing discretionary grants and cooperative agreements without competition, and (2) Overseeing Service implementation of the policy.
C. Directorate members in Headquarters and the Regions	(1) Making sure the programs for which they are responsible consistently follow the requirements in this policy, and (2) Requesting a Solicitor’s review when necessary because of complexity, novelty, intellectual property issues, potential conflicts of interest, or other such concerns.

6.7 What criteria must programs use to determine if they can make a single source award?

A. We must encourage competition when making grant and cooperative agreement awards, but we may issue single source awards when at least one of the criteria in Table 6-3 is met (also see 505 DM 2):

Table 6-3: Criteria for Issuing a Single Source Award (from 505 DM 2)	
Criterion	Description
Unsolicited proposal	The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application that represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach that is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but is found to be advantageous to the program objectives.
Continuation	The activity to be funded is necessary for the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity presently being funded, and holding a competition would have a significant adverse effect on continuing or completing the activity.
Legislative intent	The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates the intent of Congress to restrict award to a particular recipient or purpose.
Unique qualifications	The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based on a variety of demonstrable factors such as location; property ownership; voluntary support capacity; cost-sharing ability, if applicable; technical expertise; or other such unique qualifications.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 6 Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition 516 FW 6

Table 6-3: Criteria for Issuing a Single Source Award (from 505 DM 2)

Criterion	Description
Emergencies	Because of a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety, there is not enough time to follow adequate competitive procedures.

B. Decisions to award discretionary funds to a single source without engaging in competition:

- (1) Must withstand scrutiny,
- (2) Should protect the public interest, and
- (3) Should be in line with management priorities, objectives, and statutory requirements.

6.8 What are the requirements when the Service issues a single source award? For every single source award, regardless of the amount, we must:

A. Complete FWS Form 3-2452, Determination for Issuing a Single Source Financial Assistance Award. The form must be signed by both a program representative and the employee with signature authority for the award to be issued (see 516 FW 3, Signature Authority for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards to determine if you have signature authority); and

B. Maintain the signed form in the official award file.

6.9 Do programs have to post information about single source awards on Grants.gov?

A. Yes, depending on the amount of the award. If a single source award is for \$25,000 or more, we must post a funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The posting must be on Grants.gov for at least 5 business days before we issue the award.

B. The funding opportunity notification must include:

- (1) A synopsis,
- (2) The full text of the announcement in the form of a “Notice of Funding Availability” document attached to the synopsis (see the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)’s Policy Directive on Financial Assistance Program Announcements, Vol. 68, No. 120, June 23, 2003), and
- (3) An application package containing the required and optional Governmentwide standard application forms that the program requires the applicant to complete.

C. In the Contract/Financial Assistance Management System Funding Opportunity “Program Description” field, include, in addition to a description of the program or project to be funded, brief but descriptive text that:

- (1) Identifies the intended recipient,
- (2) Indicates the intent to award to that recipient without competition,
- (3) Cites one or more of the criteria the recipient met for the program to justify issuing a single source award (see Table 6-3 or 505 DM 2), and

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 6 Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition 516 FW 6

(4) Explains why competition for the award is not practical.

D. The funding opportunity posting must not contain any Personally Identifiable Information (PII). PII is information that directly identifies an individual (e.g., full name, phone number, social security number, email address, fingerprints). PII may also consist of a combination of indirect data elements, such as gender, race, birth date, geographic location (e.g., zip code), that someone could use to identify specific individuals. Putting PII on a public Web site is a violation of the Privacy Act of 1974.

6.10 What must programs do if they receive an application in response to a single source funding opportunity from an entity that is not the intended single source recipient? It is possible that we would receive an application from other applicants qualified to perform the anticipated project. We must:

A. Evaluate all applications received, and

B. For each application not selected for funding, send the applicant a written response explaining why the application was not selected.

/sgd/ Stephen Guertin
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: January 16, 2014

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Determination for Issuing a Single Source Financial Assistance Award**

Instructions: In accordance with Service policy 516 FW 6, *Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition*, complete this form to document the justification for issuing a single source grant or cooperative agreement award. This form must be signed by both a program representative and the employee with signature authority for the award to be issued (see 516 FW 3, *Signature Authority for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards*). The completed and signed form must be maintained in the official award file.

Recipient Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Program Contact: _____

Select all criteria that apply (from 505 DM 2):

	(1) Unsolicited Proposal: The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited application that represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach that is not the subject of a current or planned award, but is found to be advantageous to program objectives.
	(2) Continuation: The activity to be funded is necessary for the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity we are funding and holding a competition would have a significant adverse effect on continuing or completing the activity.
	(3) Legislative Intent: The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates the intent of Congress to restrict the award to a particular recipient or purpose.
	(4) Unique Qualifications: The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based on a variety of demonstrable factors such as location; property ownership; voluntary support capacity; cost-sharing ability, if applicable; technical expertise; or other such unique qualifications.
	(5) Emergencies: Because of a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety, there is not enough time to follow adequate competitive procedures.

Explain below why competition for this award is not practical. As applicable, summarize the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and any cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient. Be brief and specific:

I have determined that this project meets the requirements for a single source award and recommend that it be awarded to the recipient named above.

I, as the Service employee with signature authority for this award under 516 FW 3, have reviewed this program recommendation and find that it meets the requirements for a single source award.

 Program Representative Sign and Date

 Authorized Signator Sign and Date

 Printed Name of Program Representative

 Printed Name of Signator



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Information Collection - Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs

Search

What does the *Paperwork Reduction Act* require? In response to public complaints about the burden of Federal paperwork, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations ([5 CFR 1320](#)) were established. The PRA requires that every Federal agency obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for any planned information collections. You need approval/clearance for voluntary collections as well as for mandatory ones and for collections required to obtain a Federal benefit (e.g., a job, a grant, a permit).

What needs OMB approval/clearance? An information collection needs clearance if you:

- Obtain facts or opinions from 10 or more persons by the use of standard questions or reporting requirements presented in forms, telephone or personal interviews, surveys, questionnaires, and World-Wide-Web pages; requests for narrative responses to questions; requests for identical information, or almost any other means.
- Require members of the public to provide information to the general public or to some third party.
- Impose any requirements to label or mark items or vessels.
- Require any use of technological methods to monitor public compliance with Government requirements, as well as to automated collection techniques.
- Require compilation or maintenance of records, either along or in conjunction with, the reporting of information.

Examples of information collected that needs OMB approval/clearance:

- Grant applications and reports if you collect any information other than by use of, or in addition to, Standard Forms (e.g., narrative proposals, supporting documentation, performance reports etc.).
- Permit applications and reports (e.g., special use, migratory birds, etc.)
- Surveys—in person, online, or telephone (e.g. visitor surveys, migratory bird surveys, etc.)
- Forms – (e.g., reports of sightings of animals, visitor use reports).

What doesn't need OMB clearance?

- "Information" does not include "affidavits, oaths, affirmations, certification, receipts, changes of address, consents, or acknowledgments, provided that they entail no burden other than that necessary to identify the respondent, the date, the respondent's address, and the nature of the instrument."
- *A collection of information aimed at Federal agencies, employees, or Federal contractors in their Federal capacity.*
- See [5 CFR 1320.3\(h\)](#) for additional exclusions.

Who are "persons" under the PRA? In the PRA, the term "persons" includes not only individual people, but also entities such as:

- Corporations
- Universities
- State, tribal, and local governments
- Associations and partnerships
- Foreign citizens, governments, and companies

Who requests OMB approval? If you conduct or sponsor a collection of information, you are responsible for obtaining OMB approval. We (Fish and Wildlife Service, Service):

- "Conduct" an information collection if we collect the information using Service staff and resources.
- "Sponsor" a collection if we cause another agency to collect information, contract or enter into a cooperative agreement with another person to collect information, or require a person to provide information to another person, or otherwise causes another person to obtain, retain, solicit, or require the disclosure to third parties or

the public of information by or for an agency.

When is the Service a sponsor of a privately conducted survey? Public endorsement of a survey to be carried out by private party in order to serve our needs may cause us to appear to “sponsor” a survey. Sponsorship of a privately conducted survey has two aspects, the existence of either of which obligates us to seek and obtain OMB approval before the private party implements the survey. The first aspect is the reality of sponsorship. If we review and comment on the text of the privately developed survey to the extent that we exercise control over and tacitly approve it, we are sponsoring it. The second aspect arises from the appearance of sponsorship; for example, our public endorsement of the survey by the use of the service seal in the survey, or statements in the instructions of the survey indicating that the survey is being conducted to meet our needs.

Does a grant program require OMB approval? You must get OMB approval for your grant program before you announce the funding opportunity, if you collect information in addition to the information required in the Standard Forms (which already have OMB approval for the information collected). Your Notice of Funding Ability must display the OMB control number and expiration date, as well as a PRA statement explaining why we are collecting the information and burden estimates. Collecting the following types of information requires OMB approval:

- Narrative proposals
- Budget narratives.
- Supporting documentation (maps, photographs, etc.)
- Performance or technical reports
- Project- or program specific forms/formats.

If a grantee collects the information, does it need OMB approval? In general, collections of information conducted by grant recipients do not require OMB approval. On the other hand, the Fish and Wildlife Service would be the sponsor of a collection of information undertaken by a grant recipient if the collection meets one or both of the following conditions:

- Grant recipient is collecting information at the specific request of the Service (i.e., the grant is awarded to collect information or conduct a survey), or
- Terms and conditions of the grant require that the Service specifically approve the collection of information or the collection procedures.

If either of the above conditions is met, you must seek and obtain OMB approval, and the grantee must display the OMB control number and expiration date on the collection instrument.

How long does it take to get OMB approval? It takes approximately 6 to 9 months to get OMB approval/clearance, which includes 3 months for public comment periods. There are different processes for Information Collection Requests that are not associated with rulemakings and those that are associated with rulemakings.

What happens if I do not get OMB approval to collect information? If you fail to comply with the PRA, you are breaking the law and you:

- Cannot require a person to respond to a collection that does not have OMB approval.
- Leave us open to lawsuits.
- May affect the Service's relationship with OMB.

Where can I find OMB approved information collections? OMB's website, www.reginfo.gov, contains information on approved information collections, both current and historical. You can get copies of all supporting documents for Information Collection Requests submitted to OMB since 2007.

Where can I find out more about PRA requirements? The Information Collection Clearance Officer in the Division of Policy and Directives Management:

- Serves as liaison between the Service and the Department of the Interior and works with the OMB Desk Officer as needed.
- Provides assistance and policy guidance.
- Reviews regulations, records of compliance, rules, or other documents that prescribe information collection.
- Advises program offices of impending renewal requirements. Provides training on information collection.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Business Process
Notice of Funding Opportunity Template

Point of Contact

Send any questions about this document by email to the Chief, Branch of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR). See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

Document Change Log

FAPO will update this template over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations, Department of the Interior or Service policy, or new/changed Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) functionality. We will post revised versions of this document on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> and will log updates made to this document in the following table:

Date Changed	Description of Change Made
2-1-2016	Changed location of Paperwork Reduction Act statement and inserted OMB clearance number and expiration date into header. Updated section VI. Application Review to incorporate new pre-award Federal Award Recipient Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIS) requirements. Made other minor editorial corrections.
9-30-2015	Updated requirements related to non-profit certifications (Section III); Added clarification to cost-share/matching details (Section III D); Inserted additional text to indirect cost rate statement #6 (Section IV E); Clarified lobbying certification requirements and removed repeated statement in Section IV H; Inserted new "Special Award Terms and Conditions text insertion placeholder on page 16.
2-20-2015	Incorporated requirements under new 2 CFR 200, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed Notice of Funding Availability to Notice of Funding Opportunity (see 200.203); • Updated reference to applicable Federal cost principles; • Removed references to A-133 and replaced with 2 CFR 200-Subpart F. Changed single audit threshold from \$500K to \$750K (see 200.501); and • Inserted mandatory disclosure requirements as a new reporting requirement (see 200.113).
2-20-2015	Incorporated requirements under recently issued Department policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIG 2011-03, Amendment 1, "Financial Assistance Monitoring Protocol" (see also "Service Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance"); • DOI-AAAP-0008, "Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures for Financial Assistance"; and • DOI-AAAP-0009, "Financial Assistance Application and Merit Review Process".
2-20-2015	Other revisions made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section III, inserted new template text related to projects conducted outside the U.S.; • Section III.C., incorporated new requirement to extend active SAM Exclusions search to key project person(s); • Section III.D., inserted clarifying text related to applicant/recipient use of

Date Changed	Description of Change Made
	indirect cost as cost-share/matching; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section IV.C., yellow highlighted items 4 and 5; • Section IV.E., inserted previously omitted text requiring a Federally-funded equipment list and replaced previous indirect cost rate statements table with simplified statements to be submitted by applicants; and • Added note above Section IX to instruct programs to remove the section for single source awards.

Instructions

Use the Notice of Funding Opportunity Template as a starting point for developing the full text of a program- or award-specific Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Programs that already have a NOFO in place must compare that document to this template at least annually to make sure it contains all required elements and content. For more information, see the [Issuing a New Financial Assistance Award Guidance](#) document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards>.

The NOFO Template begins on page 3 of this document. Do not include this Instructions cover page on your customized NOFO. The table below provides editing instructions for generating the full text of a NOFO:

Text Characteristic	Represents
Times New Roman text with gray highlighting	Instructions for completing required elements that must be replaced with program-specific text
Times New Roman text with yellow highlighting	Sample content that programs may use, revise, or remove, as appropriate
Arial text with blue highlighting	Notes and additional instructions that must be removed
Times New Roman text, not highlighted	Required text that must not be removed

NOTE: For single source awards, remove the OMB control number and expiration date document header text and the box below. For all other NOFOs, insert program-specific information in the header and box below and remove gray highlighting. Remove this note.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement. We are collecting this information in accordance with [insert program authorizing legislation citation; should match program CFDA.gov profile section Authorization (040)]. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to [insert description of how we will use the information, e.g. to conduct a competitive review and select projects for funding]. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We estimate that it will take applicants under this program about [insert burden hours] to complete an application. We estimate it will take recipients under this program about [insert burden hours] to complete required reporting and [insert burden hours] for required recordkeeping. All burden estimates include the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather data needed and complete and review the submission. You may send comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[Insert the specific funding office within the agency (e.g., Division name)]

[Insert Program Title]

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: [insert program's CFDA number]

Notice of Funding Opportunity

I. Description of Funding Opportunity

[Provide a full programmatic description of the funding opportunity. Make it as long as needed to adequately communicate to potential applicants the areas in which funding may be provided. Describe the program's funding priorities or the technical or focus areas in which the program intends to provide assistance. Include program authorizing statute citation(s). Statute citations must match those in the funding program's CFDA profile on CFDA.gov].

II. Award Information

[Provide sufficient information to help an applicant make an informed decision about whether to submit an application. Relevant information could include the total amount of funding the program expects to award through the announcement; the anticipated number of awards; the expected amounts of individual awards (which may be a range); the amount of funding per award, on average, experienced in previous years; and the anticipated start dates and project periods for new awards. This section should also address whether applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new awards. Further, this section must indicate the type(s) of assistance instruments (i.e., grants, cooperative agreements, and/or other instruments) that may be awarded. If you are awarding cooperative agreements, this section must describe the substantial involvement the Service expects to have in the performance of such agreements. For single source cooperative agreement awards, enter: "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will be substantially involved in projects under this funding opportunity. In particular, the Service will be responsible for the following: [list the specific project-related activities to be performed by Service staff]". If procurement contracts

may also be awarded under this program, provide details on all related contract procedures and/or announcement(s) here]. If the program will award both competitive and single source awards under the same CFDA, the program has the option to include details on both aspects of the program in a single NOFO rather than posting separate NOFO(s) for the single source award(s). If the program chooses to include details on both aspects of the program, insert those details here. The NOFO must include all of the elements required in Section 6.9 of 516 FW 6, *Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition*].

III. Basic Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants:

[Clearly identify the types of entities that are eligible to apply. If there are no restrictions on eligibility, this section may simply indicate that all potential applicants are eligible. If there are restrictions on eligibility, be clear about the specific types of recipients that are eligible, not just the types that are ineligible. Notify applicants if they are required to submit documentation to support an eligibility requirement. Text for this section should reflect related content in the program's CFDA profile and any authorizing legislation. Note that some non-profits do not have 501(c)(3) status, so programs that limit eligibility to only non-profits with 501(c)(3) status must make that restriction clear in this section]. U.S. non-profit, non-governmental organizations with 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Status (IRS) must provide a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) status determination letter received from the IRS.

NOTE: The yellow-highlighted text below contain suggested text to be inserted by programs funding projects in foreign countries. Edit the suggested text as appropriate for the program. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. Remove this note.

Applicants must ensure that activities occurring outside the United States are coordinated as necessary with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities and that any necessary licenses, permits, or approvals are obtained prior to undertaking proposed activities. The Service does not assume responsibility for recipient compliance with the laws and regulations of the country in which the work is to be conducted.

Federal law mandates that all entities applying for Federal financial assistance must have a valid Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and have a current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). See Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 25 for more information. Exemptions: The SAM registration requirement does not apply to individuals submitting an application on their own behalf and not on behalf of a company or other for-profit entity, state, local or Tribal government, academia or other type of organization.

A. DUNS Registration

Request a DUNS number online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. U.S.-based entities may also request a DUNS number by telephone by calling the Dun & Bradstreet Government Customer Response Center, Monday – Friday, 7 AM to 8 PM CST at the following numbers:
U.S. and U.S. Virgin Islands: 1-866-705-5711
Alaska and Puerto Rico: 1-800-234-3867 (Select Option 2, then Option 1)
For Hearing Impaired Customers Only call: 1-877-807-1679 (TTY Line)

Once assigned a DUNS number, entities are responsible for maintaining up-to-date information with Dun & Bradstreet.

B. Entity Registration in SAM

Register in SAM online at <http://www.sam.gov/>. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly urged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure that their information is up to date and in synch with changes that may have been made to DUNS and IRS information. Foreign entities who wish to be paid directly to a United States bank account must enter and maintain valid and current banking information in SAM.

C. Excluded Entities

Applicant entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits will not be considered for Federal funding, as applicable to the funding being requested under this Federal program.

D. Cost Sharing or Matching:

[State if there is required cost sharing, matching, or cost participation without which an application would be ineligible. State clearly if cost sharing is not required. Include any restrictions on the types of costs (e.g., in-kind contributions) that are acceptable as cost sharing. Cost sharing as an eligibility criterion includes the requirements based in statute or regulation, as well as those imposed by administrative decision of the Service. Indicate if there are any pre-award requirements for submission of letters or other documentation to verify commitments to meet cost-sharing requirements if an award is made].

NOTE: The yellow-highlighted text below contain text to be inserted by programs that are not legislatively restricted from allowing recipients to use indirect costs as part of their cost-share or match. Edit the suggested text as appropriate for the program. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. Remove this note.

Applicants may attribute some or all of their allowable indirect costs as voluntary committed cost-share/match, however recipients may only charge to the Federal award the indirect costs calculated against the allowable direct costs charged to the Federal award. Recipients may not charge to the Federal award indirect costs calculated against: 1) any portion of the recipient's direct costs that are proposed as voluntary committed cost-share/match; or 2) any portion of the direct costs charged to any other Federal or non-Federal partner.

IV. Application Requirements

To be considered for funding under this funding opportunity, an application must contain:

- A.** A completed, signed and dated Application for Federal Assistance form. [At a minimum, all NOFOs must require applicants to submit the appropriate Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance (i.e., SF 424, SF 424-Mandatory, or SF 424-Individual) form. The only exception to the SF 424 requirement is if the program has OMB approval to use an alternative application form. Insert form instructions based on your eligible applicant

base. Individuals applying on their own (unrelated to any business or non-profit organization s/he may own or operate in her/his own name) must use the SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance-Individual form (<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=12>). All other applicants to discretionary programs and for single source awards must use the SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance form (<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>). Mandatory programs may require applicants to use the SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance-Mandatory form (<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=16>). Do not include other Federal sources of funding, requested or approved, in the total entered in the “Federal” funding box on the Application for Federal Assistance form. Enter only the amount being requested under this program in the “Federal” funding box. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the total funding entered in the “Other” box.

NOTE: The yellow-highlighted text in Sections B and C below contain suggested text for what an applicant might need to include in a project narrative. Programs should edit the suggested text as appropriate for the program. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. The non-highlighted text represents required narrative sections. Remove this note.

B. Project Summary

Briefly summarize the project, in one page or less. Include the title of the project, geographic location, and a brief overview of the need for the project. Goal(s), objectives, specific project activities, anticipated outputs and outcomes can also be included in this section.

C. Project Narrative

- 1. Statement of Need:** Describe why this project is necessary (significance/value) and include supporting information. Summarize previous or on-going efforts (of you/your organization, and other organizations or individuals) that are relevant to the proposed work. Explain the successes or failures of past efforts and how your proposed project builds on them. If you have received funding previously (from the Service or any other entity) for this specific project work or site, provide a summary of the funding, associated activities and products/outcomes.
- 2. Project Goals and Objectives:** State the long-term, overarching goal(s) of the program/project. State the objectives of the project. Objectives are the specific outcomes to be accomplished in order to reach the stated goal(s). The project objectives must be specific, measurable, and realistic (attainable within the project’s proposed project period).
- 3. Project Activities, Methods and Timetable:** List the proposed project activities and describe how they relate to the stated objectives. Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the project objectives and reach the project goal(s). The proposed project activities narrative must be detailed enough for reviewers to make a clear connection between the activities and the proposed project costs. For projects being conducted within the United States, the narrative must provide enough detail so that

reviewers are able to determine project compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For projects being conducted on the high seas, the narrative should provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with Section 7 of Endangered Species Act. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) to be used to carry out each activity. Provide a timetable indicating roughly when activities or project milestones are to be accomplished. Include any resulting tables, spreadsheets or flow charts within the body of the project narrative (do not include as separate attachments). The timetable should not propose specific dates but instead group activities by month for each month over the entire proposed project period.

- 4. Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement:** As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities, disseminating project results and/or incorporating your results/products into their activities.
- 5. Project Monitoring and Evaluation:** Detail the monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. Building on the stated project objectives, which must be specific and measurable, identify what you will measure (i.e., quantitative/quantifiable indicators) and how you will measure (e.g., methods, sample size, survey tools). Reference the stated project timetable (i.e., process indicators) and budget information (i.e., input indicators). Identify the products/services to be delivered and how/to whom they will be delivered (i.e., output indicators). Detail the expected direct effect(s) of the project on beneficiaries (i.e., outcome indicators). Include any available questionnaires, surveys, curricula, exams/tests or other assessment tools to be used for project evaluation. Describe the resources and organizational structure available for gathering, analyzing and reporting monitoring and evaluation data. If applicable, describe how project participants and beneficiaries will participate in monitoring and evaluation activities. Describe how findings will be fed back into decision making and project activities throughout the project period.
- 6. Description of Entities Undertaking the Project:** Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all participating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. Provide complete contact information for the individual within the organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-to-day basis. If eligibility for funding is based in whole or in part on the qualifications of key personnel, provide for each key person a brief (**1-2 pages**) but descriptive overview of their education, experience and other skills that make them qualified to carry out the proposed project. To prevent unnecessary transmission of Personally Identifiable Information, **do not include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information including marital status, religion or physical characteristics on the description of key personnel qualifications.**

7. Sustainability: As applicable, describe which project activities will continue beyond the proposed project period, who will continue the work or act on the results achieved, and how and at what level you expect these future activities will be funded.

8. Literature Cited

9. Map of Project Area: Map should clearly delineate the project area and be large enough to be legible. Label any sites referenced in the project narrative.

NOTE: All applicants are required to submit the standard budget form and budget justification (see Sections D and E below). The only exception to these requirements is if the program has an approved OMB Information Collection Clearance to request budget information in a different format. Remove this note.

D. Budget Form

Complete the Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A) or Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF 424C) form. Use the SF 424A if your project does not include construction and the SF 424C if the project includes construction or land acquisition. The budget forms are available on the Internet at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>. When developing your budget, keep in mind that financial assistance awards and subawards are subject to the Federal cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, as applicable to the recipient organization type. Links to the full text of the Federal cost principles are available on the Internet at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>.

Multiple Federal Funding Sources: If the project budget includes multiple Federal funding sources, you must show the funds being requested from this Federal program *separately* from any other requested/secured Federal sources of funding on the budget form. For example, enter the funds being requested from this Federal program in the first row of the Budget Summary section of the form and then enter funding related to other Federal programs in the subsequent row(s). Be sure to enter each Federal program's CFDA number in the corresponding fields on the form. The CFDA number for this Federal program appears on the first page of this funding opportunity.

E. Budget Justification

In a separate narrative titled "**Budget Justification**", explain and justify all requested budget items/costs. Detail how the SF 424 Budget Object Class Category totals were determined and demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. For personnel salary costs, include the base-line salary figures and the estimates of time (as percentages) to be directly charged to the project. Describe any item that under the applicable Federal cost principles requires the Service's approval and estimate its cost.

If Federally-funded equipment will be used for the project, provide a list of that equipment, including the Federal funding source. [Insert any other program-specific information for applicants to detail in their budget justifications].

Required Indirect Cost Statement: All applicants except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate must include in the budget justification narrative one of the following statements and attach to their application any required documentation identified in the applicable statement:

“We are:

1. A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification is attached.
2. A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We are required to prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation to support those costs.
3. A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, please use one of the statements above or below] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement is attached.
4. A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made.
5. A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. However, in the event an award is made, we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimus* indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs as defined in [Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, section 200.68](#). We understand that the 10% *de minimus* rate will apply for the life of the award, including any future extensions for time, and that the rate cannot be changed even if we do establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period
6. A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that the basis for direct costs will be the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR 200.68 “Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)”. We understand that we must request prior approval from the Service to use the MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, and that Service approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a

determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

7. A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

All applicants are hereby notified of the following:

- Recipients without an approved indirect cost rate are prohibited from charging indirect costs to a Federal award. Accepting the 10% *de minimus* rate as a condition of award is an approved rate.
- Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award.
- Only the indirect costs calculated against the Federal portion of the total direct costs may be charged to the Federal award. Recipients may not charge to their Service award any indirect costs calculated against the portion of total direct costs charged to themselves or charged to any other project partner, Federal and non-Federal alike.
- Recipients must have prior written approval from the Service to transfer unallowable indirect costs to amounts budgeted for direct costs or to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements under the award.
- Recipients are prohibited from shifting unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.”

Applicants who are individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, do not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

For more information on indirect cost rates, see the Service’s **Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements** guidance document on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>.

Negotiating an Indirect Cost Rate with the Department of the Interior: Entities that do not have a NICRA must first have an open, active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior is your cognizant agency, your indirect cost rate will be negotiated by the Interior Business Center (IBC). For more information, contact the IBC at:

Indirect Cost Services
Acquisition Services Directorate, Interior Business Center
U.S. Department of the Interior
2180 Harvard Street, Suite 430

Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: 916-566-7111
Email: ics@ibc.doi.gov

Internet address: <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services>

- F. Single Audit Reporting Statements:** As required in [Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200](#), Subpart F, all U.S. states, local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in a fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System. All U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government and non-profit applicants must provide a statement regarding if your organization was/was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the organization's most recently closed fiscal year and, if so, state if that report is available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Single Audit Database website (<http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>) and provide the EIN under which that report was submitted. Include these statements at the end of the Project Narrative in a section titled "**Single Audit Reporting Statements**".
- G. Assurances:** Include the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form available online at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>. Use the **Assurances for Construction Programs (SF 424D)** for construction and land acquisition projects. Use the **Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424B)** for all other projects. Signing this form does not mean that all items on the form are applicable. The form contains language that states that some of the assurances may not be applicable to your organization and/or your project or program.
- H. Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:** Under Title 31 of the United States Code, Section 1352, an applicant or recipient must not use any federally appropriated funds (both annually appropriated and continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is defined as influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress connection with the award. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A- Certification Regarding Lobbying. If you/your organization have/has made or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with this proposal AND the Federal share exceeds \$100,000, complete and submit the **SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** form. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.
- I. Conflict of Interest Disclosures:** Applicants must notify the Service in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that are known at the time of application or that may arise during the life of this award, in the event an award is made. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter which might place the recipient, the recipient's employees, or the recipient's subrecipients in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal

relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the applicant, the applicant's employees, or the applicant's future subrecipients in the matter. Upon receipt of such a notice, the Service Project Officer in consultation with their Ethics Counselor will determine if a conflict of interest exists and, if so, if there are any possible actions to be taken by the applicant to reduce or resolve the conflict. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in the project not being select for funding.

NOTE: Revise application checklist below to match your program's application requirements, as needed. You may remove the items highlighted in yellow all other items are universally required items. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted items are retained. Remove this note.

Application Checklist

- Evidence of non-profit status:** If a non-profit organization, a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.
- SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance:** A complete, signed and dated SF 424, SF 424-Mandatory, or SF 424-Individual form.
- Project summary**
- Project narrative**
- Timetable**
- Description of key personnel qualifications**
- Single Audit Reporting statement:** If a U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government, or non-profit organization, statements regarding applicability of and compliance with Single Audit reporting requirements.
- SF 424 budget form:** A complete SF 424A or SF 424C Budget Information form.
- Budget justification**
- Federally-funded equipment list:** If Federally-funded equipment will be used for the project, a list of that equipment.
- NICRA:** When applicable, a copy of the organization's current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.
- SF 424 Assurances form:** Signed and dated SF 424B or SF 424D Assurances form.
- SF LLL form:** If applicable, completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form.
- Conflict of Interest statement,** when applicable.

Failure to provide complete information may cause delays, postponement, or rejection of the application.

V. Submission Instructions

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: [enter deadline date(s) or open period start and end dates].

Intergovernmental Review: Before submitting an application, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the following website (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/) to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 “Intergovernmental review of Federal Programs.” E.O. 12372 was issued to foster the intergovernmental partnership and strengthen federalism by relying on state and local processes for the coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. The E.O. allows each state to designate an entity to perform this function. The official list of designated entities is posted on the website. Contact your state’s designated entity for more information on the process the state requires to be followed when applying for assistance. States that do not have a designated entity listed on the website have chosen not to participate in the review process.

NOTE: Revise the application instructions highlighted in yellow below to reflect the application options/process for your program. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. Remove this note.

Download the Application Package linked to this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov to begin the application process. Downloading and saving the Application Package to your computer makes the required government-wide standard forms fillable and printable. Completed applications may be submitted by mail, by email, electronically through Grants.gov, or as otherwise described in the Grants.gov funding opportunity. Please select **ONE** of the submission options:

To submit an application by mail:

Number all pages of your printed application. Mail one, single-sided, unbound copy (do not staple or otherwise permanently bind pages) of your complete application to the Service program point of contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.

The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms MUST be signed by your organization’s authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the standard forms downloaded from Grants.gov are pre-populated with the text “Completed by Grants.gov upon submission” or “Completed on submission to Grants.gov”. Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.

To submit an application by e-mail:

Format all of your documents to print on Letter size (8 ½” x 11”) paper. Format all pages to display and print page numbers. Scanned documents should be scanned in Letter format, as black and white images only. Where possible, save scanned documents in .pdf format. E-mail your application to the Service program point of contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.

The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms MUST be signed by your organization’s authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the standard forms downloaded from Grants.gov are pre-populated with the text “Completed by Grants.gov upon submission” or “Completed on submission to Grants.gov”. Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.

To submit an application through Grants.gov:

Go to the Grants.gov Apply for Grants page (http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp) for an overview of the process to apply through Grants.gov. You/your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Registration can take between three to five business days, or as long as two weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner.

Important note on Grants.gov application attachment file names: Please do not assign application attachments file names longer than 20 characters, including spaces. Assigning file names longer than 20 characters will create issues in the automatic interface between Grants.gov and the Service's financial assistance management system.

VI. Application Review

Criteria: To be considered for funding, applications must [This section must address the criteria your program will use to evaluate applications. This includes merit and other review criteria that evaluators will use to judge and select applications, including any statutory, regulatory, or other preferences (e.g., minority status or Native American tribal preferences) that will be applied in the review process. These criteria are distinct from eligibility criteria.. The intent is to give applicants visibility into the evaluation process so that they can make informed decisions when preparing their applications and so that the process is as transparent, open, and equitable as possible. The announcement should clearly describe all criteria, including any sub-criteria. If criteria vary in importance, the announcement should specify the relative percentages, weights, or other means used to distinguish among them. For statutory, regulatory, or other preferences, the announcement should provide a detailed explanation of those preferences with an explicit indication of their effect (e.g., whether they result in additional points being assigned). If an applicant's proposed cost sharing will be considered in the review process (as opposed to being an eligibility criterion) the announcement must specifically address how it will be considered (e.g., to assign a certain number of additional points to applicants who offer cost sharing, or to break ties among applications with equivalent scores after evaluation against all other factors). If cost sharing will not be considered in the evaluation, state so here to avoid ambiguity for potential applicants. Vague statements that cost sharing is encouraged, without clarification as to what that means, are unhelpful to applicants.]

Review and Selection Process:

[Discretionary programs issuing single source and/or competitive awards must establish a merit review and selection process following the requirements in Department policy DOI-AAAP-0009, *Financial Assistance Application and Merit Review Process*. This document and related attachment providing sample merit review criteria are available at <https://sites.google.com/a/ios.doi.gov/policydistribution/home-1>. Programs must ensure that: 1) applications are reviewed and evaluated by qualified reviewers; 2) applications are scored and selected based on announced criteria; 3) consideration is given to applicant risk and past performance; 4) competitive applications are ranked; and 5) funding determinations are made. Programs must establish an evaluation plan comprised of five basic elements: (1) merit review factors and sub-factors; (2) a rating system for competitive applications (e.g., adjectival, color

coding, numerical, or ordinal); (3) evaluation standards or descriptions which explain the basis for assignment of the various rating system grades/scores; (4) program policy factors; and (5) the basis for selection. Include a description of the merit review and selection process. For example, this section may detail the type of evaluators to be used (e.g., peers external to the agency or Federal agency personnel) and who makes the final funding decisions. If you have a multi-phase review process (e.g., an external panel advising internal agency personnel who make final recommendations to the deciding official) you should describe the phases of the process. You should also detail: the number of people on an evaluation panel and how it operates, the way reviewers are selected, reviewer qualifications, and the way that conflicts of interest are avoided. Detail any program policy, or other factors in addition to the program's merit criteria that the selecting official may use to select applications for award (e.g., geographical dispersion, or project diversity). In addition, if you permit applicants to nominate suggested reviewers for their applications, or to identify reviewers that the applicants feel may be inappropriate due to a potential or actual conflict of interest, detail those processes here.]

Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office point of contact the "Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification" form. For a copy of this form, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

Each fiscal year, for every entity receiving one or more awards in that fiscal year, the Service conducts a risk assessment based on eight risk categories. The result of this risk assessment is used to establish a monitoring plan for all awards to the entity in that fiscal year. The Service's risk assessment form is available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-2462.pdf>.

Prior to approving an award with a Federal funding amount that exceeds or is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as adjusted (see 2 CFR 200.88), the Service must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) to determine if, at a minimum, the information found in the system for the applicant demonstrates a satisfactory record of Federal award performance and integrity and business ethics (see 2 CFR 200.205(a)(2)). The Service must also report to FAPIIS if an applicant subject to this review is found not qualified for a particular award due to its prior record of integrity or performance under Federal awards (see 2 CFR 200.212).

VII. Award Administration

Award Notices: Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award are typically sent to recipients by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the documents will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL or UPS). Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the Service. The notice of award document will include instructions specific to each recipient on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests. Applicants whose projects

are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by e-mail, within 30 days of the final review decision.

Domestic Recipient Payments: Prior to award, the Service program office will contact you/your organization to either enroll in the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system or, if eligible, obtain approval from the Department of the Interior to be waived from using ASAP.

NOTE: Remove the below section related to ASAP-waived domestic recipients if not applicable to your applicant base. Retain if applicable. Remove this note.

Domestic applicants subject to the SAM registration requirement (see Section III B.) who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP must maintain current banking information in SAM. Domestic applicants exempt from the SAM registration requirement who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP will be required to submit their banking information directly to the Service program. However, *do NOT submit any banking information to the Service until it is requested from you by the Service program!*

NOTE: Remove the foreign recipient payments section if not applicable to your applicant base. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. Remove this note.

Foreign Recipient Payments: Foreign recipients receiving funds to a bank outside of the United States will be paid electronically through U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) system.

Foreign recipients receiving funds electronically to a bank in the United States will be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) through the Automated Clearing House network. Foreign recipients who wish to be paid to a bank account in the United States must enter and maintain current banking information in SAM (see Section III).

The Notice of Award document from the Service will include instructions specific to each recipient on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests.

Transmittal of Sensitive Data: Recipients are responsible for ensuring any sensitive data being sent to the Service is protected during its transmission/delivery. The Service strongly recommends that recipients use the most secure transmission/delivery method available. The Service recommends the following digital transmission methods: secure digital faxing; encrypted emails; emailing a password protected zipped/compressed file attachment in one email followed by the password in a second email; or emailing a zipped/compressed file attachment. The Service strongly encourages recipients sending sensitive data in paper copy to use a courier mail service. Recipients may also contact their Service Project Officer and provide any sensitive data over the telephone.

Award Terms and Conditions: Acceptance of a financial assistance award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement) from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with the terms and conditions applicable to the award. Acceptance is defined as the start

of work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the notice of award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. The Federal regulations applicable to Service awards are available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>. If you do not have access to the Internet and require a full text copy of the award terms and conditions, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

[Special Award Terms and Conditions: insert any program- or project-specific special award terms and conditions that will apply to recipients under this program].

Recipient Reporting Requirements:

Financial and Performance Reports: Interim financial reports and performance reports may be required. Interim reports will be required no more frequently than quarterly, and no less frequently than annually. A final financial report and a final performance report will be required and are due within 90 calendar days of the end date of the award. Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the project results.

Significant Developments Reports: Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Service in writing as soon as the following types of conditions become known:

- Problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.
- Favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

The Service will specify in the notice of award document the reporting and reporting frequency applicable to the award.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Recipients are responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of this award. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter which might place the recipient, the recipient's employees, or the recipient's subrecipients in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under this award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the

impartiality of the Recipient, the Recipient's employees, or the Recipient's subrecipients in the matter. Upon receipt of such a notice, the Service Project Officer in consultation with their Ethics Counselor will determine if a conflict of interest exists and, if so, if there are any possible actions to be taken by the Recipient, the Recipient's employee(s), or the Recipient's Subrecipient(s) that could reduce or resolve the conflict. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of this award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures: The non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR part 180, 31 U.S.C. 3321, and 41 U.S.C. 2313.)

2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters is applicable to awards with a total Federal share of more than \$500,000, except those to individuals and foreign public entities.

VIII. Agency Contacts

[Give potential applicants a point of contact for answering questions or helping with problems while the funding opportunity is open. If needed, provide different points of contact for distinct types of help.]

July 21, 2015

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Business Process
Budget Review Guidance**

Point of Contact

Send any questions about this guidance by email to the Chief, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO) Branch. See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

Document Change Log

FAPO will update this document over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations or new Department of the Interior or Service policy. We will post updated versions of this document on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> and will log updates made to this guidance in the following table:

Date Changed	Description of Change Made

Scope

This guidance applies to all Service mandatory and discretionary financial assistance programs and awards.

Guidance

- A. We must conduct a review of all proposed project budgets following the requirements in the Department of the Interior Guidance (DIG) [2013-06, Financial Assistance Cost Review Guidance](#). The budget review may be conducted at the same time or separately from the required merit review (see [DOI-AAAP 0009, Financial Assistance Application and Merit Review Process](#); opens only for employees logged into Service network and in Google Chrome). Individuals reviewing proposed budgets must be familiar with and consider the Federal cost principles. Those individuals qualified to conduct a technical/merit review may or may not also be qualified to conduct a budget review.
- B. We must document the details of all budget reviews, regardless of the extent or outcome of a review. The extent of the budget review will depend on the project complexity and the detail level of budget-related information the program required from the applicant. At a minimum we must consider, and summarize the results of our consideration of, the following:
1. Does the proposed budget comply with program budget criteria, matching or cost-share requirements, or limits, as detailed in the program's Notice of Funding Opportunity?
 2. Are the budget figures calculated correctly?
 3. Does the budget contain any obviously unallowable costs, as defined by the applicable cost principles?

4. Will the project generate program income? If so, have they proposed to use it in accordance with any program requirements detailed in the program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (e.g., program only allows for a particular use method)?
5. Has the applicant requested pre-award costs? If so, do they meet all conditions for approval (see 2 CFR 200.458)?

Note: We must not fund an entire project retroactively. Applicants cannot request 100% of the total project costs as pre-award costs (i.e., the entire project was completed before the application receipt date).

Note: Completing the "Pre-award costs" item on the Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award form (FWS 3-2460) only documents the circumstance applicable to a resulting award. It is not duplicative of, nor a replacement for, documenting the details of the pre-award cost area review.

6. Does the budget include indirect costs? Did the recipient clearly indicate the rate used to calculate those costs? Did the applicant submit supporting documentation, if required? Is the applicant eligible to charge indirect costs and at the rate proposed? Are the proposed indirect costs correctly calculated against the applicable direct cost base (either their Federally-approved base or the Modified Total Direct Costs base defined in 2 CFR 200.68)?

Note: Completing the "Indirect cost rate circumstance" item on FWS 3-2460 only documents the rate circumstance applicable to a resulting award. It is not duplicative of, nor a replacement for, documenting the details of the indirect cost area review.

7. Does the budget include any other costs that require prior written approval (see 2 CFR 200.407)?
8. Are proposed costs clearly related to/supported by the proposed project activities?
9. Does the program give additional points/credit to a project with third-party funding? If so, did you receive written confirmation from the third party of their funding commitment, as detailed in the program's Notice of Funding Opportunity?
10. Did you have to contact the applicant for corrections or more information? If so, did you receive the corrections/information?

Note: Revised/final negotiated budgets must be clearly labeled.

- C. Use the "Budget review" item on FWS 3-2460 to document compliance with the requirements in DIG 2013-06. For programs that conduct their own budget reviews and rely on servicing offices to process their awards, the servicing office may request a copy of the program office's budget review documentation. However, servicing offices should not require program office employees to complete/sign any other "Budget Certification" form.
- D. In accordance with Service policy 283 FW 2, Disposition Schedules, we must maintain all review documentation, including individual and summary reviewer scores, merit review results, budget review summaries, signed reviewer conflict of interest certifications, committee/panel meeting minutes and decisions, and signed approval memorandums,

following the Service's Comprehensive Records Disposition Schedule or the General Records Schedule. Review documentation must be maintained as follows:

Approved proposals: Maintain in accordance with the same disposition schedule as for the related official award files. Review documentation for approved proposals may be maintained in either a centralized subject-matter file or in the related case/official award file.

Not approved/rejected proposals: Maintain in accordance with their own disposition schedule. Not approved/rejected proposal records generally have a shorter retention period than for official award files. Review documentation for not approved/rejected proposals must be maintained in a centralized subject-matter file.

- E. All financial assistance records must be well marked, well maintained, accessible to all appropriate servicing and program office employees, and readily available upon request for reviews or audits. When record materials are shared between a program office and a servicing or administrative office, the offices are jointly responsible for identifying which party is responsible for maintaining which records and ensuring that all appropriate employees have ready access to those records. The responsible party must maintain control so that records can be accessed or checked out, used, and returned effectively and efficiently without loss.
- F. Recipients assume responsibility for administering Federal funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award, including the applicable cost principles (see 2 CFR 200, Subpart E).

Last Updated: September 30, 2015

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Business Process
Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements

Point of Contact

Send any questions about this guidance by email to the Chief, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO) Branch. See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

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Date Changed	Description of Change Made
9-30-2015	Added clarification to Question 4 response related to recipients requesting/charging less than their negotiated rate as allowed under DOI-AAAP-0007. Inserted new Q&A related to creating a form to collect indirect cost rate statements from applicants; updated DOI Indirect Cost Services contact information.
2-20-2015	Updates made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate new 2 CFR 200 and DOI-AAAP-0007 definitions, allowances, restrictions, and requirements; • Simplify the indirect cost statements to be submitted by applicants; • Reorganize questions to improve document flow; and • Revise some questions and answers to improve clarity.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Cognizant agency for indirect costs	See also 2 CFR 200.19. Cognizant agency for indirect costs means the Federal agency responsible for reviewing, negotiating, and approving cost allocation plans or indirect cost proposals developed under this part on behalf of all Federal agencies. For assignments of cognizant agencies see the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix III to Part 200—Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), paragraph C.11. • Appendix IV to Part 200—Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations, paragraph C.12. • Appendix V to Part 200—State/Local Governmentwide Central Service Cost Allocation Plans, paragraph F.1. • Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposal, paragraph D.1. • 45 CFR Part 75, Appendix E—Principles for Determining Cost

Term	Definition
	<p>Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For-profits: Contact the National Interior Business Center (IBC), Indirect Cost Services at (916) 566-7111 or ics@ibc.doi.gov.
Direct costs	<p>See also 2 CFR 200.413. Direct costs are those costs that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective, such as a Federal award, or other internally or externally funded activity, or that can be directly assigned to such activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. Costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances must be treated consistently as either direct or indirect (F&A) costs.</p>
Indirect costs	<p>See also 2 CFR 200.414. Indirect (facilities & administrative (F&A)) costs means those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. To facilitate equitable distribution of indirect expenses to the cost objectives served, it may be necessary to establish a number of pools of indirect (F&A) costs. Indirect (F&A) cost pools must be distributed to benefitted cost objectives on bases that will produce an equitable result in consideration of relative benefits derived.</p>

1. Can a grant or cooperative agreement award (award) recipient charge all costs directly?

Yes. A recipient can use the direct cost allocation method if they have only a few funding sources. This method is not recommended if the recipient has more than three funding sources.

2. What requirements must a recipient meet before charging indirect costs to an award?

A recipient who receives an award as an individual, separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate, is not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. All other recipients must either:

- A. Show that the indirect amount they seek to charge is proper by submitting to their cognizant agency an indirect cost rate proposal that includes financial documentation and analysis showing that the desired rate is supported, accurate, and reasonable. Once the proposal is approved by the cognizant agency it is referred to as a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement; or
- B. If eligible, accept as a condition of award a flat 10% *de minimus* indirect cost rate to be charged to modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68. This option is available only to recipients who have never negotiated a rate with their cognizant agency and have indicated on their application that, in the event an award is made, they will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. This option is available to all entities that have never negotiated a rate with their cognizant agency except U.S. state and local governments receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding per year (see 2 CFR 200.414(f)).

3. Does an applicant have to have a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate when they apply for funds?

No. Applicants must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. An applicant who has never received Federal funds, or an applicant whose previously negotiated rate has expired, will not have a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate when they apply for funding.

4. What indirect cost-related information must applicants submit to the Service?

All applicants except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate must include in their application one of the following statements, and attach to their application any required documentation identified in the applicable statement:

“We are:

- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification is attached.
- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We are required to prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation to support those costs.
- A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, please use one of the statements above or below] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement is attached.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. However, in the event an award is made, will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimus* indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68, “Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)”. We understand that the 10% *de minimus* rate will apply for the life of the award, including any future extensions for time, and that the rate cannot be changed even if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.
- A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in

our approved indirect cost rate agreement. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that the basis for direct costs will be the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR 200.68, "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)". We understand that we must request prior approval from the Service to use the MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, and that Service approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

- A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly."

5. Can we create a form that contains the indirect cost rate statements listed in the response to Question 4 above to collect the required information from our applicants?

You can only use such a form if your program has obtained approval for the form from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). 5 CFR 1320, Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public, requires financial assistance programs to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance for the collection of the following types of information from applicants and recipients:

- Application project and budget narratives and any other required documentation other than that found on OMB-approved Government-wide application forms (Standard Form (SF) 424 "Family");
- Program-specific application forms;
- Recipient technical/progress/performance reporting;
- Any other program or project-specific reporting required other than the information requested on OMB approved Government-wide recipient forms such as, but not limited to, the SF 425 (Federal Financial Report), SF 270 (Request for Advance or Reimbursement), SF 271 (Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs) , SF 428 (Tangible Personal Property Report), or SF 429 (Real Property Status Report); and
- Written requests for changes to project and budget narratives required prior to award amendment other than the information requested on OMB approved Government-wide application forms (SF 424 Family).

For more information and a listing of Service programs with OMB clearance, see the Service's financial assistance information collection clearance page on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/OMB-ICC>.

6. How do we approve a proposed budget from an entity that does not have a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate, but has indicated in their application that they will submit an indirect cost rate proposal after the award is made?

For entities that do not have a federally-negotiated rate at the time of application, either because they never had one or their previously negotiated rate has expired, we can conditionally approve the organization's proposed budget for both direct and indirect costs. The program will obligate funds for all expected direct and indirect costs, but will include an award condition that prohibits the recipient from charging any indirect costs until they have established a rate. If the recipient does not establish a rate during the award period, all indirect costs will be unallowable and the program may either: 1) deobligate the Federal amount budgeted for indirect costs and, if not otherwise prohibited by legislation or regulation, allow the recipient to use costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements; or 2) allow the recipient to transfer the amount otherwise allocable as indirect costs to direct costs. Service approval of such budget changes will depend on the particular award circumstance. The recipient may not shift the disallowed indirect costs to another Federal award, unless specifically authorized by legislation.

7. Can an applicant/recipient apply their indirect cost rate to the cost-sharing portion of the project budget?

Yes, unless otherwise prohibited under program legislation or regulation. However, recipients may only charge to the Federal award the indirect costs calculated against the direct costs charged to the Federal award. Recipients may not charge to Service awards any indirect costs calculated against: 1) any portion of the recipient's direct costs; or 2) any portion of the direct costs being charged to any other Federal or non-Federal project partner.

8. When must recipients submit their indirect cost rate proposal?

A recipient must submit an indirect cost rate proposal:

- A. Immediately after being advised in writing that a Federal award will be made, and no later than 90 calendar days of the date the award is made; and then
- B. Within six months of the end of the recipient's fiscal year on an annual basis for the life of the Federal award. For example, an organization receives an award with a three-year period of performance that begins August 1, 2013 and ends August 1, 2016. The organization's fiscal year ends on December 31st. The organization must submit rate proposals within six months of: Dec. 31, 2013; Dec. 31, 2014; Dec. 31, 2015; and Dec. 31, 2016.

9. What if a recipient submitted their indirect cost rate proposal within the required timeframe but the cognizant agency delays approval of their proposal?

The recipient must provide to the Service a copy of their submitted proposal, the name of their cognizant agency, and evidence of the proposal submission date in the form of either a copy of an emailed submission or written confirmation of the proposal receipt date from the cognizant agency. The Service may, upon review of the documentation and consultation with the cognizant agency, give written approval to the recipient to charge indirect costs at their proposed rate until their proposal is approved. Service approval to charge indirect costs based on a proposed rate will depend on the circumstance; the Service will not approve a recipient to charge indirect costs based on a proposed rate if rate approval delays are due to the recipient having submitted a late, incomplete, or inaccurate proposal. The recipient must receive written prior approval from the Service before charging indirect costs based on a proposed rate. The award may be subject to further revision if the approved rate is higher or lower than the proposed rate.

10. What information does an indirect cost rate proposal contain?

The proposal identifies all activities carried out within the organization, classifies those activities as either indirect or direct, and then subtracts from the indirect costs those costs that are ineligible based on OMB guidance and agency regulation. The proposal also identifies the type of rate being requested. A recipient must develop their indirect cost rate proposal in accordance with the applicable cost principles and rate identification and assignment/determination procedures identified in the Service Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions posted on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>.

11. What information does an approved indirect cost rate agreement contain?

The document reflecting the cognizant agency's approval of a recipient's indirect cost rate will detail:

- A. The approved indirect cost rate(s), including the type of rate(s), the rate effective period, and distribution base to be used;
- B. Either an approved fringe benefit rate, or a determination that fringe benefits will be treated as direct and/or indirect costs;
- C. General terms and conditions; and
- D. Any special remarks (e.g., composition of the indirect cost pool).

12. Must we honor a recipient's federally-negotiated indirect cost rate?

Yes. The provisions of 2 CFR 200.414 and related Department policy [DOI-AAAP-0007](#) require programs to accept federally-negotiated indirect cost rates (Note: recipient acceptance of the 10% *de minimus* rate is considered a federally-negotiated rate). The only exceptions are:

- A. If the program is governed by legislation or regulation that otherwise prohibits or limits recipient indirect cost rates. In this case, when the amount otherwise allocable as indirect costs exceeds the amount allowable under the award, the excess amount may, if not otherwise prohibited by legislation or regulation, be used to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements. However, the difference may not be shifted to another Federal award unless specifically authorized by legislation.
- B. If the program has received approval from the Department of the Interior to deviate from recipient negotiated rates for a program or class of awards. The only Department programs with rate deviation approval are: the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program and the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network. Only those projects funded under/in support of these two programs qualify for the approved indirect cost rate deviation. All other Service awards to the same recipients must honor the recipients' approved indirect cost rates.
- C. If the recipient attributes some or all of their allowable indirect costs as voluntary cost-share or, when allowable, to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements.
- D. If the recipient voluntarily charges less than the full amount of indirect costs allowed under the award. The election must be voluntary; Service employees must not require or otherwise solicit such a reduction. To document the voluntary nature of the lower rate, the applicant/recipient must submit to the Service a written statement, signed by the official having the authority to negotiate indirect cost rates for the recipient organization, notifying us that they will assess a reduced indirect cost rate. This statement must also specify to which award(s)/project(s) the reduced rate

applies. The Service will not use the reduced rate on any award/project not specified by the recipient in writing. A copy of the recipient's statement must be maintained in the official award file for every award to which the rate is applied.

For all deviations to the Federal negotiated indirect cost rate, including statutory, regulatory, programmatic, and voluntary, the basis of direct costs against which the indirect cost rate is applied must be either:

- 1) The same base identified in the recipient's negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, if the recipient has a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate agreement; or
- 2) The Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) base, in cases where the recipient does not have a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate agreement or, with prior approval of the Awarding Agency, when the recipient's federally-negotiated indirect cost rate agreement base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages) and the use of the MTDC still results in an overall reduction in the total indirect cost recovered. MTDC is the base defined by 2 CFR 200.68, "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)."

In cases where the recipient does not have a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, under no circumstances will the Service use a modified rate based upon Total Direct Cost or other base not identified in the federally-negotiated indirect cost rate agreement or defined within 2 CFR 200.68 (Service employees, see [DOI-AAAP-0007](#) for more information).

13. What if an applicant does not budget for or a recipient does not charge to the award some or all of their allowable indirect costs?

Applicants are responsible for submitting a complete proposed project budget. Applicants that inadvertently fail to include some or all of their allowable indirect costs on their proposed budget run the risk that the funding program may not have additional funds available at a later date to cover those costs. Further, under discretionary competitive programs, recipients that did not include some or all of their allowable indirect costs in their application in order to be more competitive may not be authorized, at the discretion of the funding program, to request reimbursement after an award is issued for any indirect costs not included on their approved application.

Recipients are responsible for requesting funds for allowable costs and submitting to the program a final financial report summarizing their expenditures under the award. The Service is not obligated to ensure that a recipient charges to the award all of their allowable indirect costs.

14. If the Department of the Interior is their cognizant agency, what office does a recipient contact for more information on indirect cost rate proposals?

An organization that has not previously established an indirect cost rate and has received, or expects to receive, the greatest amount of Federal funding in direct awards from the Department of the Interior, should contact the Interior Business Center at:

Indirect Cost Services
2180 Harvard Street, Suite 430, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: 916-566-7111
Email: ics@ibc.doi.gov
Website: <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services>

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 5 DUNS and SAM Registration Requirements

516 FW 5

5.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This chapter provides the information employees working with grant and cooperative agreement awards need to:

- A.** Monitor recipients for compliance with the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration requirements, and
- B.** Implement the Department of the Interior’s Guidance Release 2012-08: *DUNS and Central Contracting Registration (CCR) Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements*.

5.2 What are the objectives of this chapter? Our objectives are to:

- A.** Ensure employees working with grants and cooperative agreements are aware of the DUNS and SAM registration requirements and of their responsibilities to communicate the requirements to applicants and recipients,
- B.** Establish and implement a process for waiving the DUNS and SAM registration requirements for qualified entities, and
- C.** Implement centralized Servicewide monitoring to ensure grant and cooperative agreement award recipients maintain active SAM registrations.

5.3 What is the scope of this chapter? This chapter:

- A.** Covers all programs that administer and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards, but
- B.** Does not apply to any individual applying for or receiving Federal funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) exempts these individuals from the DUNS and SAM registration requirements.

5.4 What are the authorities for this chapter?

- A.** Pre-Award Responsibilities, Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration (2 CFR Part 25).
- B.** U.S. Department of the Interior Guidance Release 2012-08: *DUNS and CCR Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements*.

5.5 Who is responsible for ensuring recipient compliance with the DUNS and SAM registration requirements? See Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Responsibilities for Ensuring Recipient Compliance with the DUNS and SAM Registration Requirements	
These employees . . .	Are responsible for . . .
A. The Director	Making sure the Service has policy in place for programs that administer grant and cooperative agreement awards to ensure recipient compliance with the DUNS and SAM registration requirements.
B. The Assistant Director – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (AD - WSFR), through the Division of Administration and Information Management, Branch of Financial	(1) Developing policy on the DUNS and SAM registration requirements, and (2) Overseeing Service implementation of the policy.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Table 5-1: Responsibilities for Ensuring Recipient Compliance with the DUNS and SAM Registration Requirements	
These employees . . .	Are responsible for . . .
Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO) and Financial Assistance Systems	
C. Directorate members in Headquarters and the Regions	Making sure employees who issue, administer, and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards are aware of and follow the requirements in this policy.

5.6 What is DUNS and its registration requirement?

A. DUNS is a system developed and regulated by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) that assigns a unique nine-digit number, referred to as a "DUNS number," for each of an entity's physical locations. The number is associated with key business information, such as name and address.

B. Regulations require entities that either apply for or receive Federal funds under grant and cooperative agreement awards, or receive subawards directly from entities that receive grant and cooperative agreement awards, to obtain a valid DUNS number, unless the entity is exempt (see [section 5.3B](#)) or the Service waives the requirement (see [section 5.8](#)).

C. Entities that have to register to get Federal contracts, grants, and cooperative agreement awards can get a DUNS number for free. Information about how to obtain a DUNS number is available on the [company's Web site](#).

5.7 What is SAM and its registration requirement?

A. SAM is a Federal procurement and financial assistance [Web site](#) that consolidates the functionality that was previously in such systems as the CCR, Federal Agency Registration (Fedreg), the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS).

B. Regulations require entities that apply for or receive Federal funds under grant and cooperative agreement awards to register and maintain current information in [SAM](#) unless the entity is exempt (see [section 5.3B](#)) or the Service waives the requirement (see [section 5.8](#)).

C. To maintain an active registration in SAM, recipients must review and update their SAM information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently when information changes.

5.8 May the Service waive the DUNS and SAM registration requirements for an entity?

A. Yes, but because we need to ensure transparency of Federal funding, we may only approve a waiver if one of the following criteria is met:

(1) We must protect information about the entity from disclosure to avoid compromising classified information or national security or jeopardizing the personal safety of the entity's clients, or

(2) A foreign entity is applying for or receiving an award for less than \$25,000, the project will be conducted outside of the United States, and we find it impractical for the entity to comply with the requirement (see [section 5.10](#) for information about what has to happen if the award reaches \$25,000 or more).

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 5 DUNS and SAM Registration Requirements

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B. If one of the criteria above is met:

- (1) We can waive the requirement for both the DUNS and SAM registration, or
- (2) If the recipient has a DUNS number but cannot register in SAM, we can waive just the SAM registration requirement.

5.9 What is the process to request a waiver?

A. To request a waiver, the program must:

- (1) Obtain from the entity a written justification supporting the criterion/criteria (see [section 5.8A](#)).
- (2) Complete [FWS Form 3-2451](#), *Financial Assistance Recipient DUNS/SAM Registration Waiver*. The managing Directorate member must sign and date the waiver request form. Someone “Acting” for him/her may sign the form in his/her absence, but the signature cannot be delegated below the “Acting” level.
- (3) Route the written justification and completed waiver request form in the Data Tracking System (DTS) to the AD-WSFR.

B. The AD-WSFR will send the request to the Branch Chief, FAPO. FAPO staff will:

- (1) Recommend to the AD-WSFR whether or not to approve the waiver request based on the criteria in [section 5.8A](#), and
- (2) Maintain a list of all approved and denied waivers.

C. The AD-WSFR or his/her Acting must approve or deny the waiver request by signing and dating the waiver form.

D. After the program receives the waiver decision from the AD-WSFR, program staff must:

- (1) Maintain the form in the official award file, and
- (2) Send the entity a copy of the form.

5.10. What happens if a foreign entity receives a waiver, but the total Federal award amount is later increased to \$25,000 or more? Once the cumulative total Federal award amount becomes equal to or greater than \$25,000, the waiver is automatically revoked, and the foreign entity must register in SAM. To ensure compliance with the funding limit, FAPO monitors all financial assistance awards to foreign recipients with waivers to ensure they do not reach or exceed the \$25,000 limit.

A. When such an award equals or exceeds the \$25,000 limit, FAPO must:

- (1) Notify the Grants Specialist or other managing officer that the recipient’s waiver is revoked and that the recipient needs to register in SAM to continue receiving payments,
- (2) In coordination with any other impacted Departmental bureau(s), request that the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) Vendor Master Data Maintenance team place a payment block on the recipient’s vendor record in FBMS, and
- (3) After the recipient registers in SAM, work with the FBMS Vendor Master Data Maintenance team to make necessary updates to the recipient’s FBMS vendor record and remove the payment blocks.

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B. The program that initiated the waiver request must:

(1) Communicate with the recipient until their SAM registration is complete, and

(2) After the recipient registers in SAM, notify FAPO that the registration is complete and provide the recipient's DUNS number if the recipient was not previously registered in DUNS.

5.11 What must Service programs do to ensure applicant and recipient compliance with the DUNS and SAM registration requirements? We must:

A. Include the DUNS and SAM registration requirements in the full *Notice of Funding Availability and Application Instructions* document that is attached to the Grants.gov synopsis when we post a funding opportunity on Grants.gov,

B. Include reference to the 2 CFR Part 25, Appendix A award term in every grant and cooperative agreement award notice,

C. Unless the entity is exempt or receives a waiver (see sections 5.3B and 5.8), and before obligating funds for a new award:

(1) Confirm that the entity has an active registration in SAM. Search for the entity in SAM (typically by searching by the DUNS number the entity puts on their application),

(2) Make sure that the DUNS number associated with the entity's active SAM registration matches the DUNS number on the FBMS vendor record for the award, and

(3) Include the following statement in every notice of award:

Under the terms and conditions of this award, your organization must maintain an active SAM registration until the final financial report is submitted or final payment is received, whichever is later. If your organization's SAM registration expires during the required period, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will suspend payment under this and all other Service awards to your organization until you update your organization's SAM registration.

D. Before releasing an award revision, confirm that the recipient's SAM registration is still active. We must not provide additional funding or extend an award period of performance to a recipient with an inactive SAM registration.

E. Monitor SAM registration expiration dates and remind recipients with upcoming expiration dates of their responsibility to maintain an active SAM registration. We can use the FBMS Enterprise Management Information System (EMIS) reporting to monitor SAM registration expiration dates.

F. FAPO staff may test for compliance with the SAM registration requirements. If FAPO detects an expired SAM registration, they will notify the affected Grants Specialist(s) or other managing officer that the recipient is out of compliance.

5.12 What happens when a recipient's SAM registration expires? FBMS automatically places blocks that prevent the obligation of new funds to the recipient and the release of payments requested through the Interior Business Center (IBC).

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 5 DUNS and SAM Registration Requirements

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5.15 May the Service reinstate a terminated award? No. Once we terminate an award, we may not reinstate it.

5.16 If, during a period of suspension or termination, a recipient incurs costs authorized under an award, are the costs allowable and eligible for reimbursement? We may reimburse the recipient for allowable and eligible costs during a suspension or termination, but only if:

- A.** The costs cannot be reasonably avoided;
- B.** The costs were from obligations the recipient made before the suspension or termination action and not in anticipation of either action. For terminations, the costs must be the type that the recipient could not cancel;
- C.** The costs would have been allowable if the award were not suspended or terminated; and
- D.** We notify the recipient (with appropriate return receipt) through mail, fax, or email that we authorize reimbursement of the costs.

/sgd/ Stephen Guertin
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: September 30, 2013

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Financial Assistance Business Process Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance

Point of Contact

Send any questions by email to the Chief, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), Branch of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO). See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

Document Change Log

FAPO will update this template over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations or Department of the Interior or Service policy. We will post revised versions of this document on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> and will note updates to this document in the following table:

Table 1: Document Change Log

Date Changed	Description of Change Made
9-30-2015	Removed attached signed DTS#057030 memo; clarified Step 4 instructions; updated Service form 3-2462 to remove references to 43 CFR Part 12 and A-133 and replace with 2 CFR 200 and Single Audit.

Purpose

This guidance implements the recipient risk assessment required in DIG 2011-03, Amendment 1, Financial Assistance Monitoring Protocol.

Scope

This guidance applies to all Service programs that issue, administer, and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards.

Instructions

NOTE: To make sure all recipients within a program are assessed in a consistent manner, we suggest that programs develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for completing FWS Form 3-2462. If you need assistance in developing an SOP, please contact FAPO.

1. Complete FWS Form 3-2462, Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment once a Fiscal Year (FY) for each recipient who will be awarded one or more grant or cooperative agreement awards from the program in the open FY.
2. Refer to Table 2 for a description of recipient risk levels.
3. Refer to Table 3 for a description of award monitoring activities.
4. Based on the result of the risk assessment, incorporate the required monitoring activities detailed in Table 4 that are applicable to the recipient into all notices of award to the recipient in the open FY. You do not need to include/specific the risk level resulting from the

risk assessment in the notice of the award. See Note in Table 2 below. The results of this risk assessment will apply to all awards to the recipient in the open FY.

5. Maintain the completed FWS Form 3-2462 in either:
 - A. The official award file, or
 - B. A centralized subject-matter file, which may be more efficient for recipients who receive multiple awards in the FY.

Table 2: Risk Level Descriptions

Level	Description
Low	The minimum level of monitoring required. Assigned to awards with low inherent risk. Low inherent risk exists when the nature of the recipient or project is such that even if internal control weaknesses are/were to be identified, the risk of loss is minimal or, if loss were to occur, would have little to no impact on the recipient's financial condition or project implementation, the Federal funding program, or compliance with Federal financial assistance or statutory requirements.
Medium	Assigned to awards with a <i>slightly increased level of risk</i> as compared to those with low inherent risk. Moderate inherent risk exists when the nature of the recipient or project is such that there is an increased potential for loss that, if a loss were to occur, could be absorbed by the recipient and/or mitigated without a major failure in project implementation, would have moderate impact to the Federal funding program, or would have moderate impact on compliance with Federal financial assistance or statutory requirements.
High	Assigned to awards with a <i>significantly increased level of risk</i> as compared to those with Low or Medium inherent risk. High inherent risk exists when the nature of the recipient or project is such that it is particularly subject/exposed to loss that, if a loss were to occur, could result in a significant or harmful loss for the recipient and/or the Federal funding program or have significant impact on compliance with Federal financial assistance or statutory requirements. NOTE: Assigning a risk level of High using FWS Form 3-2462 is NOT THE SAME as identifying the recipient as High Risk and does not affect the recipient's eligibility for Federal awards.

Table 3: Award Monitoring Activities

Activity	Description
Milestone Plan Creation and Update	Follow Service Policies 516 FW 1 and 516 FW 2 . Programs must require recipients to submit financial and performance reports and monitor recipient compliance with those requirements. Create and use a PRISM Milestone Plan to: monitor recipient reporting due dates, including due date extensions; make sure recipients submit all reports on time; and enter report receipt dates. Follow up with recipients on late or missing reports.
Payment Activity Review	Programs must regularly monitor recipient requests for payment and funds draw down activity to compare their frequency with the approved project activities and schedule. This monitoring activity provides a general picture of project progress and allows programs to identify and follow up with the recipient on any potential funds management issues. The frequency for payment activity review and follow up will vary and will depend on each award

Activity	Description
	<p>circumstance. Programs can use the reporting features of FBMS and Treasury's ASAP reporting tools, for recipients using this payment method, to monitor recipient payment activity. On occasion, programs may also review recipient's source documentation (e.g., purchase orders, invoices, cancelled checks, payroll, and time and attendance records) for random transactions under each award to determine the nature of the expenditure and verify it is an allowable cost under the award terms and conditions.</p>
Financial and Performance Report Review	<p>Programs must review and approve performance reports, comparing reported progress and accomplishments against approved goals and objectives, scope of work, and schedule, and analyze reasons provided for why goals were not met, when applicable. Programs must review and approve financial reports, reconciling reported data with financial system payments and/or Treasury drawdown reports and analyzing payment request activity as compared to reported project progress to determine whether funds are being spent appropriately. Confirm file contains copy of recipient's approved NICRA covering the reporting period and matching the reported indirect cost rate. Note any unexpected unspent balance of funds received by the recipient. Follow up with recipient regarding incomplete or inaccurate reports, reported issues or delays, or questions that come up during review, when applicable. Provide technical assistance and take additional action, when applicable. Document all report approvals and follow up communications in the award file.</p>
File Review	<p>Review to make sure award file is up-to-date/complete and all documents properly executed. Document any issues and follow up with the recipient in writing, as needed. At a minimum, a file review is required for every award as part of the closeout process.</p>
Desk Review	<p>A desk review is conducted to develop an understanding of the recipient's progress and performance, and may be routine or initiated specifically to address a particular issue or concern. The routine desk review takes into account reports submitted by the recipient plus any other data available, including previous communications and financial/payment system reports. When conducted to address a particular issue or concern, the reviewer may need to contact the recipient in writing to request additional documentation or information regarding the identified issue, deficiency or area of concern. The reviewer may also schedule one or more conference calls with the recipient to thoroughly discuss and document the issue, deficiency or area of concern.</p> <p>Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a file review; • Review and update Milestone Plan, as needed; • Compile a list of any programmatic, administrative or financial issues to investigate/discuss with the recipient; • Contact the recipient to request missing or additional information and/or to discuss any issue(s); • Document the analysis completed, issues and conclusions and any recommended next steps or required corrective actions; • Follow up with the recipient in writing regarding recommended next steps or required corrective actions and negotiated completion dates, as necessary; • Monitor resolution of issues and notify the recipient in writing when process is complete and no further action is required from the recipient;

Activity	Description
	and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep all related documentation in the official award file.
Site Visit (Virtual or On-Site)	Visit that typically lasts 1-2 days, conducted either as a scheduled activity or in direct response to serious issues or concerns to evaluate the current status of a project and the recipient's ability to comply with the award terms and conditions.
Milestone Progress Assessment Visit (On-Site)	For awards that have been conditioned to require Service review and/or approval of progress before the recipient can request funds or begin the next stage of the project, program will conduct a brief site visit to evaluate the current status of a project. Most often conducted as part of the Service's responsibilities under a cooperative agreement.

Table 4: Required Monitoring Activities

Activity	Final Risk Level=Low	Final Risk Level = Medium	Final Risk Level=High
Milestone Plan Creation and Update	✓	✓	✓
Payment Activity Review	✓	✓	✓
Financial and Performance Report Review	✓	✓	✓
File Review	At award close	At least annually for multi-year awards and at award close	
Desk Review	Only in response to issues/concerns	At least annually for multi-year awards	
Site Visit (Virtual or On-Site)	Only in response to issues/concerns		At least annually*
Milestone Progress Assessment Visit (On-Site)	Not required unless program determines that it should be a condition of the award		

* Limited program resources may require prioritization of high risk awards for scheduling annual site visits based on factors such as, but not limited to: high dollar projects, multi-year projects, continuation projects, recipients receiving multiple awards, or projects of high political or public interest.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment

Date Completed: _____ FY: _____

Recipient Name: _____

Recipient Type (select from drop down): _____ Recipient DUNS: _____

Completed By-Name: _____

Completed By-Program: _____ Region: _____

Instructions:

1. Read the "Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance" posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards>.
2. Complete this form once a Fiscal Year (FY) for each recipient who will be awarded one or more grant or cooperative agreement awards from the program in the open FY. The results of this risk assessment will apply to all awards to the recipient in the open FY.
3. For each category below, enter a numerical rating of 0=Not applicable (N/A), 1=Low, 2=Medium or 3=High in the Rating box. Use the information provided under the Rating Description sections to assist you in assigning a rating to each category. If not a new recipient, consider the recipient's performance on all currently open and recently closed awards, when applicable to the risk category.
4. For each category below, specify in the "Basis for Rating and Other Comments" field the factors that contributed to the rating entered. Provide enough detail to give an independent reviewer a clear understanding of the rationale used to determine the rating. If documents exist to support your rating (e.g., performance report on previous award) identify the document(s) and specify the location of the document(s). Here is an example of the type of detail to be entered in the "Basis for Rating and Other Comments" fields:

Category 1 Rating = 1; "Basis for Rating and Other Comments" field reads: *The recipient has successfully implemented awards under our program in the past. Some projects include sub-recipients and construction, but awards with these complexities have been well managed. Summaries of past project results are available in our program database.*

Category 1: POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS	Rating: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
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Category 1 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Not a valid response.
1=Low:	Project has no identifiable challenges; no past issues; typical project period for the program or project type; well-qualified recipient; project not complex; no sub-recipients; recipient has all equipment required for the performance of the project.
2=Medium:	New project for recipient; one or more sub-recipients; longer than typical project period for the program or project type; unproven recipient; recipient has had some issues with implementation on other awards; some challenges or potential challenges identified, such as recent staff turnover or reorganization that could affect implementation; recipient does not have all equipment required for the performance of the project but, as noted in its application package, has plans in place to obtain necessary equipment in advance of need.
3=High:	Project has multiple sub-recipients; complex project; multiple partners; construction project; recipient has had significant issues with implementation on other awards; significant challenges identified; recipient does not have all equipment required for the performance of the project and has not secured sufficient resources to make sure lack of equipment does not significantly delay planned project activities.

Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

Category 2: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND FUNDS MANAGEMENT RECORD	Rating: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
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Category 2 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Recipient is a Commercial Organization, Foreign Entity, or Individual.
1=Low:	Recipient has received a Federal financial assistance award in the past, has a financial management system in place that meets the applicable funds management requirements in 2 CFR Part 200, and the program has never identified any funds management issues on previous awards to recipient.
2=Medium:	Recipient has received an award in the past, has a financial system in place that meets the applicable funds management requirements in 2 CFR Part 200, but has had funds management issues on a current or previous award(s). Recipient was responsive to USFWS communications or requests for information or action in regards to identified issues. Issues were resolved.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment

3=High:	Recipient has never received a Federal financial assistance award and does not have experience managing Federal funds, or recipient has received an award in the past and has had significant funds management issues on a current or previous award(s), such as routinely submitting incorrect financial reports, requesting more than immediate cash needs, major variances between budget and actual expenditures, difficulty maintaining required matching funds, disallowed costs, among others. One or more reports of waste, fraud or abuse currently under investigation or determined to be valid. Recipient was not responsive to USFWS communications or requests for information or action in regards to identified issues. Issues were never resolved.
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Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

Category 3: PERFORMANCE TRACK RECORD	Rating:
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Category 3 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Not a valid response.
1=Low:	Recipient met all proposed outcomes and/or deliverables on previous award(s); on schedule to meet proposed outcomes and/or deliverables on current award(s). Recipient met most proposed outcomes and/or deliverables on previous award(s) and reason(s) for delay or non-performance was (were) unavoidable; on schedule or only slightly delayed to meet proposed outcomes and/or deliverables on current award(s).
2=Medium:	Recipient may have had issues related to compliance with award terms and conditions on current or past award(s) but recipient was responsive to USFWS communications or requests for information or action related to the issues. Issues were resolved.
3=High:	Recipient has no past or current award with the USFWS or failed to deliver proposed outcomes and/or deliverables on previous award(s); reason(s) for delay or non-performance was (were) unavoidable; significantly behind schedule or failing to meet maintenance of effort required on current award(s) due to failures within recipient's control to correct. Recipient significantly failed to comply with award terms and conditions. Recipient was not responsive to USFWS communications or requests for information or action related to the issues. Issues were never resolved.

Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

Category 4: STAFF LEVEL AND KEY STAFF QUALIFICATIONS	Rating:
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Category 4 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Recipient is an Individual.
1=Low:	Recipient provided information detailing the experience and qualifications of key project personnel. All personnel appear qualified to meet the project objectives; no past issues with recipient in regards to key staff qualification. The project is fully staffed.
2=Medium:	Recipient provided information detailing the experience and qualifications for some key project personnel. All of the identified personnel appear qualified to meet the project objectives, but other key project personnel have not yet been hired.
3=High:	Recipient has not yet identified/hired any key project personnel; one or more of the personnel identified do not appear qualified to meet the project objectives; or one or more key personnel left the project and replacement(s) have not been identified.

Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

Category 5: DELIVERY EXPERIENCE	Rating:
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Category 5 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Not a valid response.
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment

1=Low:	Recipient has delivered the funded project/program or similar projects/programs for USFWS or other Federal agencies for at least five years.
2=Medium:	Recipient has delivered the funded project/program or similar projects/programs for USFWS or other Federal agencies for at least two years.
3=High:	Recipient has never delivered the funded project/program or similar projects/programs, or has delivered the funded project/program or similar projects/programs for USFWS or other Federal agencies for less than two years.

Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

Category 6: AWARD ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE **Rating:**

Category 6 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Recipient has no past or current award from the program.
1=Low:	Recipient has been timely in the submission of budget and project amendment requests, prior approval requests, financial and performance reporting, extensions of performance period and reporting due dates, and significant development reports, as applicable.
2=Medium:	Recipient has mostly been timely in the submission of budget and project amendment requests, prior approval requests, financial and performance reporting, extensions of performance period and reporting due dates, and significant development reports, as applicable. When out of compliance, recipient was responsive to written notifications and requests from the USFWS regarding late or incomplete requests or reports.
3=High:	Recipient has consistently been late in the submission of budget and project amendment requests, prior approval requests, financial and performance reporting, extensions of performance period and reporting due dates, and significant development reports, as applicable. Recipient is seldom or not at all responsive to written notifications and requests from the USFWS regarding late or incomplete requests or reports.

Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

Category 7: SINGLE AUDIT **Rating:**

Category 7 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Recipient is a Commercial Organization, Foreign Entity, or Individual.
1=Low:	Recipient is a government or non-profit entity and their application indicates that they were not required to submit a Single Audit report for their most recently closed fiscal year; recipient completed a Single Audit for at least one of their two most recently closed fiscal years. Recipient submitted required Single Audit report to the Single Audit Clearinghouse on time. Recipient did not have any Qualified or Adverse/Disclaimer opinions, significant internal control deficiencies or findings for non-compliance.
2=Medium:	Recipient has not had any Adverse/Disclaimer opinions, more than two significant internal control deficiencies, or more than two findings for non-compliance on any Single Audit conducted in the last five years. Recipient was late in submitting required Single Audit report to the Single Audit Clearinghouse.
3=High:	Recipient has had an Adverse/Disclaimer opinion, more than two significant internal control deficiencies, or more than two findings for non-compliance on any Single Audit conducted in the last five years. Recipient has a history of not submitting Single Audit reports to the Single Audit Clearinghouse on time. Recipient currently working under a Single Audit Corrective Action Plan related to a current or previous award funded by the program.

Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment

Category 8: OTHER AUDITS REQUIRED BY FUNDING PROGRAM LEGISLATION **Rating:**

Category 8 Rating Descriptions

0=N/A:	Recipient has no past or current award from the program; or previous/current/pending award funded in full with Resource Management funds. If previous/current/pending award funded by other types of funds, program authorizing legislation does not require recipients to conduct a formal audit.
1=Low:	Recipient has had no significant internal control deficiencies or findings for non-compliance.
2=Medium:	Recipient has had less than two significant internal control deficiencies and less than two findings for non-compliance.
3=High:	Recipient has had more than two significant internal control deficiencies and more than two findings for non-compliance.

Basis for Rating and Other Comments:

RISK RATING AVERAGE (auto-calculated based on numerical scores entered in Rating boxes above): **0.00**

Instructions: In the Preliminary Risk Level box below, enter the preliminary risk level that corresponds with the risk rating average calculated above, as follows:

- Enter "**Low**" if the number in the Risk Rating Average box above is between **0-1.49**
- Enter "**Medium**" if between **1.5-2.49**
- Enter "**High**" if between **2.5-3**

PRELIMINARY RISK LEVEL (Low, Medium or High):

OTHER FACTORS IMPACTING RISK LEVEL:

Instructions: Consider if there are any other factors that impact, either by raising or lowering, the recipient's preliminary risk level. If there are such factors, describe each factor and explain how each raised or lowered the preliminary risk level in the text box below, and then enter either "Low", "Medium" or "High" in the Final Risk Level box below.

If no such factors exist, enter "No other factors impact the preliminary risk level" in the text box below, and then enter the same value as entered in the Preliminary Risk Level box above in the Final Risk Level box below.

FINAL RISK LEVEL (Low, Medium or High):

Instructions: Based on the result of this risk assessment, incorporate the required monitoring activities into all notices of award to the recipient in the open FY following the "Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance" posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards>.

Objectives:

1. Identify and explain the purpose of the Notice of Award (NOA) and its elements.
2. Describe the NOA's terms of acceptance, provisions and special conditions.

Handouts:

- BFA 6-1 – Notice of Award Letter Template (Attachment 10)
- BFA 6-2 – Modifying the PRISM Grant/Cooperative Agreement Cover Page (Attachment 12)
- BFA 6-3 – Setting Project Period Dates for Awards (Attachment 8)
- BFA 6-4 – Award Standard Terms and Conditions
- BFA 6-5 – Sample FA Award Special Terms and Conditions (Attachment 11)

The Award Phase

Once a Program Office selects the successful applicant(s) there are important activities that must be performed during the award phase.

- Compile all required documents in the newly established award file.
- Generate the NOA.
- Obligate funds.
- Send NOA to recipient.



Notice of Award

The Notice of Award (NOA), the central component of the Award Management Process, is a legal document authorizing the recipient to expend Federal funds. The NOA sets the award-specific terms and conditions, and provisions; and acts as the basis for all future monitoring and evaluation activities conducted by the program and the recipient.

If Program Offices elect to use the Prism-generated Grant or Cooperative Agreement Cover Page form, they **MUST** follow the guidance in the New Award Guidance Step 9.

By accepting the award, the recipient agrees to comply with all the award terms and conditions. Acceptance is defined as the start of work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Asking a recipient to co-sign the Notice of Award document adds an unnecessary burden and processing time to the grant or cooperative agreement award transaction.

Key Elements of the Notice of Award Letter

The FWS NOA Template contains all elements required by 2 CFR 200.210 'Information Contained in a Federal Award'. By following the template instructions, Program Offices comply with Federal regulation for NOA letters to Recipients.

The following are the key elements of the NOA:

- Recipient information
 - Name, DUNS (if applicable)
- Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN)
- Dates
 - Award date (signature date)
 - Period of Performance dates
 - Report due dates
- Federal funds amount
- Scope of work (reference to proposal)
- CFDA number and statutory authority legislation
- General and special terms and conditions
- Administrative requirements



Exercise: Notice of Award

Use the New Award Guidance and the NOA Template to answer the questions below. Cite your references.

- 1. According to the New Award Guidance, how is the award’s period of performance start date established? Where is it documented?

[New Award Guidance, Table 5, pg 21 directs to Attachment 8, ‘Setting Grant and Cooperative Agreement Project and Funding Period Dates’ \(BFA 6-3\), which gives four options.](#)
[Debriefing points - What is regional practice? Emphasize that more than one option exists. Situation of project can dictate which option to use.](#)

- 2. The New Award Guidance states that allowable costs must occur during which period to be eligible for reimbursement?

[The begin/end date of the award, aka the performance period or funding period or grant period on Award Letter. Exception is pre-award costs that are approved in Award or contracts approved during award period.](#)
[See Attachment 8 \(BFA 6-3\). Cf. 2 CFR 200.77 ‘Period of Performance’.](#)

- 3. Where are the FWS financial assistance award terms and conditions located?

Fws.gov/grants

- 4. Which attachment in the New Award guidance provides FWS special terms and conditions? List a few examples.

[See Attachment 11, BFA 6-5..](#)

**Exercise: Notice of Award (cont'd)**

5. According to the NOA Template, in what ways does a Recipient accept a Federal Financial Assistance award? How does a recipient reject an award?

Start the work, draw down funds, or accept the award via electronic means.

NOA template Terms of Acceptance (pg 8). To reject an award, written notice must be provided within 30 days of receiving the award letter.

6. What does the New Award Guidance state about Recipients co-signing the NOA?

No. NAG Step 12 (pg 23). Signed application is Recipient's

Authorized signature, incorporated by reference in NOA.



Learning Points

- ✓ The Notice of Award is the legal awarding document for financial assistance.
- ✓ The NOA: (1) states the terms and conditions of the grant, (2) obligates the Federal share of estimated project costs by program (if available); and (3) provides information to monitor uses of funds.
- ✓ Only costs incurred during the performance period are eligible for reimbursement, unless pre-award costs have specifically been approved, as stated in the NOA.
- ✓ Conditional statements clarify the terms and conditions of the award.

Last Updated: February 1, 2016

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Business Process
Notice of Award Letter Template

Point of Contact

Send any questions about this document by email to the Chief, Branch of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR). See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

Document Change Log

We will post updated versions of this document on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> and will log updates made to this document in the following table:

Date Changed	Description of Change Made
2-1-2016	Updated "Other Mandatory Disclosures" section under Reporting Requirements to incorporate new Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) requirements. Made other minor edits/corrections throughout.
9-30-2015	Added optional "Prior Approvals" section; Added clarifications to notes at the beginning of Indirect Cost optional statements and end of Indirect Cost-Condition #4 text; added statement after Award Terms and Condition requiring timely notice to the Service if not accepting award.
2-20-2015	Incorporated requirements under new 2 CFR 200, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200.113, inserted mandatory disclosure requirements as a new reporting requirement; • 200.210 (d), inserted language related to incorporating award performance goals, when appropriate; • 200.308 and 200.407, updated language related to waiving prior approvals to make more general and to add reference to incorporating restrictions, as allowed in 2 CFR 200.
2-20-2015	Incorporated requirements under recently issued Department policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIG 2011-03, Amendment 1, "Financial Assistance Monitoring Protocol" and related "Service FA Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance"; • DOI-AAAP-0007, DOI Policy, Procedures, and General Decision-Making Criteria for Deviations from Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates under Federal Financial Assistance Programs and Agreements; and • DOI-AAAP-0008, "Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures for Financial Assistance".
2-20-2015	Other changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added instructions on when to include DUNS+4 & CAGE code; • Changed "project period" to "performance period"; • Clarified when to include Recipient match/cost-share on notice of award; and • Added additional options for detailing pre-award cost period.

Instructions

Use the Notice of Award Letter Template as a starting point for developing an award-specific notice of award letter. Programs must review this template at least annually to make sure any program-specific templates that are developed based on this template remain up to date. FAPO will update this template over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations, Department of the Interior or Service policy, or new/changed Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) functionality. For more information, see the [Issuing a New Financial Assistance Award Guidance](#) document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards>.

The Notice of Award Letter Template begins on page 3 of this document. Do not send this Instructions cover page to your recipient. This Instructions cover page does not need be maintained in the official award file. The table below provides editing instructions for completing an award-specific Notice of Award Letter:

Text Characteristic	Represents
Times New Roman text with gray highlighting	Instructions for completing required elements that must be replaced with program-specific text
Times New Roman text with yellow highlighting	Instructions for customizing the letter with program-, project-, and/or recipient-specific content
Arial text with blue highlighting	Notes and additional instructions that must be removed
Times New Roman text, not highlighted	Text that either: 1) must not be removed or 2) can only be removed if it is determined that, based on yellow highlighted instructions above the text, the text does not apply to the award

To save completion time and to shorten the template document, programs are invited to develop program- and/or recipient-specific notice of award letter templates based on this template. Deciding which sections apply to your program and/or recipients will be the most time-consuming step. Contact FAPO if you need assistance in determining which sections apply to your awards.

WSFR/AIM/Branch of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

[Insert city, state and zip code]

In Reply Refer To:

FWS/[Insert program-specific acronyms/insert DTS number, when applicable]

[Recipient contact name and title]

[Recipient organization name]

[Recipient address]

DUNS: [insert recipient DUNS number, or, if recipient has more than one DUNS, enter their DUNS-Plus 4 and the corresponding CAGE code for the award. Remove text if award is to an individual.]

Subject: Notice of [enter Grant or Cooperative Agreement] Award [enter FBMS award number]

Dear Mr. /Ms. [recipient contact name]:

NOTE: Change the text highlighted in yellow in the paragraph below as needed to identify the proposal, or version of, in the event one or more revisions were submitted, on which this award is based. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. Remove this note.

Your organization's application for Federal financial assistance titled "[enter project title]" submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)'s CFDA Program [enter program's CFDA number] is approved. This award is made under the authority of: [insert program's *primary* authorizing legislation]. For a complete list of this program's authorizing legislation, go to <https://www.cfda.gov/> and search by the CFDA Program number. This award is made based on Service approval of your organization's proposal signed on [insert date], hereby incorporated by reference into this award. Funds under this award are to be used to [Enter a BRIEF one to two sentence statement of the purpose and/or objectives of the award. You do not need to re-write the approved proposal, which is already incorporated by reference, but rather provide enough of a description so that the recipient is clear as to the project/activity being funded. If deliverables/products OTHER than the standard financial and performance reports are expected, describe those deliverables/products here and detail when each of those deliverables/products are to be delivered to the Service. When appropriate, include any specific performance goals, indicators, milestones, or expected outcomes with an expected timeline for accomplishment (see 2 CFR 200.210 (d)). For awards issued under mandatory programs, if the award purpose/objectives cannot easily be summarized in one or two sentences, skip this section].

[If the award is for a cooperative agreement, include a detailed and project-specific description of the substantial activities to be carried out by Service staff under the award ("The Service will..." and "the Recipient will..." statements). Substantial involvement does NOT include: awarding funds, assigning a project officer, reviewing and approving standard financial and performance reports, processing payments, monitoring to ensure project is completed on time, or performing any other routine administrative and monitoring activities. These responsibilities are inherent to every financial assistance award and do NOT justify issuing a cooperative agreement! Do not include these types of activities in the "The Service will..." substantial involvement statement. See the [Selection of Funding Instrument](#)

Decision Diagram posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> for more information on what types of activities are/are not considered substantial involvement].

NOTE: The notice of award must include the performance period start and end dates. Some awards may also require information on funding period(s) start and end date(s). Select one of the two options provided below for stating the project and funding periods for the award. Remove the yellow highlighted Option 1 and Option 2 section headers. Remove the text under the option that is not applicable to the award. Update the text for the option that is applicable to the award following the instructions provided. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. See the **Setting Performance Period Dates for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards** document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> for more information on setting performance period start and end dates for both standard and incrementally funded awards. Remove this note.

Performance Period Option 1-Standard (not incrementally funded)

Note: the yellow highlighted text in the second to last sentence of the paragraph below is optional ONLY if program legislation specifically provides a different timeframe for the recipient to liquidate all obligations. Otherwise, the text must not be changed. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. Remove this note.

The performance period of this award [enter “is” or “begins on”] [enter start date or “the signature date on this letter”] through [enter end date]. Only allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during the performance period [enter “and any authorized pre-award costs”, if pre-award costs are approved] may be charged to this award. All obligations incurred under the award must be liquidated no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the performance period, unless the Service approves a final financial reporting period extension (see Reporting Requirements section below). If you need more time to complete project activities, you must submit a written request to the Service Project Officer identified in the Project Contacts section below before the end of the stated performance period (see Project/Program Plan and Budget Revisions section below).

Performance Period Option 2-Incrementally funded project

Note: The yellow highlighted text in the third paragraph below is optional ONLY if program legislation specifically provides a different time frame for the recipient to liquidate all obligations. Otherwise, the text must not be changed. Remove yellow highlighting when highlighted text is retained. Remove this note.

The performance period of this award [enter “is” or “begins on”] [enter start date or “the signature date on this letter”] through [enter end date]. This is the period of Federal sponsorship. This project will be funded incrementally over time [Insert detailed description of how the incremental funding will work (e.g., anticipated timing of subsequent increments? How much for each increment? How much total expected over the entire performance period? What documentation does the recipient have to provide to receive next increment- deliverables from previous segment, SF 424, budget, other?)].

The funding period for the first segment of this project is [enter “is” or “begins on”] [enter a specific start date or “the signature date on this letter”] through [enter end date]. The total amount of Service funding available for the first segment of this project is [enter total Service amount for first segment]. Only allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during this funding period and [enter “and any authorized pre-award costs”, if pre-award costs are approved] may be charged to this award.

The Service will revise this award over time to add new funding for each subsequent project segment. Each project segment will be assigned a specific funding period, during which only allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during the specified funding period may be charged to this award. All obligations incurred under the award must be liquidated no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the performance period, unless the Service approves a final financial reporting period extension (see Reporting Requirements section below). If you need more time to complete project activities, you must submit a written request to the Service Project Officer identified in the Project Contacts section below before the end of the stated performance period (see Project/Program Plan and Budget Revisions section below).

The Service's obligation to provide incremental funding up to the total anticipated award amount is contingent on: 1) satisfactory Recipient performance and 2) the availability of funds. No legal liability on the part of the Service exists unless and until the Service obligates funds and notifies the Recipient in writing that funds are available for the purposes of this award.

End option 2

NOTE: If the award includes post performance period real property retention and/or maintenance requirements, the retention/maintenance period (e.g., habitat retention period) must be identified SEPARATELY from the performance period and must NOT be referred to as a performance period, budget period, or funding period. Remove this note.

This [insert “award” or “project”] is funded as follows:

NOTE: The award funding details below are presented in a TABLE format. This table can and should be changed to reflect any special circumstance. Change/add table column headers to convey recipient share, matching funds, other Federal sources, and/or Federal funding identifiers, as needed. Change row titles or insert new rows as needed to: 1) identify all future expected-to-be-funded periods and anticipated award total, for incrementally funded projects or, 2) identify obligations allocated for different purposes or programs, if recipient needs to maintain separation of funds across purposes or programs. “Recipient” column included for use when incorporating recipient mandatory or voluntary committed cost-share or matching funds as a binding requirement of the award (see 2 CFR 200.99). Remove the “Recipient” column if recipient is not contributing mandatory/voluntary committed funds. Remove this note.

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
This obligation:	\$0.00	\$0.00
Award Total:	\$0.00	\$0.00

If you authorized the recipient to be reimbursed for some or all pre-award costs, or waived the prior approval requirement as allowed under 2 CFR 200.308(d)(1), include and update the following text and remove these yellow highlighted instructions. If pre-award costs are not authorized, remove the following text and these yellow highlighted instructions:

Pre-award Costs: [Enter either: “Your organization [“is” or “was”] authorized to be reimbursed for [insert description of expenses, e.g., all direct and indirect pre-award expenses] incurred [insert either “X calendar days prior to the award period of performance start date”, “starting on [insert date]”, or “incurred between [insert date] and the award period of performance start date”] of this award and necessary to comply with the proposed project schedule/period of performance.” OR “Your

organization [“is” or “was”] authorized to incur project costs 90 calendar days before this award was made without further prior approval.”]

If the award is subject to mandated Federal share/recipient match or cost-share requirements, describe those requirements here and remove these yellow highlighted instructions. If the award is not subject to such requirements, remove the following text and these yellow highlighted instructions:

Federal Share/Match Requirements: [Insert description of the Federal share and/or recipient match requirements and/or restrictions here].

[Prior Approvals: If the program wants to waive any prior written approval requirements in 2 CFR 200 (see 2 CFR 200.407), detail those here. If the program wants to highlight any written prior approval requirements that may be applicable to the award, detail those here. If neither is applicable, remove these yellow highlighted instructions and section title].

NOTE: Review the four indirect cost-related conditions provided below and include/remove condition text as appropriate to the award. If more than one condition is included, remove the “Indirect Costs:” section identifier on all but the condition appearing first. If the recipient has an approved indirect cost rate agreement at the time of award and will charge costs at their approved rate, no special/condition statement is required. Remove this note.

Indirect Costs-Condition 1: For recipients other than individuals, if the funding program is governed by legislation or regulation that prohibits or limits recipient indirect cost rates AND the program does not have any legislative or regulatory restriction on using unallowable indirect costs to satisfy cost-sharing or matching under the award, include and update the following text and remove these yellow highlighted instructions. If this condition does not apply, remove the following text and these yellow highlighted instructions:

Indirect Costs: In accordance with [insert citation of legislation/regulation], indirect costs under this Federal program are [enter either “limited to [insert description of limit]” or “not allowed”]. The amount otherwise allowable as indirect costs based on your organization’s approved indirect cost rate with the Federal government may be used to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements. Indirect costs otherwise allocable to this award may not be shifted to another Federal award unless specifically authorized by legislation.

Indirect Costs-Condition 2: For eligible recipients other than U.S. states and local governments receiving more than \$35 million in Federal funding in a year, that have chosen to accept as a condition of award a flat indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs, include the following text and remove these yellow highlighted instructions. If this condition does not apply, remove the following text and these yellow highlighted instructions:

Indirect Costs: Recipient is authorized to charge only a flat indirect cost rate of 10% of the Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) for the life of this award, including any subsequent revisions and extensions for time, regardless of any indirect cost rate the Recipient may establish with the Federal government during the award period. MTDC is defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

Indirect Costs-Condition 3: If the recipient will submit an indirect cost rate proposal after the award is made, and the program has conditionally approved a budget that includes total estimated indirect costs, include the following text and remove these yellow highlighted instructions. If this condition does not apply, remove the following text and these yellow highlighted instructions:

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs under this award are approved on the condition that the Recipient will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency immediately after the award is made and

no later than 90 calendar days past the award performance period start date. The Recipient is not authorized to charge indirect costs under this award until the Recipient has received, and provided a copy to the Service Project Officer, an approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from the Federal government. In the event the Recipient fails to establish an approved rate before the end of the award performance period, the Service may either: 1) deobligate the Federal amount budgeted for indirect costs and, if not otherwise prohibited by legislation or regulation, allow the Recipient to use costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements; or 2) allow the Recipient to transfer the amount otherwise allocable as indirect costs to direct costs. Service approval of such budget changes will depend on the particular award circumstance. Indirect costs otherwise allocable to this award may not be shifted to another Federal award unless specifically authorized by legislation.

If the Recipient has submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to the cognizant agency within the required timeframe but the cognizant agency has delayed approval of the proposal, the Recipient must provide to the Service Project Officer a copy of the submitted proposal, the name of the cognizant agency, and evidence of the proposal submission date in the form of either a copy of an emailed submission or written confirmation of the proposal receipt date from the cognizant agency. The Service may, upon review of the documentation and consultation with the cognizant agency, give written approval to the Recipient to charge indirect costs at their proposed rate until their proposal is approved. Service approval to charge indirect costs based on a proposed rate will depend on the circumstance; the Service will not approve a Recipient to charge indirect costs based on a proposed rate if rate approval delays are due to the Recipient having submitted a late, incomplete or inaccurate proposal. The Recipient must receive written prior approval from the Service before charging indirect costs based on a proposed rate. The award may be subject to further revision if the approved rate is higher or lower than the proposed rate.

Indirect Costs-Condition 4: If the award is made under either the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program or Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network, insert the below text and remove these yellow highlighted instructions. If this condition does not apply, remove the following text and these yellow highlighted instructions:

Indirect Costs:

This award is made under the [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]%. Recipient must apply this rate against the same indirect cost rate base as identified in their Federally-approved indirect cost rate agreement. If the Recipient does not have a Federally-approved indirect cost rate, the basis for direct costs is the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR 200.68 “Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)”. The Recipient must request prior approval from the Service Project Officer to use the MTDC base instead of the base identified in their Federally-approved indirect cost rate agreement. The Service’s approval of such a request will be based on a determination that: 1) the Recipient’s approved based is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages), and 2) the use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

Recipients are to use the “Deduction” method for using program income unless otherwise specified in the notice of award (see 2 CFR 200.307). If the project includes generation of program income and the program wants the recipient to use something other than the “Deduction” method, specify the method to

be used below and then remove these yellow highlighted instructions. If this condition does not apply, remove the following text and these yellow highlighted instructions:

Program Income: The approved project includes activities that will generate program income. Income earned during the period of performance of this award shall be [insert instructions and a citation to the regulation section detailing how the Recipient must handle program income]. Recipient must report program income generated through the performance of this project on the Standard Form (SF) 425, Federal Financial Report form (see Reporting Requirements section below).

System for Award Management (SAM) Registration: Under the terms and conditions of this award, your organization must maintain an active SAM registration at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/> until the final financial report is submitted or final payment is received, whichever is later. If your organization's SAM registration expires during the required period, the Service will suspend payment under this and all other Service awards to your organization until you update your organization's SAM registration.

Terms of Acceptance:

Acceptance of a financial assistance award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement) from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with the terms and conditions applicable to the award. Acceptance is defined as the start of work, drawing down or requesting funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service. Awards are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the notice of award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. The terms and conditions of Service awards flow down to subrecipients and contractors, unless a particular award term or condition specifically indicates otherwise. The Federal regulations applicable to Service recipients and their subrecipients and contractors are listed by recipient type in the **Service Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions** posted on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>. If you do not have access to the Internet and require a printed copy of the award terms and conditions, contact the Service Project Officer identified below.

If Recipient decides to not accept this award, Recipient must notify the Service Project Officer in writing within 30 calendar days of that decision.

Special Conditions and Provisions:

NOTE: It is very important that for every award you always review the **Sample Special Award Terms and Conditions** document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> to determine which conditions apply to the award. If one or more of the special award terms and conditions regularly apply to your awards, we strongly recommend you permanently re-insert the text for those items into a modified template for program use. When special award terms and conditions are needed, insert them here and remove the yellow highlighting on the section title above. Not all the sample special terms and conditions provided will apply to every award, nor is the sample list meant to address all possible special award terms and conditions. If the award does not require any special terms and conditions, remove the **Special Conditions and Provisions** section title highlighted in yellow above. Remove this note.

[Detail any special terms and conditions here. Do not include special terms/conditions that do not apply].

Payments:

NOTE: Select the applicable standard text regarding payments from the choices highlighted in yellow below. Retain and update the text below the selected section. Delete the yellow highlighted text above the applicable section and delete all of the other payment option sections. See the **Establishing a Recipient's Payment Method before Obligating Funds for a New Grant or Cooperative Agreement Award in FBMS** guidance document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/Payments-New> for more information on payments. Remove this note.

For domestic recipient enrolled in ASAP:

Your organization has completed enrollment in U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) system. When requesting payment in ASAP, your Payment Requestor will be required to enter an Account ID. The number assigned to this award is the partial Account ID in ASAP. When entering the Account ID in ASAP, the Payment Requestor should enter the award number identified in the subject line on letter followed by a percent sign (%). Refer to the ASAP.gov Help menu for detailed instructions on requesting payments in ASAP. [If the recipient is required to manage funds across purposes or programs (i.e., funding accounts) insert any related information/instructions here].

For domestic recipient waived from ASAP or non-domestic paid EFT to U.S. bank:

Use the Standard Form (SF) [enter either: "270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement (Non-Construction)" or "271, Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement (Construction)"] to request payments and advances. [Enter either "This form is available on the Internet at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/" or "This form is attached"]. Send all payment requests to the Service Project Officer.

For non-domestic recipient paid through ITS who submit requests directly to Service program (don't forget to send the Recipient the required ITS payment cover sheet as an attachment to the award!):

Use the Standard Form (SF) [enter either: "270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement (Non-Construction)" or "271, Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement (Construction)"] to request payments and advances. [Enter either: "This form is available on the Internet at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/" or "This form is attached"]. Payments to non-domestic Recipients to a bank outside the United States are transferred electronically through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) system. Your organization must also complete the attached ITS Payment Cover Sheet and send it together with each signed payment request to the Service Project Officer.

Recipients are responsible for ensuring any sensitive data being sent to the Service is protected during its transmission/delivery. The Service strongly recommends Recipients use the most secure transmission/delivery method available. The Service recommends the following digital transmission methods: secure digital faxing; encrypted emails; emailing a password protected zipped/compressed file attachment in one email followed by the password in a second email; or emailing a zipped/compressed file attachment. The Service strongly encourages Recipients sending sensitive data in paper copy to use a courier mail service. Recipients may also contact the Service Project Officer and provide any sensitive data over the telephone.

For non-domestic recipients paid through ITS who submit requests directly to NBC (don't forget to send the recipient the required ITS payment cover sheet as an attachment to the notice of award!):

Your organization must use the Standard Form (SF) [enter either: "270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement (Non-Construction)" or "271, Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement (Construction)"] to request payments and advances. [Enter either "This form is available on the Internet at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/" or "This form is attached"]. Payments to non-domestic Recipients receiving funds to a bank outside the United States are transferred electronically through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) system. Your organization must also complete the attached ITS Payment Cover Sheet and send it together with your signed payment request form to our Interior Business Center (IBC) by fax to 303-969-7281 or by email to fbmsfwpayments@nbc.gov.

Recipients are responsible for ensuring any sensitive data being sent to the IBC is protected during its transmission/delivery. The Service strongly recommends Recipients use the most secure transmission/delivery method available. The Service recommends the following digital transmission methods: secure digital faxing; encrypted emails; emailing a password protected zipped/compressed file attachment in one email followed by the password in a second email; or emailing a zipped/compressed file attachment.

Reporting Requirements:

NOTE: Select either Option 1 or Option 2 below. Delete yellow highlighted option section headers and text for option not selected. Refer to Service policies [516 FW 1](#), [516 FW 2](#), and the Service's "Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance" posted at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> to complete reporting period and due date tables. Add or delete table rows as needed. For construction projects, describe in detail any on-site technical inspections and certified percentage of completion data that will be used to assess performance in lieu of/in addition to performance reporting. If the award is a cooperative agreement to an individual (this option is not allowed for any other recipient type) and the program will replace some or all of the required performance reports with site visit reports, replace the performance reporting schedule with an expected site visit schedule. The site visit reports must be done at least annually and are to be completed on the same schedule as the replaced recipient performance reports would have been due. The "Significant Development Reports", "Conflict of Interest Disclosures", and "Other Mandatory Disclosures" sections following the end of Option 2 are required in all awards and must not be removed. Remove this note.

OPTION 1-If the recipient is waived from ASAP and the program wishes to waive interim SF 425, Federal financial reports, retain and update the following text:

Financial Reports: No interim Standard Form (SF) 425, *Federal Financial Reports* are required. Submission of payment requests using the SF 270 or SF 271 satisfies interim financial reporting requirements. A final SF 425, *Federal Financial Report* is required within 90 calendar days of the end date of the award. These forms are available on the Internet at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/. For additional information regarding financial reporting requirements and sanctions for noncompliance, please reference <http://www.fws.gov/policy/516fw1.html>.

Performance Reports:

[Insert Quarterly, Semi-annual, or Annual] interim performance reports and a final performance report are required under this award. The performance report periods and report due dates under this award are:

Report:	Report Period:	Report Due Date:
Interim Performance	[insert start of period-end of period dates]	[insert corresponding due date]
Interim Performance	[insert start of period-end of period dates]	[insert corresponding due date]
Final Performance	[insert start of period-end of period dates]	[insert corresponding due date]

Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. [Enter any program- or project-specific performance reporting content requirements here]. Please include the award number provided in the subject line of this letter on all reports.

Financial and performance reporting due dates may be extended by the Service Project Officer upon receipt of a written request identifying the type of report to be extended, the requested revised due date, and a justification for the extension. The Service Project Officer may approve an additional extension if justified by a catastrophe that significantly impairs the award Recipient’s operations. Requests for reporting due date extensions must be received in writing by the Service Project Officer no later than one day before the original reporting due date.

OPTION 2-If the recipient is to be paid in ASAP, or the recipient is waived from ASAP but the program does not want to waive interim financial reports, retain and update the following text: Financial and Performance Reporting Requirements:

[Insert Quarterly, Semi-annual, or Annual] interim financial and performance reports and final financial and performance reports are required under this award. The report periods and due dates under this award are:

Report:	Report Period:	Report Due Date:
Interim financial & performance	[insert start of period-end of period dates]	[insert corresponding due date]
Interim financial & performance	[insert start of period-end of period dates]	[insert corresponding due date]
Final financial	[insert start of period-end of period dates]	[insert corresponding due date]
Final performance	[insert start of period-end of period dates]	[insert corresponding due date]

Recipients must use the Standard Form (SF) 425, *Federal Financial Report* form for all financial reporting. This form is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/.

Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the

project results. [Enter any program- or project-specific performance reporting content requirements here]. Please include the Service award number provided in the subject line of this letter on all reports.

Financial and performance reporting due dates may be extended by the Service upon receipt of a written request addressed to the Service Project Officer identifying the type of report to be extended, the requested revised due date, and a justification for the extension. The Service Project Officer may approve an additional extension if justified by a catastrophe that significantly impairs the Recipient's operations. Requests for reporting due date extensions must be received by the Service Project Officer no later than one day before the original reporting due date.

End Option 2

Significant Developments Reports (see 2 CFR 200.328(d)):

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, notify the Service Project Officer in writing as soon as the following types of conditions become known:

- Problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.
- Favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures:

Recipients are responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of this award. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter which might place the Recipient, the Recipient's employees, or the Recipient's subrecipients in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under this award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the Recipient, the Recipient's employees, or the Recipient's subrecipients in the matter. Upon receipt of such a notice, the Service Project Officer in consultation with their Ethics Counselor will determine if a conflict of interest exists and, if so, if there are any possible actions to be taken by the Recipient, the Recipient's employee(s), or the Recipient's subrecipient(s) that could reduce or resolve the conflict. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of this award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures:

Recipients and their subrecipients must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Service or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting this award. Non-Federal entities that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (See 2 CFR 200.113, 2 CFR Part 180, 31 U.S.C. 3321, and 41 U.S.C. 2313).

Other Reports or Deliverables:

NOTE: If any other reports or deliverables are expected, remove yellow highlighting on section header above and update gray highlighted text below. If section does not apply, remove section header and related text below. Remove this note.

[Identify any other reports or deliverables expected/required from the recipient such as products, research reports, invention disclosures, Standard Form (SF) 428, Tangible Personal Property Report, SF 429, Real Property Status Report, and land purchase/title documentation here].

All reports [if applicable, enter “and other deliverables identified above”] must be sent to the Service Project Officer.

Project/Program Plan and Budget Revisions:

Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective, and request prior approvals for budget and program plan revisions in accordance with 2 CFR 200.308 unless otherwise specifically waived in this award. [If program wants to waive any of the prior approval requirements or restrictions allowed under 200.308 “Revision of budget and program plans”, insert text detailing the waiver/restriction and include a citation to the applicable section(s) in 2 CFR 200.308].

Period of Performance Extensions:

Program may want to waive prior approval requirement for period of performance extension requests (see 2 CFR 200.328(d)(2)). If program DOES want to waive the prior approval requirement, insert the first option provided below. If program DOES NOT want to waive the prior approval requirement, insert the section option provided below. Remove text for option not selected and these yellow highlighted instructions:

[Insert either” “Recipient is authorized without further approval to initiate a one-time extension of the period of performance by up to 12 months unless or more of the conditions outlined in paragraphs (d)(2)(i) through (iii) of 2 CFR 200.328(d)(2) apply. For one-time extensions, the Recipient must notify the Federal awarding agency in writing with the supporting reasons and revised period of performance at least 10 calendar days before the end of the period of performance specified in this award. This one-time extension may not be used for the purpose of spending an unused balance of funds that remains after all approved project activities have been completed.” OR “If additional time is needed to complete the approved project, you must send written notice to the Service Project Officer. This notice must be received by the Service Project Officer at least [X] calendar days before the authorized performance period end date, and must include supporting reasons and revised end date. Extensions for time cannot be authorized for the purpose of spending an unused balance of funds that remains after the approved project activities have been completed.”]

Project Contacts:

The Service Project Officer for this award is:	The Recipient Project Officer for this award is:
[Enter complete contact information, including telephone and email, for the Service employee responsible for the oversight and management of this award.]	[Enter complete contact information for the recipient’s project officer/principal investigator/primary point of contact responsible for the oversight and management of this award.]

Please contact [insert program contact name] with any questions. Please include the Service award number provided in the subject line of this letter in all written communications.

Sincerely,

Last Updated: February 21, 2014

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Business Process
Modifying the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page**

For every award, we must provide a notice of award to the recipient. The notice of award must include the following elements:

- A. Either the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page or a customized notice of award letter,
- B. USFWS Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions, either cited in the award cover sheet/letter or provided as an attachment (see <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>),
- C. Any special program or project-specific terms and conditions (see the **Sample Financial Assistance Award Special Terms and Conditions** document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards>).

Programs choosing to use the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page must modify it before sending it to a recipient. To modify the cover page, either save the completed document to your desktop and then either use Adobe Acrobat Professional to make the following changes to the form or print the form in paper copy and make the following changes by hand:

1. From Box 12. Period of Performance, remove the text “(Approximately)”.

12. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE (Approximately)
02/02/2012 through 11/30/2012

2. If the award is a Grant, remove from Box 18 the text “Cooperative Agreement”.

18. APPLICABLE ENCLOSURE(S), IF CHECKED:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROVISIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL CONDITIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> REQUIRED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS	
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT RECIPIENT	
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	DATE

3. In the Recipient “Authorized Representative” signature field under Box 18, enter “Signature not required”. Recipients are not required to sign the Notice of Financial Assistance Award document.

18. APPLICABLE ENCLOSURE(S), IF CHECKED:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROVISIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL CONDITIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> REQUIRED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS	
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT RECIPIENT	
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	DATE
Signature not required	

Programs sending the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page to a recipient must make sure the recipient also receives:

- Complete Service project officer contact information,
- Detailed payment instructions, and
- Detailed financial and performance reporting requirements, including reporting periods, due dates and submission instructions.

Last Updated: September 30, 2015

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Business Process
Setting Performance Period Dates for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards

Point of Contact

Send any questions about this guidance by email to the Chief, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO) Branch. See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

Document Change Log

FAPO will update this document over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations or new Department of the Interior or Service policy. We will post updated versions of this document on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> and will log updates made to this guidance in the following table:

Date Changed	Description of Change Made
9-30-2015	Updated response to Question 3 to clarify overlapping funding/budget periods.
2-20-2015	Updates made to: reflect 2 CFR 200 definitions; remove use of "project period" throughout; clarify pre-award costs and incremental funding guidance.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Award Period of Performance	See also 2 CFR 200.77. The time during which the non-Federal entity may incur new obligations to carry out the work authorized under the Federal award.
Pre-award costs	See also 2 CFR 200.458. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the Federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the Federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award and only with the written approval of the Federal awarding agency.
Funding or Budget Period of Performance	For incrementally funded awards, each new line of funding may have a unique "funding" or "budget" period of performance within the longer award period of performance. When a period of performance for an increment of funding is specified, a recipient may charge only the allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during that period plus any authorized pre-award costs. The recipient may not carry over unspent balances of funds to the next funding/budget period without prior written approval from the Service.
Real property maintenance and/or retention period	The period during which a recipient must maintain and/or retain real property that was restored or purchased with Federal funds during the award period or performance. The real property maintenance/retention period begins on the day AFTER the period of performance ends, and <u>must not</u> be identified in a notice of award as being part of the period of performance.

1. What are the standards for establishing a period of performance start date?

Unless otherwise legally prescribed, the standards for establishing a period of performance start date are as follows:

- If the program completes review, approval and obligation of funds for a project *before* the start date requested by the applicant on their **SF 424, *Application for Federal Assistance***, the start date should be the requested start date.
- If the program is unable to complete review, approval, and obligation of funds for a project until *after* the start date requested by the applicant, the start date may be back-dated to start on either the date the program received a complete application package or the start date requested by the applicant, whichever is later (i.e., whichever event occurred closest to today's date). Back-dating an award start date under these circumstances is not equivalent to approving pre-award costs. Pre-award costs, by definition, are incurred as a result of activities performed BEFORE either the date the applicant submits their application or the future start date requested in their application.
- If the applicant does not request a specific start date in their application, the start date will typically be either the same date as the date funds are obligated or the date the notice of award is signed by the authorized Service official. We recommend that competitive discretionary programs specify in their Notice of Funding Opportunity that applicants should not request a specific start date on their application.
- In the event we must obligate funds before all legal compliance reviews are complete (i.e., National Environmental Policy Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act reviews), programs have the option to set the start date for a date in the future to allow time for all required compliance reviews to be completed before the recipient begins any activities under the award.

2. What should the period of performance start date be if we are authorizing pre-award costs?

Follow the standards in the response to Question 1. The start date should not be back-dated to incorporate pre-award costs. Pre-award costs, by definition, are incurred as a result of activities performed BEFORE the start of the period of performance. Pre-award costs and associated pre-award cost time frame (must occur prior to the start of the award or start of next budget period) must be specifically authorized in the notice of award. See the **Issuing a New Financial Assistance Award Guidance** posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> for more information.

3. On incrementally funded projects, what are the standards for establishing funding or budget periods of performance?

Unless otherwise legally prescribed, each funding/budget period of performance start and end date should reflect the start and end dates of each project segment (see NOTE below). Funding/budget periods of performance will typically not overlap unless the Service gives the recipient permission to use an outstanding balance of funds from a previous funding period during some or all of the next/following funding period. The final funding period must end on the same date as the award period of performance end date. When a funding/budget period is specified, a recipient may charge only the allowable costs resulting from obligations incurred during that period, plus any pre-award costs or carry-forward

funding we have authorized in advance. All funding/budget periods of performance must fall within the award period of performance.

NOTE: Not all projects qualify to be funded incrementally. Providing funds year after year to support the same project as previously funded (i.e., project scope of work, objectives, and expected outcomes are the same each year) does not meet the standards for being incrementally funded. For such continuation projects, a new award should be issued each year.

4. What are the standards for establishing a period of performance end date?

The end date should be set no later than the date when we expect the recipient to complete all project activities. The end date must not be extended to incorporate any required post-award reporting period or real property maintenance/retention period. The end of the performance period and subsequent award closeout do NOT affect the recipient's continued responsibilities for real property maintenance, retention, or disposition (see 2 CFR, 200.344 Post-closeout adjustments and continuing responsibilities).

Effective Date: January 1, 2016

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions

Acceptance of a financial assistance award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Department of the Interior (Interior) carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with the terms and conditions of award. Acceptance is defined as the start of work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service. Awards from the Service are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. The terms and conditions of Service awards flow down to subrecipients and contractors, unless a particular award term or condition specifically indicates otherwise. The Federal regulations applicable to Service grant and cooperative agreement award recipients, and their subrecipients and contractors, are:

For-Profit Entities

For for-profit entities, the regulations and requirements listed under the “Administrative Requirements”, “Cost Principles”, and “Indirect Costs Identification and Assignment/Rate Determination Procedures” sections below apply only when they are specifically incorporated by reference in the Service award. The regulations and requirements listed under the “Other Requirements” section below always apply.

Administrative Requirements

2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through D

Cost Principles

48 CFR 1, Subpart 31.2—Contracts with Commercial Organizations

Indirect Costs Identification and Assignment/Rate Determination Procedures

Contact the National Interior Business Center (IBC), Indirect Cost Services by telephone at (916) 566-7111 or by e-mail at: ics@ibc.doi.gov. Visit the IBC’s Indirect Cost Services website at <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services> for more information.

Other Requirements

2 CFR Part 25, Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration

2 CFR Part 170, Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation

2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons

2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters (Applicable to awards with a total Federal share of more than \$500,000)

2 CFR Part 1400, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement)

2 CFR Part 1401, Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)

43 CFR 18, New Restrictions on Lobbying: Submission of an application also represents the applicant’s certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A, Certification Regarding Lobbying.

41 USC §4712, Pilot Program for Enhancement of Recipient and Subrecipient Employee Whistleblower Protection: This requirement applies to all awards issued after July 1, 2013 and shall be in effect until January 1, 2017.

- (a) This award, related subawards, and related contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold and all employees working on this award, related subawards, and related contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold are subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies in the pilot program on award recipient employee whistleblower protections established at 41 U.S.C. 4712 by section 828 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. 112-239).
- (b) Recipients, their subrecipients, and their contractors awarded contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold related to this award, shall inform their employees in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce, of the employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712.

- (c) The recipient shall insert this clause, including this paragraph (c), in all subawards and in contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold related to this award.

41 USC §6306, Prohibition on Members of Congress Making Contracts with Federal Government: No member of or delegate to the United States Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this award, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; this provision shall not be construed to extend to an award made to a corporation for the public's general benefit.

Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving: Recipients are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, including conducting initiatives of the type described in section 3(a) of the Order.

Foreign Entities

Foreign entities include foreign public entities (see definition in 2 CFR 200.46) and foreign organizations (see definition in 2 CFR 200.47). For foreign entities, the regulations and requirements listed under the "Administrative Requirements", "Cost Principles", and "Indirect Costs Identification and Assignment/Rate Determination Procedures" sections below apply only when they are specifically incorporated by reference in the Service award. The regulations and requirements listed under the "Other Requirements" section below always apply.

Administrative Requirements

Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs): 2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through D, including the requirements specific to IHEs.

Non-profit organizations: 2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through D, including the requirements specific to non-profit organizations.

Public entities: 2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through D, including the requirements specific to states, with the following exceptions:

- The state payment procedures in 200.305(a) do not apply. Foreign public entities must follow the payment procedures in 200.305(b).
- The requirements in 200.321 "Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms" do not apply.
- The requirements in 200.322 "Procurement of recovered materials" do not apply.

All other entities: 2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through D

Cost Principles

For-profit entities: 48 CFR 1, Subpart 31.2

Hospitals: 45 CFR Part 75, Subpart E

Public entities: 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, including the requirements specific to states.

All other entities: 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E

Indirect Costs Identification and Assignment/Rate Determination Procedures

For-profit entities: Contact the National Interior Business Center (IBC), Indirect Cost Services by telephone at (916) 566-7411 or by e-mail at: ics@ibc.doi.gov. Visit the IBC's Indirect Cost Services website at <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services> for more information.

Hospitals: 45 CFR Part 75, Appendix IX—Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the cognizant agency for indirect costs for foreign hospitals. Visit HHS' Cost Allocation Services website at <https://rates.psc.gov/> for more information.

IHEs: 2 CFR 200, Appendix III—Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for IHEs. HHS is the cognizant agency for indirect costs for foreign IHEs. Visit HHS' Cost Allocation Services website at <https://rates.psc.gov/> for more information.

Non-profit organizations: 2 CFR 200, Appendix IV—Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations.

Public entities: 2 CFR 200, Appendix VII—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals.

Other Requirements

2 CFR Part 25, Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration

2 CFR Part 170, Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation

2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons (Term is applicable to private entity subrecipients of foreign public entities)

2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters (Term is applicable to awards with a total Federal share of more than \$500,000, except awards to foreign public entities as defined in 2 CFR 200.46)

2 CFR Part 1400, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) (Applicable to all awards except those transactions identified in 2 CFR 180.215)

2 CFR Part 1401, Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)

43 CFR 18, New Restrictions on Lobbying: Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A, Certification Regarding Lobbying.

41 USC §6306, Prohibition on Members of Congress Making Contracts with Federal Government: No member of or delegate to the United States Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this award, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; this provision shall not be construed to extend to an award made to a corporation for the public's general benefit.

Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving: Recipients are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, including conducting initiatives of the type described in section 3(a) of the Order.

Individuals

An individual is any person applying for or receiving Federal funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award separate from any business or non-profit organization he/she may operate. For individuals, the notice of award document will detail all administrative and cost-related requirements and restrictions.

Other Requirements

2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons

2 CFR Part 1400, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement)

2 CFR Part 1401, Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)

43 CFR 18, New Restrictions on Lobbying: Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A, Certification Regarding Lobbying.

41 USC §6306, Prohibition on Members of Congress Making Contracts with Federal Government: No member of or delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this award, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; this provision shall not be construed to extend to an award made to a corporation for the public's general benefit.

Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving: Recipients are encouraged to not engage in text messaging when driving a vehicle while conducting activities funded under this award.

Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and other Non-Profit Organizations

For domestic Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), hospitals and non-profit organizations, the below terms and conditions always apply.

Administrative Requirements

2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through D

Cost Principles

Hospitals: 45 CFR Part 75, Subpart E

IHEs (see definition in 20 U.S.C. 1001): 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E

Non-profit organizations exempted from 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E (see Appendix VIII to Part 200): 48 CFR 1, Subpart 31.2—Contracts with Commercial Organizations

All other non-profit organizations: 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E

Indirect Costs Identification and Assignment/Rate Determination Procedures

Hospitals: 45 CFR Part 75, Appendix IX—Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the cognizant agency for indirect costs for hospitals. Visit HHS' Cost Allocation Services website at <https://rates.psc.gov/> for more information.

IHEs: 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix III—Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for IHEs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the cognizant agency for indirect costs for foreign IHEs. Visit HHS' Cost Allocation Services website at <https://rates.psc.gov/> for more information.

Non-profit organizations exempted from 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E: Contact the National Interior Business Center (IBC), Indirect Cost Services by telephone at (916) 566-7111 or by e-mail at: ics@ibc.doi.gov. Visit the IBC's Indirect Cost Services website at <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services> for more information.

All other non-profit organizations: 2 CFR 200, Appendix IV—Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations

Audit Requirements

Non-profit organizations: 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F

Other Requirements

2 CFR Part 25, Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration

2 CFR Part 170, Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation

2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons

2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters (Applicable to awards with a total Federal share of more than \$500,000)

2 CFR Part 1400, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement)

2 CFR Part 1401, Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)

43 CFR 18, New Restrictions on Lobbying: Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A, Certification Regarding Lobbying.

41 USC §4712, Pilot Program for Enhancement of Recipient and Subrecipient Employee Whistleblower Protection: This requirement applies to all awards issued after July 1, 2013 and shall be in effect until January 1, 2017.

- (a) This award, related subawards, and related contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold and all employees working on this award, related subawards, and related contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold are subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies in the pilot program on award recipient employee whistleblower protections established at 41 U.S.C. 4712 by section 828 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. 112-239).
- (b) Recipients, their subrecipients, and their contractors awarded contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold related to this award, shall inform their employees in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce, of the employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712.

- (c) The recipient shall insert this clause, including this paragraph (c), in all subawards and in contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold related to this award.

41 USC §6306, Prohibition on Members of Congress Making Contracts with Federal Government: No member of or delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this award, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; this provision shall not be construed to extend to an award made to a corporation for the public's general benefit.

Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving: Recipients are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, including conducting initiatives of the type described in section 3(a) of the Order.

State, Local and Federally-recognized Indian Tribal Governments

For U.S. state, local and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, the below terms and conditions always apply.

Administrative Requirements

2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A through D

Cost Principles

2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E

Central Service Cost Allocation Plans and Indirect Cost Proposals

2 CFR Part 200, Appendix V—State/Local Government and Indian Tribe Wide Central Service Cost Allocation Plans

2 CFR Part 200, Appendix VII—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals

Audit Requirements

2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F

Other Requirements

2 CFR Part 25, Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration

2 CFR Part 170, Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation

2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons (Term is applicable to private entity subrecipients)

2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters (Applicable to awards with a total Federal share of more than \$500,000)

2 CFR Part 1400, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement)

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Executive Order 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving: Recipients are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, including conducting initiatives of the type described in section 3(a) of the Order.

For Instructional Purposes Only

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Financial Assistance Business Process
Sample Financial Assistance Award Special Terms and Conditions**

Point of Contact

Send any questions about this guidance by email to the Chief, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO) Branch. See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

Document Change Log

FAPO will update this document over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations or new Department of the Interior or Service policy. We will post updated versions of this document on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> and will log updates made to this guidance in the following table:

Date Changed	Description of Change Made
9-30-2015	Clarified applicability of Buy American Act; Clarified requirements for individuals who are recipients to check SAM Exclusions for their subrecipients and contractors; Removed inaccurate requirement for contractors to be in DUNS; Removed SACs 13 and 14 as they are now addressed in 2 CFR 200.321.
2-20-2015	Inserted new item to incorporate Davis-Bacon Act requirements (Item 3).
	Inserted new item to incorporate DOI-AAAP-0005, Minimum Wage Guidance requirements (Item 5).
	Inserted new item for projects with potential to inadvertently discover archeological or historical materials (Item 7).
	Inserted new item to incorporate DIG 2014-01, Financial Assistance Liability and Insurance guidance requirements (Item 9).
	Removed references to 43 CFR 12 and updated with references to 2 CFR 200, where applicable.

Instructions

Use this document as a starting point for developing a project-, program-, and recipient-specific set of special award terms and conditions. All applicable special award terms and conditions must be included in the notice of award. The award must *not* include reference or direct citation to special terms or conditions that do not apply to the award.

For each sample circumstance, this document provides: 1) a complete description of the circumstance and 2) either corresponding Standard Award Condition (SAC) text to be inserted into the award or instructions for developing a circumstance-specific award condition. Copy and insert into the award under the Special Award Terms and Conditions header all applicable award conditions (see the Notice of Award Letter Template posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards>).

NOTE: This document does not include *all* possible special award terms and conditions, only a sample of some of the more frequently applicable conditions.

Sample Financial Assistance Award Special Terms and Conditions

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NOTES: Service policy 301 FW 7, Green Procurement does not apply to Service grants and cooperative agreements. Unless applied directly to a program or an appropriation by a congressional act, the Buy American Act does not apply to grants and cooperative agreements.

1. Acknowledgement of Support in Publications

Circumstance:	When the program wants the recipient to acknowledge program, Service and/or Departmental support on formally published (on Internet or printed) documents, insert the first paragraph of the text provided in the standard award condition below and update as instructed in the gray highlighted text. When the program wants the recipient to also insert a <i>program</i> symbol (i.e., a symbol that is <u>not</u> the Service’s logo), insert the second paragraph of the standard award condition (SAC) below and update as instructed.
SAC:	<p>The [insert description of the items to be produced] produced under this award must include the following statement acknowledging support from the [insert any combination of Department of the Interior, Service and program title]: “[insert program-specific statement]”.</p> <p>All of these materials must also include the [insert program name] symbol. A print-ready symbol is available electronically upon request from the Service Project Officer.</p>

2. Acknowledgement of Support on Facilities or Equipment

Circumstance:	When the program wants to ask or encourage the recipient to display the <i>program</i> symbol (i.e., a program-specific icon that is <u>not</u> the Service’s logo) on facilities or equipment acquired, developed, operated or maintained with Service award funds, insert the standard award text provided below and update as instructed in the gray highlighted text.
SAC:	[Insert either “We encourage you to” or “Please”] display the [insert program name] symbol on [insert description of facilities or equipment]. A print-ready symbol is available electronically upon request from the Service Project Officer.

3. Davis-Bacon Act

Circumstance:	For grants and cooperative agreements, the Davis-Bacon Act requirements only apply if the program’s authorizing statute/legislation specifically incorporates the requirements. For example, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) incorporated the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act. See the U.S. Department of Labor’s website at http://www.dol.gov/whd/programs/dbra/whatdbra.htm for more information. Do not include the Davis-Bacon Act provision in notices of award if the funding program’s authorizing legislation does not specifically incorporate the requirements. If Davis-Bacon applies, insert the SAC into the award.
SAC:	Davis-Bacon Act requirements apply to this award. All construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by the recipient and all subrecipients under this award must include the Davis-Bacon Act provision in the contract provisions required in 2 CFR 200, <i>Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards</i> .

4. Environmental Compliance Reviews

Circumstance:	When an award will be released in PRISM and funds obligated in FBMS before all environmental compliance reviews (i.e., NEPA, Section 7 of the ESA, Section 106 of the NHPA) are complete, insert the standard award text provided below and update as instructed in the gray highlighted text.
SAC:	[Insert a detailed description of the work that can be started and the work that must not be started until all compliance reviews are complete]. As a condition of award, the Recipient and any sub-recipient(s) must not begin any potentially impactful work related to this award until the Service has notified you in writing that such work can begin. Recipients and sub-recipients of Federal grants and cooperative agreement awards must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 7 of Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

5. Executive Order 13658, *Establishing a Minimum Wage for Contractors*

Circumstance:	For cooperative agreements subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, the Service Contract Act, or the Fair Labor Standards Act, the requirements under E.O. 13658 may also apply. Program must determine if the cooperative agreement meets the definition in DOI-AAAP-0005, Minimum Wage Guidance of a “contract-like instrument”. If it does, insert the SAC into the award and attach to the award (or otherwise provide a copy to the recipient) the Contract Clause required under DOI-AAAP-0005, as it is not currently posted publicly.
SAC:	Executive Order 13658, <i>Establishing a Minimum Wage for Contractors</i> (see DOI-AAAP-0005, Minimum Wage Guidance) requirements apply to this award. All construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by the recipient and all subrecipients under this award must include the Minimum Wage Contract Clause that is attached to this award.

6. High Risk Recipient

Circumstance:	When a recipient has been determined to be high risk, we must provide justification for placing them on high risk status, and detail the additional conditions applicable to them (e.g., payment restrictions or increased reporting frequency requirements). Since such restrictions and/or additional requirements will vary by circumstance, standard award condition text is not provided for this situation. Refer to 2 CFR 200.207 to develop specific award conditions for the recipient.
SAC:	Program must develop circumstance-specific condition text to insert into the award.

7. Inadvertent Archeological or Historical Discoveries

Circumstance:	Any award that has the potential for inadvertent discovery of archaeological or historic materials.
SAC:	<p>In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activity, work in the immediate area must stop and the following actions taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering; 2. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery sites; and 3. Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery. <p>The recipient will notify the concerned Tribes and all appropriate county, state and federal agencies, including the State Historic Preservation Office. Agencies and the Tribe(s) will discuss the possible measures to remove or avoid cultural material, and will reach an agreement with the recipient regarding actions to be taken and disposition of material. If Human remains are uncovered, appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified first, and the above steps followed. If the remains are determined to be Native, consultation with the affected Tribe(s) will take place in order to mitigate the final disposition of said remains.</p>

8. Individuals Hiring Contractors

Circumstance:	When the award is o an individual who will hire a contractor to perform work activities approved under the award on privately-owned property, insert the standard award condition (SAC) text provided below into the award.
SAC:	The Recipient has an obligation to protect themselves from potential liability when hiring any contractor to perform work activities approved under this award on property owned by the Recipient by checking references and ensuring that any contractor hired is licensed, bonded, and has valid employee insurance coverage for events of injury or bodily harm.

9. Individuals Issuing Subawards

Circumstance:	The recipient is an individual who will issue a subaward of any amount or a contract expected to total \$25,000 or more.
SAC:	<p>In accordance with 2 CFR 180, before issuing any subaward of any amount or any contract expected to total \$25,000 or more, the Recipient must confirm that the subawardee and principals (see 2 CFR 180.995) or the contractor are/is not suspended or debarred from receiving Federal funds. The Recipient does this by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Checking SAM Exclusions; (b) Collecting a certification from that person; or (c) Adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that person. <p>The Recipient may check SAM Exclusions by going to http://sam.gov. Search for subrecipients by their DUNS</p>

	number (see 2 CFR 25). Search for principal participants by their name(s). Search for contractors by their business name(s). If no exclusion record is found, the entity or individual is not suspended or debarred from receiving Federal funds. If an exclusion record is found that prohibits the entity from receiving Federal funds, the Recipient must not obligate funds to that entity/individual. Contact the Service Project Officer with any questions.
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10. Liability and Insurance

Circumstance:	The recipient or its subrecipients will use equipment, vehicles, hazardous materials, or otherwise engage in high-risk activities during performance of the award that have the potential for claims to be brought by third parties for death, bodily injury, property damage, or other loss.
SAC:	Program must develop circumstance-specific condition text to insert into the award based on the sample provided in DIG 2014-01, Financial Assistance Liability and Insurance.

11. National Technical Information Service

Circumstance:	<p>Per 15 U.S.C. Section 3704B-2, if funding under this award will be used to produce unclassified scientific, technical, or engineering information <i>resulting from research and development activities</i> (defined as basic and applied research that results from the efforts of scientists and engineers in any medium or information <i>that bears on business and industry in general</i>) that is to be published or made available by either the recipient or the Service for public dissemination to the private sector, academia, State and local governments, and Federal agencies (go to http://www.ntis.gov/products/publications.aspx to view examples), insert the standard award condition (SAC) text provided below into the award.</p> <p>The regulation is very specific as to which types of documents qualify for transmittal to NITS. Programs are responsible for making a determination if this condition actually applies to the award. Do not include this condition if it does not apply!</p>
SAC:	<p>Funding under this award will be used to produce [insert description of expected scientific, technical, or engineering publication to be produced]. Your organization is required to send one copy of the final published report to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">National Technical Information Service 5301 Shawnee Road Alexandria, Virginia 22312</p> <p>Please include a cover letter that identifies you/your organization and states: “This publication is intended for deposit in the NTIS. This publication was produced under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Award Number [insert Award Number]”. Do not send financial or performance reports to this address. See the Reporting Requirements section below for where to send financial and performance reports.</p>

12. Natural Resource Library

Circumstance:	<p>481 DM 4 states that the <u>Service shall determine</u> whether a publication is suitable for the library by applying the following criteria: 1) the publication IS of value for: public information and awareness; educational use; scientific, technical or research use; and 2) the publication is NOT: limited to official use only; classified for reasons of national security; for administrative, operational or proprietary use only; issued periodically and regularly compiled totally at a later date; a preliminary draft, working paper, press release, open file or other ephemera; a map, chart, poster, booklet or pamphlet; of local interest only; or otherwise readily available (e.g., publicly accessible on the Internet). If a final publication <u>qualifying for transmittal to the library</u> is expected to be produced under the award insert the standard award condition (SAC) text provided below into the award and update as instructed in the gray highlighted text. Do not include this condition if it does not apply!</p> <p>NOTE: For Service staff sending publications to the library, the library accepts publications in hard copy and on compact disc. However, all items <u>must be sent by courier mail</u>. Hard copy publications sent by regular USPS delivery are often damaged and CDs are always destroyed by the Department's mail irradiation system. Do not send documents to the library that do not qualify under the 481 DM 4 criteria!</p>
SAC:	<p>Funding under this award will be used to produce <u>[insert description of publication(s) to be produced]</u>. Your organization is required to send one copy of the final published document (s) to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">U.S. Department of the Interior Natural Resource Library Division of Information and Library Services-Gifts and Exchanges Section 1849 C Street NW Washington, D.C. 20240</p> <p>The copy can be a paper copy or saved to a compact disc. Do not send by regular U.S. Postal Service! Send all publications using your preferred courier mail service (e.g., FedEx, UPS and DHL). Expedited delivery is not required. Please include a cover letter that identifies you/your organization and states: "This publication is intended for deposit in the Natural Resource Library. This report was produced under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Award Number [insert Award Number]". Do not send financial or performance reports to this address. See the Reporting Requirements section below for where to send financial and performance reports.</p>

13. Promotional Partnership with a Non-Governmental Entity

Circumstance:	<p>If the award is made to an entity <i>OTHER THAN</i> a State, local, or Federally-recognized Indian tribal government <u>AND the principal purpose of the award</u> is a partnership where the recipient/partner contributes resources to promote Service programs or activities, publicizes Service activities, assists in fundraising, or provides assistance to the Service and the project includes joint dissemination of information and promotion of activities being supported, insert the standard award condition (SAC) text provided below into the award.</p>
SAC:	<p>Recipient shall not publicize or otherwise circulate promotional material (such as advertisements, sales brochures, press releases, speeches, still and motion pictures, articles, manuscripts or other publications) which states or</p>

	<p>implies governmental, Departmental, bureau, or government employee endorsement of a product, service, or position that the recipient represents. No release of information relating to this award may state or imply that the Government approves of the recipient’s work products, or considers the recipient’s work product to be superior to other products or services.</p> <p>All information submitted for publication or public releases of information regarding this project shall carry the following disclaimer: “The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.” Recipient must obtain prior Government approval for any public information releases concerning this award which refer to the Department of the Interior or any bureau or employee (by name or title). The specific text, layout photographs, etc. of the proposed release must be submitted with the request for approval.</p> <p>Recipient must include this provision in subawards made under this award to any recipient other than a state, local, or Federally-recognized Indian tribal government.</p>
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14. Requiring Use of the Service Logo

Circumstance:	<p>Per Service policy 041 FW 2, all programs not specifically excepted in the policy must obtain Director’s approval prior to requiring a recipient to use the Service logo in any manner (e.g., inserting it on formally published products, using it on meeting materials, displaying it on facilities or equipment).</p> <p>Text must be circumstance specific. If the program has received Director’s approval for the recipient to use the Service logo, the notice of award must: 1) explicitly authorize them to use the logo; 2) clearly outline the specific authorized use(s) of the logo; 3) explicitly state that the Service is waived from liability for any misuse; and 4) cite the consequences of violating 18 U.S.C. 701. Coordinate the text of the award condition with External Affairs.</p>
SAC:	<p>Program must develop circumstance-specific condition text to insert into the award.</p>

15. Scientific and Scholarly Activities

Circumstance:	<p>305 DM 3 defines scientific and scholarly activities as: 1) inventorying, monitoring, experimentation, study, research, modeling or scientific and scholarly assessments that are conducted in a manner specified by documented protocols and procedures and include any of the biological, cultural or social sciences as well as landscape architecture, engineering, mathematics and statistics that employ the scientific method; AND 2) the results of which include the analysis, synthesis, compilation or translation of information and data into formats <u>intended for use in the Service’s and/or the Department’s decision-making processes or publications</u>. If the award will fund scientific and scholarly activities insert the standard award condition (SAC) text provided below.</p>
SAC:	<p>The Recipient will conduct scientific and scholarly activities as defined in Department of the Interior policy 305 DM 3, <i>Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities</i> that are intended for use in Service decision-making processes</p>

	and/or publications. Acceptance of this award carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and follow the Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct described in 305 DM 3, Section 3.7 to the best of your ability.
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16. Transferring Title of Equipment to Federal Government or Third Party

Circumstance:	Typically equipment purchased by a recipient will vest with the recipient. However, 2 CFR 200.311(c)(3) and 200.313(e)(3) gives the Service the right to require the transfer the title of real property or equipment purchased by a recipient to the Federal Government or a third party. T If real property or equipment purchased by a recipient will be transferred to either the Federal Government or another party, include a circumstance-specific award condition that identifies the property or equipment to be transferred, provides disposition instructions, and, identifies the compensation due to the recipient for its attributable percentage of the current fair market value of the property or equipment.
SAC:	Program must develop circumstance-specific condition text to insert into the award.

Objectives:

1. Identify and explain activities involved in implementing, managing and monitoring awards.
2. Describe the communication needed and people involved during award implementation and management.
3. Determine when an award needs to be revised and what documentation to provide.

Handouts:

- BFA 7-1 – 516 FW 4 Payment Management for Awards

Award Implementation

The post-award phase is the period between the start and end of the award (“period of performance”). This is where the recipient accomplishes the work as stated in their approved proposal. This means, among other things, that the recipient needs to be proactive in implementing the work according to Federal regulations and specific award requirements, in order to adhere to timelines and time constraints.



Upon receipt of the NOA the recipient:

- Reviews the NOA elements / disseminates information.
 - Sets up accounting to properly track expenditures.
 - Establishes measures to manage and monitor grant performance.
 - Implements award activities.
-
-

The Program Office is active during post-award in monitoring the activities of the recipient as outlined in the award letter. Depending on instrument type, risk assessment level, or other specific requirements, the Program Office will have a variety of responsibilities to fulfill.

The Program Office’s responsibilities include:

- Tracking recipient activity primarily via financial and performance reports.
 - Monitoring recipient payment activity and eligibility status.
 - Following any additional risk assessment monitoring requirements.
 - Participating in award activities as outlined in award and program requirements.
-
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Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006

Federal agencies are required to report new awards and prime award recipients are required to report new first-tier subawards (both mandatory and discretionary) greater than or equal to \$25,000. This applies to the following scenarios:

Reporting must be done by the end of the month *following* the month of award obligation.

- Initial awards that meet or exceed \$25,000.
- Award revisions that increase the initial award to \$25,000 or greater.
- Awards initially meeting or exceeding \$25,000 but are later reduced below \$25,000.



FFATA requires that prime recipients report the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated officers of a prime **or** sub-awardee entity *if*

1. Executives received 80% or more of the entity's annual gross revenues in Federal awards and
2. Annual gross revenues meet or exceeded \$25,000,000 from Federal awards, and
3. The public does not have access to this information via the SEC.

Reporting exemptions apply to the following

- Individuals unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization.¹
- Any entity with less than \$300K from previous tax year's gross income.
- Reporting that would disclose classified information.
- Awards under the Recovery Act.



2 CFR 200.211 & 300(b) | www.USASpending.gov | www.fsr.gov

¹ OMB M-09-19 (June 1, 2009) encourages reporting of awards (1) less than \$25K, or (2) to individuals, be aggregated, but still reported.

Accounting for and Using Program Income

According to 2 CFR 200, Non-Federal entities (recipients and/or subrecipients) are encouraged to earn income to help defray costs where appropriate.

The criteria for determining if income earned by NFEs is Program Income:

1. Gross income received by the non-federal entity.
 2. Directly generated by award-supported activities.
 3. Earned during the award period.
-
-

For Discussion

Which of the following are Program Income?

1. Timber sale on land with a grassland restoration award.
-
-

2. Sales of milkweed seeds by recipient of a pollinator award.
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-

3. Kayak rental service run by vendor on an impoundment maintained by a Federal award.
-
-



Disclosure of Program Income

NFEs disclose both the earning and expending of Program Income on the SF-425.

Disposition of Program Income

Program income is retained by the NFE and may be used in one of three ways, depending on Federal regulation or NOA requirements.

- **Addition** – Supplements obligation.
 - **Deduction** – Supplants obligation.
 - **Cost Sharing** – Use as non-federal match.
-
-

For Discussion

Disposition of Program Income

Award for \$25,000 (100% Federally-funded). \$7,000 of Program Income earned and disposed using the Deduction method. How much of the obligated federal award remains unliquidated at award completion and close? What is total award amount expended towards project? What if disposition is the Additive Method? What if the Federal share is only 75%?



2 CFR 200.307(e) 'Uses of Program Income'

Timing of Program Income disposition by Recipient

Program income must be used towards project costs under the Federal FA award. Federal regulation requires recipients to use the federal share of earned program income prior to drawing down award funds, as the federal share may be considered federal funds and subject the NFE to the requirements of the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA).

2 CFR 200 requires non-federal entities to remit to the Federal government all interest over \$500 earned on Federal funds.

 2 CFR 200.307 | 2 CFR 200.305(b)(5)

Declaring and Reporting Program Income

- Anticipated program income is estimated in the award application.
- Program income (anticipated or unanticipated) is disposed of according to Federal awarding agency requirements, or in the absence of any requirements, according to the Uniform Guidance.
- Must be reported on the Federal Financial Report (SF-425).

Income after the Award period

Recipient/Subrecipient has no further obligation to the awarding agency *unless* specified in program legislation or award condition.

 2 CFR 200.307

Payment Requests and Processing



Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)

ASAP is a U.S. Treasury electronic payment information system used by DOI and its Bureaus to pay domestic financial assistance award recipients via pre-authorized accounts. Unless formally requested, recipients must use ASAP to draw down award funds.

Advance payment is the default method per 2 CFR 200. Reimbursement is to be used only in certain circumstances (i.e., as a risk mitigation tool or upon request of the recipient).

Recipients who use either ASAP or the SF-270/271 cannot be required to submit additional documentation supporting the expenditure of allowable costs, unless:

1. The Program receives OMB Information Collection Clearance (516 FW 4.8).
2. The recipient is identified as 'high risk' (516 FW 4.10 and 4.11).

Foreign Recipients

The U.S. Treasury does not permit foreign recipients to receive payment in ASAP. All foreign recipients must request payment using the SF-270 or 271.

Foreign recipients can be paid in one of two ways (processed by IBC):

- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network, if receiving funds to a bank in the United States.
- Through U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) system, if receiving funds to a bank outside of the United States.

Revising an Award

Recipients are required to request prior approvals from Federal awarding agencies for budget and program plan revisions.

Non-construction awards

Recipients must request prior approval from the Service for any of following reasons

- Change in scope or objective(s).
- Change in key persons.
- Reduction or disengagement (> 3 months or 25-percent) of time devoted to project activities by key persons.
- Costs requiring prior approval per the Cost Principles (unless specifically waived by the Service).
- Outsourcing of work under the FA award (subaward, contract, etc).
- Changes in recipient cost share or matching.
- Additional Federal funds.

When revising an award for an addition or modification of a project, compliance may need to be re-addressed.

The Service cannot, without OMB approval, impose additional prior approval requirements for award revisions.



Waiverable conditions

- Preaward costs less than 90 days before award approval.
- Initiate a one-time extension of the POP by up to 12 months (with restrictions).
- Carry forward unobligated balances to subsequent POPs.

Optional conditions

- Budget transfer restrictions (10% Rule).



Construction awards

Recipients must request prior approval for the following reasons:

- Changes in scope or objective(s) of project that affect budget
- Additional federal funds
- Costs requiring prior approval per the Cost Principles (unless specifically waived by the Service).

For FA awards comprised of both construction and non-construction work, the Service may require prior approval for any budget transfers between the two types of work.

The Service cannot, without OMB approval, impose additional prior approval requirements for budget revisions of Federal FA awards.

Revision Request Requirements

Recipients must use the same format for budget information used in the application, unless the Service determines a letter of request is sufficient. The Program Office must review the revision request and notify recipient of the decision to approve or not within 30 calendar days from receipt of the request. If the Program Office has not reached a decision by the end of the 30 calendar days, they must inform the recipient in writing of the date the recipient should expect a decision.



Exercise: Managing and Monitoring the Award

Answer the questions below using **2 CFR 200, 516 FW 4**, and **516 FW 5** (Tab 5)
Cite your references.

1. The Uniform Guidance states that recipients must establish and maintain internal controls in order to provide what?

Reasonable assurance of managing the FA award in compliance with laws, regs, and award terms and conditions. §200.303.

Recipient is first line in award management (see entire section).

2. According to the Uniform Guidance, which party in the FA award (recipient or Federal agency) takes primary responsibility for application of sound management practices and allowable cost determination for FA awards? Who is responsible for oversight of operations of the FA award's activities?

The recipient (i.e. non-federal entity). §200.400(a). The recipient, §200.328(a).

3. According to 516 FW 4, what is the Service's monitoring requirement for recipient payments?

Per 516 FW 4.18—review frequency and amounts, compare to activity schedule. Review of source documentation allowed.

4. According to 516 FW 5, what is the Service's monitoring requirement for recipient SAM registrations?

516 FW 5.11E—monitor expiration dates, remind recipients with upcoming expirations that they are required to keep registration current. Follow up question: How do Programs do this? With FBMS EMIS.



Exercise: Cost Principles

Answer the questions below using 2 CFR200 - Subpart E—Cost Principles, Basic Considerations. Cite your references.

1. In which section is the Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs? List these factors.

§404. Necessary and reasonable; allocable; conform to Fed regs/law/award; consistency in treatment of fed and non-fed funds; consistency in composition of costs; GAAP; no double-dipping; adequately documented.

2. What does Reasonable mean? Allocable? Applicable Credits?

Reasonable – “does the cost reflect what a prudent person would pay for the same goods or services?” Generally recognized in govt; integrity in practices; market prices; acted with prudence; no significant deviations from established practices. Allocable – Chargeable to an objective in accordance with relative benefits. Applicable credits – reduction of expenditures with allocable credit going to federal award. May also be a netting of credit items.



Exercise: Cost Principles cont'd

Answer the questions below using 2 CFR200 - Subpart E—Cost Principles, General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost. Cite your references.

3. Can a university charge to a federal financial assistance award the cost of posting a job position on a job recruitment website?

Yes, as an advertising cost (§421(b)) and as recruiting cost. (§463).

To meet workload requirements under the award, with certain restrictions.

Are there refund requirements? Yes. See §463(c). Resigns within 1 yr of hire.

4. Can state agencies match federal financial assistance awards with salaries and wages of its employees? If so, what are the requirements?

Yes. Must be supported in the same manner as those claimed as

allowable costs under Federal awards. §430(i)(4), p.220.

5. How may a non-profit recipient charge travel costs to their federal financial assistance award?

An actual cost basis, per diem/mileage basis in lieu of actuals costs, or

a combination of the two, provided the method used is consistent for the

entire trip & is consistent for non-federal travel activities. §474(a).

6. A non-profit research vessel routinely spends several weeks out at sea conducting research funded by an FA award. The non-profit purchases board games and blue ray movies for the crew, charging them to the FA award. Is this allowable? Why or why not?

Entertainment costs (§438) considers these types items unallowable.

However, §437 'Employee health and welfare costs' could be considered

Given the unique circumstances of this research vessel's activities. Is

There a policy from the recipient for this?

Give example of NOAA vessel.

Compliance Requirements for the Subrecipient

Subaward or Contract?

Recipients, when in the role of a pass-through entity, must properly determine if they are awarding contracts or subaward agreements with their federal financial assistance award.

Subrecipients are also subject to the Single Audit Act, if they meet the criteria.

Federal regulations differ for subaward and contract administration, and a recipient who incorrectly determines an award instrument may, during an audit, review, or legal inquiry, be required to pay back disallowed costs, or even be subject to litigation.

The Uniform Guidance provides requirements for pass-through entities to follow in determining the proper agreement instrument for Federal financial assistance awards.

Requirements for Pass-Through Entities

Recipients are required to clearly identify specified information in their subaward agreements. Additionally, the pass-through entity must evaluate each subrecipient's risk of non-compliance with Federal laws, regulations, and terms and conditions of the FA award. The result of this evaluation may result in increased subrecipient monitoring activities by the pass-through entity.

The Uniform Guidance provides possible monitoring strategies pass-through entities may use for their subaward activities.





Learning Points

- ✓ Awards require managing and monitoring of fiscal, program and compliance concerns throughout the award period.
- ✓ Anticipated changes as a result of managing and monitoring awards may require revising the award.
- ✓ Cost principles establish allowability of costs and may vary depending on type of recipient.
- ✓ Subrecipient monitoring is the responsibility of the pass-through entity.

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Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 4 Payment Management for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards 516 FW 4

4.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This chapter provides the information U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employees working with grant and cooperative agreement awards need to:

- A.** Follow Governmentwide and Departmental requirements related to payment management for grant and cooperative agreement awards;
- B.** Make sure recipients either enroll in the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) system or, based on a formal request, the Department of the Interior (Department) waives the ASAP enrollment requirement (see sections 4.12 and 4.13);
- C.** Inform recipients about how they will be paid and of any special award condition or circumstance that changes the payment method on their award(s); and
- D.** Make sure recipients comply with their award terms and conditions and take appropriate action when a recipient is out of compliance.

4.2 What are the objective and scope of this chapter?

A. Objective: Our objective is for Service employees to follow:

- (1)** The payment methods required in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) so that recipients are treated appropriately and consistently with respect to payment, and
- (2)** The payment procedures required by the Department.

B. Scope: This chapter covers all Service programs that administer and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards.

4.3 What are the authorities for this chapter?

- A.** Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments ([43 CFR 12, Subpart C](#)).
- B.** Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-Profit Organizations ([43 CFR 12, Subpart F](#)).
- C.** Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public ([5 CFR 1320](#)).
- D.** Rules and Procedures for Efficient Federal-State Fund Transfers ([31 CFR Part 205](#)).
- E.** Department of the Interior Acquisition Guidance (DIG) [2008-5](#), Automated Standard Application for Payments System.
- F.** Department of the Interior Guidance Release (DIG) [2011-03, Amendment 1](#), Financial Assistance Monitoring Protocol.

4.4 Who is responsible for grant and cooperative agreement award payment management? Table 4-1 describes Service employees' responsibilities for payment management.

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Table 4-1: Responsibilities for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Award Payment Management	
These employees . . .	Are responsible for . . .
A. The Director	Making sure the Service has policy in place regarding grant and cooperative agreement award payment management.
B. The Assistant Director – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program through the Division of Administration and Information Management, Branches of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight and Financial Assistance Systems	<p>(1) Developing policy regarding grant and cooperative agreement award payment management,</p> <p>(2) Overseeing Service implementation of the policy, and</p> <p>(3) Assisting Service users in resolving issues with the Financial Business Management System (FBMS) and the U.S. Treasury’s ASAP system.</p>
C. Directorate members in Headquarters and the Regions	Making sure employees who issue, administer, and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards are aware of and follow the requirements in this policy.

4.5 What actions related to payments must the Service take prior to releasing an award and obligating funds in FBMS? We must complete all steps of the *Establishing an Intended Recipient’s Payment Method before Obligating Funds for a New Grant or Cooperative Agreement Award in the Financial and Business Management System* guidance document before releasing an award and obligating funds in FBMS.

4.6 What are the payment methods the Service can use for grants and cooperative agreements?

A. Advances. We must pay recipients in advance if they have procedures that minimize the time between when we transfer funds to them and when they disburse the funds. Advance payment mechanisms are subject to 31 CFR Part 205 and 43 CFR 12, Subparts C and F.

B. Reimbursement. If a recipient cannot meet the requirements for advance payment, we may restrict the recipient to requesting reimbursements. We may also use this method on construction awards. When using the reimbursement method, we have to allow recipients to submit requests for reimbursement as often as they like as long as they’re paid electronically. In the rare circumstance that a recipient receives payment in the form of a check from the U.S. Treasury, the recipient may not request payment more frequently than monthly.

C. Working capital advance. If a recipient cannot meet the requirements for advance payments, and we determine that reimbursement is not feasible because the recipient doesn’t have enough working capital to carry out the approved project activities, we may provide cash to the recipient on a working capital advance basis. We may only arrange for these advances for a limited time after award. After the initial period, the recipient is restricted to requesting reimbursements.

4.7 What is ASAP and why do grant and cooperative agreement award recipients have to use it? ASAP is the U.S. Treasury’s electronic payment and information system that allows domestic recipients of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards to draw down funds from pre-authorized accounts. The

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Department requires that we pay domestic financial assistance award recipients using the ASAP system, unless a recipient qualifies for a waiver from the process (see section 4.12).

4.8 Can the Service require recipients drawing down funds in ASAP to also submit a Standard Form (SF) 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement or an SF 271, Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs? No. ASAP accounts are pre-authorized so that recipients may draw down funds as needed in accordance with the award terms and conditions. We cannot require recipients who are paid in ASAP to also submit standard payment request forms, any other payment-related form, or additional documentation. The only exception to this restriction is if the program has received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the routine collection of additional payment-related information (see 281 FW 4 and 5). We can impose additional requirements (see section 4.11) if a recipient meets one or more of the conditions in section 4.10A.

4.9 Do employees need to review and approve recipient payment requests in ASAP? No. The only exception is when both circumstances below are met:

- A. The recipient meets one or more of the criteria in section 4.10A, and
- B. We included conditions in the award that require prior Service approval of payment requests.

4.10 When may the Service impose additional requirements and how must we communicate them to the recipient?

A. We may impose additional requirements at any point during the award process if the applicant or recipient:

- (1) Has a history of poor performance,
- (2) Is not financially stable,
- (3) Has a management system that does not meet the standards that the regulations applicable to the award require,
- (4) Has not conformed to the terms and conditions of a previous or existing award, or
- (5) Is not otherwise responsible.

B. Before we may impose additional requirements, we must notify the applicant or recipient in writing and explain the:

- (1) Nature of the additional requirements,
- (2) Reason(s) why we are imposing the additional requirements,
- (3) Nature of the corrective action needed,
- (4) Time allowed for completing the corrective action, and
- (5) Procedure for requesting reconsideration of the additional requirements imposed.

C. Depending on the nature of the circumstance, additional requirements may be imposed for a portion of a single project period, for the entire project period of an award, or for part or all of the project periods on consecutive awards.

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D. When a recipient corrects the circumstance(s) that resulted in our imposing additional requirements, we must remove the requirements and notify the recipient in writing.

4.11 What payment-related additional requirements may the Service impose on recipients who meet the criteria in section 4.10A? If at any point in the award process an applicant or recipient meets one or more of the criteria in section 4.10A, we may:

- A. Require a recipient to obtain approval before spending or requesting funds,
- B. Require a recipient to complete work in stages and withhold or otherwise limit funding for the next stage until the current stage is complete,
- C. Restrict a recipient from receiving funds in advance, requiring them to be reimbursed for allowable project expenditures (see section 4.6),
- D. Require a recipient to submit receipts or other payment-related documentation with their payment requests or financial reports, or
- E. Require a recipient to increase the frequency of their financial reporting, but no more frequently than quarterly (see [516 FW 1](#)). Never require a recipient to submit a final SF 425, *Federal Financial Report* before we release their final payment. See 516 FW 1 for actions we can take when a recipient is out of compliance with financial reporting requirements.

4.12 May the Department waive the requirement for a recipient to enroll in and request funds through ASAP? Yes. The Department may approve a waiver of the ASAP enrollment requirement in any of the following situations:

- A. An individual, including sole proprietors, with or without an account with a financial institution, determines that using ASAP would impose a hardship due to a physical or mental disability; geographic, language, or literacy barrier; or that it would impose a financial hardship.
- B. An individual does not have an account with a financial institution and is not eligible to open an electronic transfer account (ETA) under the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act. The Department will revoke the waiver once an ETA is available to the recipient.
- C. The recipient is a foreign entity. We must request waivers for foreign recipients because the U.S. Treasury does not allow them to enroll in ASAP.
- D. The recipient is in an area that the President or an authorized agency administrator has designated as a disaster area. This waiver is limited to payments made within 120 days after the disaster is declared.
- E. The award is made in response to contingency operations conducted by or in support of the Department of Defense.
- F. Where using ASAP may pose a threat to national security, the life or physical safety of an individual may be endangered, or a law enforcement action may be compromised.
- G. Where the need to deliver funding is so unusual and compellingly urgent that the public or the Government would be seriously injured unless the program pays the recipient by a method other than ASAP.

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4.13 How does the Service request an ASAP waiver for a recipient? See the *Establishing an Intended Recipient's Payment Method before Obligating Funds for a New Grant or Cooperative Agreement Award in the Financial and Business Management System* guidance document for instructions on how to request an ASAP waiver.

4.14 How do recipients with an ASAP waiver request payment? Recipients with an ASAP waiver must send us either an SF 270 or an SF 271 standard payment request form. We may waive interim financial reporting for recipients using these standard forms (see 516 FW 1). No other forms or formats may be used to process manual payments (see section 4.15 and 281 FW 4 and 5).

4.15 Can the Service require recipients who have an ASAP waiver to submit any other payment-related form or additional documentation with or in place of the standard payment request forms? No. We must not require recipients who have ASAP waivers to submit any other payment-related form or additional documentation with or in place of the standard payment request forms unless:

A. The program received OMB approval to routinely collect additional payment-related information from recipients (see 281 FW 4 and 5), or

B. A recipient meets one or more of the criteria detailed in section 4.10A.

4.16 What actions are required when the Service receives an SF 270 or SF 271 payment request?

A. We must:

(1) Review the document to make sure the recipient has accurately completed all the fields and signed and dated the form,

(2) Communicate with recipients to correct inaccurate and incomplete SF 270 or SF 271 information, and

(3) Withhold payment until the standard form is complete and accurate.

B. We must submit recipient payment requests to the Interior Business Center (IBC) within 5 business days of receipt.

C. We do not need to sign or otherwise indicate approval of an SF 270 or SF 271 payment request before funds are transferred to the recipient unless:

(1) The recipient meets one or more of the criteria in section 4.10A, and

(2) The program adds conditions to the award to require prior Service approval of payment requests (see section 4.11).

4.17 What information related to payments must the Service include in notices of award and subsequent amendments? The notice of award and subsequent amendments must include the following information related to payments:

A. How to request funds. If the Department waives the requirement for the recipient to use ASAP, the notice of award and any subsequent amendments must:

(1) Identify which payment form the recipient must use (SF 270 or SF 271), and

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(2) Provide payment request submission instructions.

B. Details regarding any changes in the allowable payment method or any other payment-related additional requirements (see section 4.11).

4.18 Do Service employees have to monitor recipient payment activity? Yes.

A. We must regularly monitor recipient requests for payment and funds draw down activity to compare their frequency with the approved project activities and schedule. This monitoring activity gives us a general picture of project progress and allows us to identify and follow up with the recipient on any potential funds management issues. The frequency for payment activity review and followup will vary and depends on each award circumstance. We can use the reporting features of FBMS and the ASAP system to monitor activity when recipients use that payment method.

B. On occasion, we may also review recipient's source documentation (e.g., purchase orders, invoices, cancelled checks, payroll, and time and attendance records) for random transactions under each award to determine the nature of the expenditure and verify it is an allowable cost under the award terms and conditions.

4.19 What must Service employees do if they suspect that a recipient requested or expended funds in a manner that does not comply with the terms and conditions of award? We must:

A. Contact the recipient to discuss the issue and gather additional information, including a complete accounting of paid and unpaid award expenditures to date, if necessary; and

B. Consider all information and documentation received from the recipient.

4.20 What do employees do if they find that a recipient requested or expended funds in a manner that does not comply with the terms and conditions of award? We must:

A. Determine the total amount of those funds;

B. Determine if the recipient must return funds to the Service. A recipient must return funds to the Service when the amount in section 4.20A is more than the recipient's current balance of allowable unpaid award expenditures;

C. Determine what corrective action(s) we will take, or require the recipient to take, on the affected award, other awards to the recipient, or pending awards to the recipient;

D. Brief and obtain approval from the appropriate Directorate member on the planned corrective action(s); and

E. Maintain copies of all documentation related to how the funds were used and problems resolved in the official award file.

4.21 What action must the Service take to recover funds if a recipient has to return them? We must notify the recipient in writing by letter, fax, or email with appropriate return receipt that we have determined that they must return funds to the Service.

A. The notice must:

(1) State that we have determined that the recipient requested or expended funds in a manner that does not comply with the award terms and conditions;

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- (2) Cite the specific regulation(s) and term(s) or condition(s) violated;
- (3) Specify the amount of funds that they must return and provide instructions for returning those funds;
- (4) Inform the recipient that we have suspended the affected award and provide an effective date for the suspension;
- (5) Inform the recipient that costs are allowable if they result from obligations incurred before the effective date of suspension and would have been allowable if the award were not suspended, and that costs resulting from obligations incurred during the suspension are not allowable unless expressly authorized in advance in the notice or subsequently (see [43 CFR 12.83](#) and [12.962](#));
- (6) Provide specific authorization for any recipient costs related to obligations that will be incurred during the suspension when the program determines such costs allowable;
- (7) Inform the recipient that we have suspended other open awards, are withholding any pending or new awards to the recipient, or both, if applicable;
- (8) Inform the recipient that any and all suspended awards will remain suspended until we receive the funds due;
- (9) Inform the recipient that we reserve the right, without further notice, to convert any suspension to a termination of the award if we do not receive the funds within 30 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the notice;
- (10) Cite any statute or the applicable hearing/appeals section of the CFR that provides the recipient an opportunity for a hearing, appeal, or other administrative proceeding applicable to any action we have or may take as a result of this finding, if applicable; and
- (11) Be signed by the supervising Directorate member or his/her designee.

B. When the recipient returns the funds due, we must remove the restriction(s) and condition(s) imposed under this section and notify the recipient of their removal in writing by letter, fax, or email.

4.22 What must the Service do if the recipient is not responsive to the notice sent as described in section 4.21?

- A.** If the recipient does not submit repayment within 30 calendar days of receipt of the notice, we must complete a Form [DI-1040](#), *Bill for Collection*, and submit the completed form along with supporting documentation to the Division of Financial Management, Cost Accounting Section.
- B.** The Division of Financial Management will send the *Bill of Collection*, including a Notification of Actions to be taken in case of non-payment and a Notice of Rights, to the recipient.
- C.** If the recipient is not responsive to the DI-1040 action, the Division of Financial Management, Debt Collection Section may take one or more of the following actions, as necessary:

- (1) Refer the debt to the U.S. Treasury to initiate additional action, including possible investigation of assets,
- (2) Offset other payments from the U.S. Government,

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- (3) Refer the debt to a private collection agency,
- (4) Refer the debt to the Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor or to the Department of Justice to initiate legal action,
- (5) Report the debt to national credit bureaus, or
- (6) Report the debt to the Internal Revenue Service as income on which taxes will be owed.

D. If the recipient is not responsive to the DI-1040 action, we may take one or more of the following actions using the procedures in 43 CFR, as necessary:

- (1) Withhold payment for other open Service awards to the recipient,
- (2) Withhold further Service awards to the recipient,
- (3) Terminate the affected award,
- (4) Consider termination of other open Service awards to the recipient, or
- (5) Determine if we need to initiate a formal Governmentwide suspension or debarment action against the recipient, in accordance with [DIG 2011-01](#), *Action Official Referrals of Covered Transaction Award Termination for Noncompliance or Material Failure to Perform Determinations to the Department of the Interior Suspending and Debarring Official*.

E. We must notify the recipient in writing with appropriate return receipt of any further action(s) we take.

4.23 May the Service waive the termination of an award? No. We may not waive a termination. Once we terminate an award, we may not reinstate it.

/sgd/ Stephen Guertin
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: May 15, 2014

Objectives:

1. Identify reporting requirements.
2. Explain the ramifications of late reports.

Handouts:

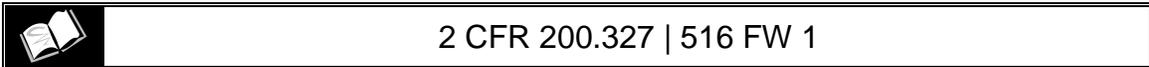
- BFA 8-1 – 516 FW 1 Financial Reporting for Awards.
- BFA 8-2 – 516 FW 2 Performance Reporting for Awards.

Required Reports

Federal Financial Report (SF 425)

The SF-425 is the OMB-approved governmentwide form for soliciting financial information from recipients. It may be submitted by mail or electronic means. Unless a Program has OMB information collection approval, it cannot require additional financial information from its recipients.

The SF-425 must be signed by the recipient's authorized representative (may be electronic).



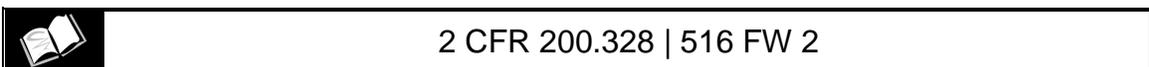
Performance Report

There is no OMB-approved governmentwide performance report form. However, there are standard OMB approved data elements for collection of performance information. Broadly, performance reports must include:

- Comparison of actual accomplishments to the award's objectives for the appropriate period.
- The reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate.
- Analysis and explanation of cost overruns, if appropriate.
- High unit costs, if appropriate.
- Any other information as reflected in the Federal awarding agency's approved OMB information collection request.

Programs must have OMB Information Clearance approval for information required in performance reports.

-516 FW 2.8A



Reporting Frequency

Recipients submit reports to the Federal Awarding Agency at the interval stated in the NOA. This includes both to submit interim and final reports.

For interim reports, Program Offices may require annual, semi-annual or quarterly submissions.

Final reports are required within 90 calendar days of the end of the award period or termination of the award, which ever comes first.

Recipients may request a report due date extension of up to 90 days with proper justification.

 2 CFR 200.327-.328 | 516 FW 1, 2

Remedies for Non-Compliance

2 CFR 200 considers recipient reporting of financial and performance on Federal awards to be an integral component of managing and monitoring by both Recipients and the Federal Awarding Agency. Recipients who fail to report on financial or performance progress of an award are considered out of compliance with 2 CFR 200. Federal Awarding Agencies that fail to enforce reporting requirements of their recipients are also considered out of compliance.

Program Offices monitor recipient reporting due dates using the Milestone Plan for each award. This allows for both a reminder of upcoming due dates and a tracking mechanism for delinquent reports.



No report received by due date?

If a report is not received by the due date, the Program Office must:

- Notify recipient within 30 calendar days that due date has passed.
 - Inform recipient of non-compliance and sanctions.
 - Request immediate receipt of report within 10 calendar days.
-
-

No report received by end of 10 calendar days?

If the recipient fails to send in the delinquent report and provides no acceptable explanation for its tardiness, the Program Office must take the following actions:

- Suspend payments and obligations of affected award for 30 calendar days.
- Notify recipient of suspension.

The Program Office must immediately lift any suspensions upon receipt and approval of delinquent reports.

Report or explanation is not received after 30 day suspension?

Program Offices must take the following actions if no report or explanation is received from the recipient:

- Convert suspension to termination.
- Withhold other pending awards.
- Notify recipient of termination.

Award terminations are final and cannot be reversed.



Conditionally Required Reports

There are other types of reports that may be required based on specific award conditions.

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have positive or negative impact upon the supported activity. If these occur, the recipient must notify the Federal awarding agency of the details.

For negative developments, recipients must notify the Service project officer when problems or adverse conditions occur which will materially impact the project. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

For positive developments, recipients must notify the Service project officer when favorable events occur which result in an accelerated schedule, a reduction in cost, or unintended added benefits.



2 CFR 200.328d

Project-specific Reports

Depending on the program or the type of project, other reporting may be required, such as

- Invention disclosures
- Property reports
 - SF-428 Tangible Personal Property (Equipment, supplies)
 - SF-429 Real Property Status (land, buildings)



2 CFR 200.328



Exercise: Reporting Requirements

Using 516 FW 1 and 2, answer the following questions. Cite your references.

1. Which recipient types can be exempted from performance reporting?

Private individuals, 516 FW 2.10. However, the Program Office must have another way of monitoring recipient and documenting project progress as part of the official award file.

2. Can Program Offices waive interim financial report requirements? If so, under what circumstances?

Yes. Only for ASAP-waived recipients who submit the SF-270/271 for payment. 516 FW 1.11B.

3. Can Program Offices waive final reports?

Not final FFRs, 516 FW 1.11A; For Performance, only as it pertains to question #1 above.

4. What can the Program Offices do to better align their recipients' interim performance reporting due dates with seasonal/research constraints?

Both the Uniform Guidance and 516 FW 2 allow for adjustment to due date as long as the time between reports does not exceed one year.
2 CFR 200.328(b)(1); 516 FW 2.14.

5. Who is responsible for preparing and submitting the performance and financial reports?

Recipient. Potential tortious activity if we do reports.

6. What are the ramifications to the USFWS if we fail to enforce the reporting requirements?

We lose our primary monitoring tools, out of compliance with Fed regulation.
DOI oversight of Service FA processes and administration.



Learning Points

- ✓ Financial and Performance reports have specific, required reporting periods.
- ✓ Performance reports have specific information requirements.
- ✓ There are consequences for not complying with reporting requirements.

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FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 1 Financial Reporting for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards 516 FW 1

1.1 What is the purpose of this chapter?

A. This chapter provides the information U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employees working with grant and cooperative agreement awards need so that we can:

- (1) Record related expenses in the proper period,
- (2) Monitor costs and progress in accomplishing goals and objectives of approved awards through recipients' timely submission of accurate and complete reports, and
- (3) Close awards after receipt of accurate and complete reports.

B. The chapter also helps us to carry out:

- (1) The Department of the Interior's (Department) Guidance Release 2009-04: Policy Regarding Financial Status Reporting Requirements Related to Grants and Cooperative Agreements, and
- (2) The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) 2008 requirement that all Federal awarding agencies use the *Federal Financial Report*, Standard Form (SF) 425. (Previously we used SF 269/269A and the *Report of Federal Cash Transactions*, SF 272/272A.)

1.2 What are the objectives and scope of this chapter?

A. Objectives: Our objectives are for Service staff to consistently communicate fiscal reporting requirements to applicants and award recipients and to make sure that these requirements are met.

B. Scope: This chapter covers all Service programs that award grants and cooperative agreements.

1.3 What are the authorities for this chapter?

A. Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs (43 CFR 12, specifically Subparts A, C, and F).

B. Cost Principles for Education Institutions (2 CFR 220).

C. Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments (2 CFR 225).

D. Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations (2 CFR 230).

E. Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations (2 CFR 215).

F. Financial Reporting for Grants and Cooperative Agreements: Federal Financial Report (Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 235, December 7, 2007).

G. U.S. Department of the Interior Guidance Release 2009-04, Financial Status Reporting Requirements Related to Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

H. Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

I. Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public (5 CFR Part 1320).

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- (3) Returning incomplete or inaccurate reports to the recipient within 30 calendar days of receipt with a clear written description of why the report is being returned,
- (4) Providing timely notice about and obtaining overdue reports with due concern for recipient rights and program needs (see section 1.13).
- (5) Maintaining documentation generated while monitoring submission of financial reports in the official award file, and
- (6) Using complete and accurate reports to determine whether or not the recipient met award requirements.

1.6 Does the Service require recipients to pass the reporting requirements in this chapter to sub-recipients? We do **not** require recipients to pass the reporting requirements in this chapter to sub-recipients. We do require the recipient to have a process to manage and track funds that pass to sub-recipients since the recipient must report these funds in the financial report.

1.7 What notice must the Service give applicants and recipients on financial reporting requirements? We must clearly state Federal financial reporting requirements in pre-award, award, and post-award notices. These notices must identify the required report formats, reporting frequency, and due dates and describe sanctions for noncompliance. We must obtain prior approval from OMB to:

- A. Collect information or documentation in addition to what is required on OMB-approved Standard Forms, or
- B. Use project- or program-specific reporting forms/formats.

1.8 What form does the Service require recipients to use for reporting the status of funds under an award?

A. We require recipients to report on the status of funds using:

- (1) A printed SF 425, *Federal Financial Report*, with the date and signature of the recipient's authorized representative;
- (2) A printed SF 425 with the representative's signature and date affixed by stamp or other mechanical means if the instrument used is:

- (a) In the signer's general possession and control,
- (b) Applied by the signer or by another with the signer's authority, and
- (c) Intended by the signer to constitute his/her signature.

(3) An electronically submitted scanned or faxed copy of (1) or (2), or

(4) An electronically completed SF 425 with an electronic date and signature of the recipient's authorized representative.

B. We may require recipients to report additional financial information specific to the awarding program as long as OMB has approved the requirements.

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Table 1 3: Schedule for Semiannual Interim Financial Reports		
Award Performance Start Date	Semiannual Interim Report End Date	Semiannual Interim Report Due Date (30 days after report end date)
January 2- March 31	September 30	October 30
April 1	September 30	October 30
April 2- June 30	December 31	January 30
July 1	December 31	January 30
July 2- September 30	March 31	April 30
October 1	March 31	April 30
October 2 – December 31	June 30	July 30

(3) Quarterly: The quarterly interim reporting period always ends December 31, March 31, June 30, or September 30. We must receive quarterly interim reports no later than 30 calendar days after the last day of each quarterly interim reporting period. Table 1-4 shows the schedule:

Table 1 4: Schedule for Quarterly Interim Financial Reports		
Award Performance Start Date	Quarterly Interim Report End Date	Quarterly Interim Report Due Date (30 days after report end date)
January 1	March 31	April 30
January 2- March 31	June 30	July 30
April 1	June 30	July 30
April 2- June 30	September 30	October 30
July 1	September 30	October 30
July 2- September 30	December 31	January 30
October 1	December 31	January 30
October 2 – December 31	March 31	April 30

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1.10 May the Service require interim financial reports more frequently than quarterly?

A. Yes. We may require reports more frequently than quarterly if the recipient:

- (1) Has a history of poor performance,
- (2) Is not financially stable,
- (3) Has a management system that does not meet the standards that the regulations applicable to the award require,
- (4) Has not conformed to the terms and conditions of a previous award,
- (5) Is not otherwise responsible, or
- (6) Receives advances totaling \$1 million or more each year. This condition is only applicable to the submission of financial reports by State, tribal, and local governments.

B. Before we may require more frequent reports, we must notify the recipient by letter, fax, or email and explain the:

- (1) Nature of the additional requirements,
- (2) Reason for the additional requirements,
- (3) Nature of the corrective action needed,
- (4) Time allowed for completing the corrective action, and
- (5) Procedure for requesting reconsideration of the additional requirements.

C. As soon as a recipient corrects any condition(s) that require additional reporting, we must immediately remove the additional requirements and notify the recipient by letter, fax, or email.

1.11 What reporting requirements may the Service waive and what are the procedures for waiving them?

A. Final reports: We may not waive final reports.

B. Annual interim financial reports: We may waive annual interim financial reports from a recipient who is exempt or waived from using the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system because they submit an SF 270, *Request for Advance or Reimbursement*, or an SF 271, *Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs* when requesting payments.

1.12 May the Service extend the due date of financial reports?

A. We may extend the due date of a financial report if we receive a request through a letter, fax, or email **no later than 1 day before** the original due date of the report. The request must identify:

- (1) The type of report for which the recipient requests an extension,
- (2) The requested revised due date, and

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(3) A justification for the extension.

B. The maximum extension we may approve is 90 days, unless a longer period is justified by a catastrophe that significantly impairs the recipient's operations.

C. We must notify the recipient by letter, fax, or email if we approve a request for extension of the due date of a report.

D. We must also keep extension requests and the final decision on these requests on file.

1.13 What happens if the Service does not receive a required financial report by the due date or agreed-upon extension date?

A. If we do not receive a required financial report by the due date or agreed-upon extension date, we must issue a letter, fax, or email notice of noncompliance (with appropriate return receipt) as soon as practical, but no later than 30 calendar days after the due date or agreed-upon extension date has passed. The noncompliance notice must state:

(1) The recipient is noncompliant with the Federal financial reporting terms of the award;

(2) Unless we receive the required report within the next 10 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the overdue report notice, we will make no further obligations and payments on the award and we will suspend the award until we receive all reports;

(3) We reserve the right, without further notice, to convert the suspension to a termination of the award if we do not receive the required report within 30 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the suspension notice; and

(4) We will withhold any other pending awards that the affected Service program would make to the recipient until we receive the overdue report.

B. If within 10 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the overdue report notice we still do not receive the financial report or an acceptable explanation for its tardiness, we must:

(1) Suspend payments and additional obligations for the financial assistance award for 30 calendar days, and

(2) Send a suspension notice to the recipient of this action.

C. If within 30 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the suspension notice we still do not receive the financial report or an acceptable explanation for its tardiness, we must:

(1) Convert the suspension or sanction(s) to a termination,

(2) Withhold any other pending awards that the affected Service program would make to the recipient until we receive all required reports, and

(3) Send a termination notice to the recipient of this action.

1.14 May the Service waive the termination of an award? No. We may not waive a termination. Once we terminate an award, we may not reinstate it.

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1.15 If, during a period of suspension or termination, a recipient incurs costs authorized under an award, are the costs allowable and eligible for reimbursement? We may, after careful consideration, allow reimbursement of allowable and eligible costs during a suspension or termination only if:

- A.** The costs cannot be reasonably avoided;
- B.** The costs were from obligations made by the recipient before the suspension or termination action and not in anticipation of either action. For terminations, the costs must be the type that the recipient could not cancel;
- C.** The costs would have been allowable if the award were not suspended or terminated; and
- D.** We notify the recipient (with appropriate return receipt) through mail, fax, or email that we authorize reimbursement of those costs.

1.16 What happens when the Service receives and approves a required report from a recipient who was suspended?

- A.** Once we receive the required financial report and verify that it is complete and accurate, we must immediately lift all suspensions we imposed on the recipient.
- B.** We must notify the recipient (with appropriate return receipt) through mail, fax, or email that we have lifted the suspension.

/sgd/ Rowan W. Gould
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: March 18, 2013

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Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 2 Performance Reporting for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards 516 FW 2

2.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This chapter provides the information U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employees working with grant and cooperative agreement awards need so that we can:

- A. Monitor progress in accomplishing goals and objectives of approved awards through recipients' timely submission of accurate and complete performance reports, and
- B. Close awards after receipt of accurate and complete performance reports.

2.2 What are the objectives and scope of this chapter?

- A. **Objectives:** Our objectives are for Service staff to consistently communicate performance reporting requirements to applicants and award recipients and to make sure that these requirements are met.
- B. **Scope:** This chapter covers all Service programs that award grants and cooperative agreements.

2.3 What are the authorities for this chapter?

- A. Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs (43 CFR 12, specifically Subparts A, C, and F).
- B. Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).
- C. Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public (5 CFR Part 1320).

2.4 Who is responsible for performance reporting for Service grant and cooperative agreement awards?

Table 2 1: Responsibilities for Performance Reporting for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards	
These employees...	Are responsible for...
A. The Director	Making sure that the Service has effective policy in place for administering the Servicewide grant and cooperative agreement programs.
B. The Assistant Director – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program	<p>(1) Developing policy for performance reporting requirements for programs that administer grant and cooperative agreement awards, and</p> <p>(2) Making sure that the program offices in the Regions and Headquarters have the information needed to manage the grants and cooperative agreements that they award.</p>
C. Directorate Members	<p>Making sure that the Service programs that award funds through grants and cooperative agreements comply with this policy by:</p> <p>(1) Clearly stating performance reporting requirements in all applicable award notices and communication,</p> <p>(2) Monitoring those awards to track progress in accomplishing goals and objectives and compliance with the terms and conditions of the awards,</p> <p>(3) Making sure that recipients correct any noncompliance in a timely</p>

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Table 2 1: Responsibilities for Performance Reporting for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards	
These employees...	Are responsible for...
	<p>manner,</p> <p>(4) Deobligating any remaining funds and closing the award after receipt of final reports,</p> <p>(5) Properly documenting and maintaining award files, and</p> <p>(6) Complying with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulation to receive and maintain current information collection approval for all applicant and recipient documentation.</p>

2.5 Who must monitor recipients' performance reporting, and what does monitoring involve?

A. The Service program responsible for the administration of the awards must monitor the recipients' performance reporting.

B. Monitoring includes, but is not limited to:

- (1)** Tracking report due dates and report receipt dates in the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) PRISM system through a Milestone Plan for each award,
- (2)** Reviewing reports for completeness and accuracy,
- (3)** Returning incomplete or inaccurate reports to the recipient within 30 calendar days of receipt with a clear written description of why the report is being returned,
- (4)** Providing timely notice about and obtaining overdue reports with due concern for recipient rights and program needs (see section 2.18),
- (5)** Maintaining documentation generated while monitoring submission of performance reports in the official award file, and
- (6)** Using complete and accurate reports to determine whether or not the recipient met award requirements.

2.6 Does the Service require recipients to pass the reporting requirements in this chapter to sub-recipients? We do **not** require recipients to pass the reporting requirements in this chapter to sub-recipients. The recipient is responsible for meeting the award requirements and may require their sub-recipients to submit performance reports to monitor award progress.

2.7 What notice must the Service give applicants and recipients on performance reporting requirements? We must clearly state Federal performance reporting requirements in pre-award, award, and post-award notices. These notices must identify required report formats, reporting frequency, and due dates and describe sanctions for noncompliance.

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2.8 What are the requirements for collecting information from applicants and recipients of financial assistance programs?

A. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that when a Federal agency collects information, those collections must minimize duplication and burden on the public, have practical utility, and support the proper performance of the agency's mission. OMB must review and approve the collection of the following types of information from applicants and recipients (see 5 CFR 1320):

- (1)** Application project and budget narratives and any other required documentation other than that found on Governmentwide-approved application forms (Standard Form (SF) 424 "Family");
- (2)** Program-specific application forms;
- (3)** Recipient technical/progress/performance reporting;
- (4)** Any other program or project-specific reporting required other than the information on SF-425 (*Federal Financial Report*), SF 270 (*Request for Advance or Reimbursement*), and SF 271 (*Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs*); and
- (5)** Revisions to project and budget narratives and written requests required prior to award amendment other than that found on Governmentwide-approved application forms (SF 424 Family).

B. The Service financial assistance programs that OMB has already approved are posted on www.reginfo.gov.

C. Contact the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer in the Division of Policy and Directives Management for guidance on obtaining OMB approval to collect information from financial assistance applicants and recipients.

2.9 If a program does not have OMB information collection clearance, are the recipients exempt from submitting performance reports? No. Regulations (43 CFR Part 12) require financial assistance recipients to submit performance and other types of award reporting. However, the Paperwork Reduction Act and OMB regulations state that we cannot penalize a recipient with the consequences listed in sections 2.18 to 2.21 if OMB has not approved the collection of information. It is important to immediately seek OMB approval for the collection of information associated with applications and recipient reporting requirements. A Service program that fails to obtain required performance reports from a recipient is violating this reporting policy and will have to develop an action plan to correct the violation.

2.10 Can the Service exempt a recipient from performance reporting if he or she is an individual who receives a grant or cooperative agreement award from the Service separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate? Yes, but only if the awarding program has another way of monitoring the award at least annually and documenting progress as part of the file. The program must enter a Milestone Plan in FBMS that reflects the program's monitoring schedule (see section 2.5B(1)).

2.11 What format does the Service require recipients to use for reporting performance? Recipients may submit performance reports in paper or electronic format. We do not require that they use a Federal form. See section 2.8 for OMB requirements for information collection.

2.12 What information must we require recipients to include in performance reports? We must require the following information in performance reports:

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- A. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the goals and objectives established for the reporting period, the results/findings, or both;
- B. If the goals and objectives were not met, the reasons why;
- C. Other important information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs compared to the benefit received to reach an objective; and
- D. Any additional requirements specified in program legislation.

2.13 What are the requirements for the frequency of performance reporting?

A. We require recipients to send us final reports for all awards no later than 90 calendar days after the award period or termination of award support, whichever comes first.

B. We require recipients to send us interim performance reports for awards that last longer than four full quarters (12 months). Depending on the awarding program, we may require recipients to submit these reports annually, semiannually, or quarterly.

(1) Annually: The annual reporting period is dependent on the award’s performance start date. We must receive annual interim performance reports no later than 90 calendar days after the annual interim report end date. Table 2-2 shows the schedule:

Table 2 2: Schedule for Annual Interim Performance Reports		
Award Performance Start Date	Annual Interim Report End Date	Annual Interim Report Due Date (90 days after report end date)
January 1	December 31	March 31
January 2- March 31	March 31	June 29
April 1	March 31	June 29
April 2- June 30	June 30	September 28
July 1	June 30	September 28
July 2- September 30	September 30	December 29
October 1	September 30	December 29
October 2 – December 31	December 31	March 31

(2) Semiannually: The semiannual interim reporting period always ends December 31, March 31, June 30, or September 30. We must receive semiannual interim performance reports no later than 30 calendar days after the last day of each semiannual interim reporting period. Table 2-3 shows the schedule:

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Table 2 3: Schedule for Semiannual Interim Performance Reports		
Award Performance Start Date	Semiannual Interim Report End Date	Semiannual Interim Report Due Date (30 days after report end date)
January 1	June 30	July 30
January 2- March 31	September 30	October 30
April 1	September 30	October 30
April 2- June 30	December 31	January 30
July 1	December 31	January 30
July 2- September 30	March 31	April 30
October 1	March 31	April 30
October 2 – December 31	June 30	July 30

(3) Quarterly: The quarterly interim reporting period always ends December 31, March 31, June 30, or September 30. We must receive quarterly interim reports no later than 30 calendar days after the last day of each quarterly interim reporting period. Table 2-4 shows the schedule:

Table 2 4: Schedule for Quarterly Interim Performance Reports		
Award Performance Start Date	Quarterly Interim Report End Date	Quarterly Interim Report Due Date (30 days after report end date)
January 1	March 31	April 30
January 2- March 31	June 30	July 30
April 1	June 30	July 30
April 2- June 30	September 30	October 30
July 1	September 30	October 30
July 2- September 30	December 31	January 30
October 1	December 31	January 30
October 2 – December 31	March 31	April 30

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2.14 May the Service allow the recipient to use alternate due dates from those on the reporting schedules above? Yes, we may allow the recipient to use alternate due dates if we obtain a valid justification for changing the date and make sure that the suggested date(s) allows for reporting progress at least annually. We must include the recipient's request in the award file and specify the approved new interim report date(s) in the notice of award.

2.15 May the Service require interim performance reports more frequently than quarterly?

A. Yes. We may require reports more frequently than quarterly if the recipient:

- (1) Has a history of poor performance,
- (2) Is not financially stable,
- (3) Has a management system that does not meet the standards that the regulations applicable to the award require,
- (4) Has not conformed to the terms and conditions of a previous award, or
- (5) Is not otherwise responsible.

B. Before we may require more frequent reports, we must notify the recipient by letter, fax, or email and explain the:

- (1) Nature of the additional requirements,
- (2) Reason for the additional requirements,
- (3) Nature of the corrective action needed,
- (4) Time allowed for completing the corrective action, and
- (5) Procedure for requesting reconsideration of the additional requirements.

C. As soon as a recipient corrects any condition(s) that require additional reporting, we must immediately remove the additional requirements and notify the recipient by letter, fax, or email.

2.16 Can the Service waive performance reporting requirements? We may not waive final or interim performance reports for recipients unless they are exempt from providing performance reports (see section 2.10). Even if a performance report is for a multiyear award and there was no activity during the reporting period, we may not waive the report. Instead, the recipient should provide a brief annual interim performance report to document the inactivity and the reasons for it.

2.17 May the Service extend the due date of performance reports?

A. We may extend the due date of a performance report if we receive a request through a letter, fax, or email **no later than 1 day before** the original due date of the report. The request must identify:

- (1) The type of report for which the recipient requests an extension,
- (2) The requested revised due date, and
- (3) A justification for the extension.

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B. The maximum extension we may approve is 90 days, unless a longer period is justified by a catastrophe that significantly impairs the recipient's operations.

C. We must notify the recipient by letter, fax, or email if we approve a request for extension of the due date of a report.

D. We must also keep extension requests and the final decision on these requests on file.

2.18 What happens if the Service does not receive a required performance report by the due date or agreed-upon extension date?

A. If we do not receive a required performance report by the due date or agreed-upon extension date, we must issue a letter, fax, or email notice of noncompliance (with appropriate return receipt) as soon as practical, but no later than 30 calendar days after the due date or agreed-upon extension date has passed. The noncompliance notice must state:

- (1)** The recipient is noncompliant with the Federal performance reporting terms of the award;
- (2)** Unless we receive the required report within the next 10 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the overdue report notice, we will make no further obligations and payments on the award and we will suspend the award until we receive all reports;
- (3)** We reserve the right, without further notice, to convert the suspension to a termination of the award if we do not receive the required report within 30 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the suspension notice; and
- (4)** We will withhold any other pending awards that the affected Service program would make to the recipient until we receive the overdue report.

B. If within 10 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the overdue report notice we still do not receive the performance report or an acceptable explanation for its tardiness, we must:

- (1)** Suspend payments and additional obligations for the financial assistance award for 30 calendar days, and
- (2)** Send a suspension notice to the recipient of this action.

C. If within 30 calendar days of the recipient's receipt of the suspension notice we still do not receive the performance report or an acceptable explanation for its tardiness, we must:

- (1)** Convert the suspension or sanction(s) to a termination,
- (2)** Withhold any other pending awards that the affected Service program would make to the recipient until we receive all required reports, and
- (3)** Send a termination notice to the recipient of this action.

2.19 May the Service waive the termination of an award? No. We may not waive a termination. Once we terminate an award, we may not reinstate it.

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2.20 If, during a period of suspension or termination, a recipient incurs costs authorized under an award, are the costs allowable and eligible for reimbursement? We may, after careful consideration, allow reimbursement of allowable and eligible costs during a suspension or termination only if:

- A.** The costs cannot be reasonably avoided;
- B.** The costs were from obligations made by the recipient before the suspension or termination action and not in anticipation of either action. For terminations, the costs must be the type that the recipient could not cancel;
- C.** The costs would have been allowable if the award were not suspended or terminated; and
- D.** We notify the recipient (with appropriate return receipt) through mail, fax, or email that we authorize reimbursement of those costs.

2.21 What happens when the Services receives and approves a required report from a recipient who was suspended?

- A.** Once we receive the required performance report and verify that it is complete and accurate, we must immediately lift all suspensions we imposed on the recipient.
- B.** We must notify the recipient (with appropriate return receipt) through mail, fax, or email that we have lifted the suspension.

/sgd/ Rowan W. Gould
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: March 28, 2013

Objectives:

1. Describe the actions and documentation that initiate award closure.
2. Determine disposition of remaining award funds.
3. Describe the communication and people involved in award closure.

Handouts:

- BFA 9-1 – 516 FW 7 Closeout of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards

Award Closure Process

The Uniform Guidance defines *Closeout* as:

“The process by which the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity determines all applicable administrative actions and all required work of the Federal award have been completed.” (§16)

2 CFR 200.343 details the actions required during the Closeout phase of the award’s life cycle.



The Recipient is responsible for:

1. Final Payment Request
2. Performance Report
3. Federal Financial Form (SF-425)

The Program Office is responsible for:

1. Monitoring accomplishments (performance reports, site visits, etc.).
2. Processing the Federal Financial Report (SF-425).
3. Deobligate any remaining funds.
4. Closing the award.

The GONE Act (2016) instructs Federal Awarding Agencies to report annually to Congress on timeliness of award closeouts.





Learning Points

- ✓ Award closure is initiated by submitting the final financial and performance reports.

- ✓ Submission and acceptance of final financial report closes the award and disposes of unused funds.

- ✓ Award accomplishments are tracked using the information provided in the performance and financial reports.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 7 Closeout of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards

516 FW 7

7.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This chapter establishes policy and guidance to ensure that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) employees close grant and cooperative agreement awards in a timely manner so that we can:

- A. Use remaining balances of Federal funds for new obligations, when such actions are not otherwise restricted by law, and
- B. Meet our responsibilities to monitor individual recipient and overall Federal financial assistance program performance so that we maintain accountability for the benefit of the American people.

7.2 What are the objective and scope of this chapter?

A. Objective: Our objective is to ensure Service employees working with grant and cooperative agreement awards:

- (1) Close awards properly and in a timely manner,
- (2) Consider notifying recipients in writing about award closures, and
- (3) Reopen closed awards when necessary.

B. Scope: This chapter covers all Service programs that administer and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards.

7.3 What are the authorities for this chapter?

- A. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Post-Federal Award Requirements (2 CFR 200, Subpart D).
- B. Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).
- C. Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public (5 CFR Part 1320).

7.4 Who is responsible for the closeout of grant and cooperative agreement awards?

See Table 7-1.

Table 7-1: Responsibilities for Closeout of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards	
These employees . . .	Are responsible for . . .
A. The Director	Making sure the Service has policy in place on grant and cooperative agreement award administration.
B. The Assistant Director – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) through the Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM), and the Branch of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Developing policy on the closeout of grant and cooperative agreement awards and keeping it up-to-date, and (2) Monitoring the Service’s implementation of this policy.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 7 Closeout of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards

516 FW 7

Table 7-1: Responsibilities for Closeout of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards	
These employees . . .	Are responsible for . . .
C. Directorate members in Headquarters and the Regions	Making sure employees who issue, administer, and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards are aware of and follow the requirements in this policy.

7.5 When must the Service close an award? We must close awards no later than 1 year after the award project period end date.

7.6 What are the standards the Service must follow when establishing a project period end date?

A. We must:

(1) Set the project period end date for a date no later than when we expect the recipient to complete all project activities, and

(2) Not extend the project period end date to incorporate the required post-award reporting period or any real property maintenance/retention period required under the award terms and conditions.

B. The end of the project period and subsequent award closeout do NOT affect the recipient's continued responsibilities related to real property maintenance, record retention, reporting, and disposition (see 2 CFR 200.344).

7.7 What does the Service need from the recipient to close an award? To close an award we must receive the following from the recipient:

A. All required final reports (see 516 FW 1 and 516 FW 2),

B. Any other reports or deliverables required under the award terms and conditions, and

C. A refund of any balance of unobligated cash paid to the recipient that they are not authorized to retain and use in other projects.

7.8 What do Service staff need to do to close an award? To close an award, staff must:

A. Verify we've received required reports, other deliverables, and any refunds due from the recipient;

B. Review the award file to make sure it is complete and all documents are properly executed. Document any issues and follow up with the recipient in writing, as needed;

C. De-obligate any remaining balance of unused Federal funds no longer needed for the approved program or project;

D. Close the award in the Contract/Financial Assistance Management System (PRISM); and

E. At the program's discretion, send a written notice of award closure by letter, fax, or email to the recipient and a copy of any pre-closeout de-obligation amendment. If not already included in the award terms and conditions, the notice of award closure should also describe the recipient's continuing

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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Federal Financial Assistance Part 516 FWS Financial Assistance – Award Administration

Chapter 7 Closeout of Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards

516 FW 7

responsibilities related to audits, property management, records retention, and reimbursement of Federal funds due to the Service as a result of corrections or other transactions, as applicable.

7.9 What must the Service do if the recipient doesn't send the final reports due? We must take the steps required in 516 FW 1 and 516 FW 2. Noncompliance with reporting requirements may result in, but aren't limited to, suspending funding, suspending other pending awards, and terminating an award.

7.10 What can the Service do if the recipient doesn't refund unobligated cash due to the Federal Government? Any funds we've paid to a recipient beyond the amount to which the recipient is entitled under the terms of the award constitute a debt to the Federal Government. If not paid within 90 calendar days after demand, we may reduce the debt following the procedures in [2 CFR 200.345](#). We may also take one or more of the remedies for noncompliance, as appropriate (see [2 CFR 200.338](#)). These actions include, but aren't limited to, temporarily withholding cash payments, wholly or partly suspending or terminating the award, and withholding further Federal awards for the project or program.

7.11 Does the Service have to complete a closeout for a terminated award? Yes. We must complete the closeout of a terminated award following the steps in Section 7.8 above.

7.12 Can the Service reopen a closed award? Yes.

A. We may reopen a closed award if we need to adjust the amount of Federal funds obligated. Such adjustments may be the result of refunds, corrections, or other transactions that occur or are identified by the recipient or the Service, such as during a review or audit after award closeout. Some post-closeout adjustments may require prior program approval.

B. Programs may not reopen a closed award to continue a previously funded project.

/sgd/ James W. Kurth
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Date: January 23, 2015

Objectives:

1. Identify responsibilities for award-purchased capital expenditures.
2. Identify monitoring requirements.
3. Discuss record retention requirements.

Post-Closeout—Continuing Responsibilities

Following the closeout of the Federal award, certain continuing responsibilities remain for both the Federal Awarding Agency and NFE.

- Recovery of disallowed costs discovered by a later audit or other review.
 - Return of funds resulting from refunds, corrections, or other transactions.
 - Property management and disposition
 - Real property
 - Equipment
 - Supplies
 - Record retention requirements.
-
-
-



2 CFR 200.344

Real Property

- Title vests with Recipient/Subrecipient and must be used for its originally authorized purpose.
 - Recipients **must** request approval to dispose of real property.
 - Conservation easements (Non-perpetual real property interest.)
 - Monitoring is required **when** terms and duration **exceed** award period.
-
-
-



2 CFR 200.311

Equipment

Post-closure requirements for equipment *use, management, and disposal* are determined by the type of recipient. States follow their own State laws and procedures, while all other recipients adhere to the Federal regulations as outlined in the Uniform Guidance.

- Use – Priority of use.
 1. For award-supported activities as long as needed.
 2. For activities funded by the original Federal agency
 3. For activities funded by other Federal agencies
- Management – until disposition.
 - Property records.
 - Inventories conducted a minimum of every two years.
 - Security.
 - Maintenance.
- Disposal
 - May require approval from Federal Awarding Agency.
 - Percentage of salvage value may need to be returned to Federal Awarding Agency.



2 CFR 200.313

Supplies

Upon closeout, the recipient must compensate the Federal awarding agency for unused supplies with an aggregate remaining value exceeding \$5000 purchased on the Federal award, if those supplies will not be used on other Federal awards.



2 CFR 200.311, 314

Record Retention

There are record retention requirements for both the Federal awarding agency and the recipient. The Uniform Guidance outlines retention and disposition requirements for recipients.

Service Program Offices adhere to the Service's retention schedule, which gives requirements by record type. For financial assistance administration, the following are worth noting:

- Files on routine operations and daily activities in administration of grant program retained for 3 years.
- Unsuccessful (rejected or withdrawn) grant application files retained 3 years.
 - Successful grant applications have specific retention requirements depending on type of project/activity.
- Financial assistance case files for 10 years.
- Real property acquisition records retained 10 years after final disposition of property (by unconditional sale or release).
- Conservation easement record retained for 6 years after final termination of easement.

The FWS Disposition Record Schedule (283 FW 2) includes both retention schedules and grant case file document requirements.



2 CFR 200.333 | 283 FW 2 | General Record Schedule 3



Learning Points

- ✓ Compliance issues continue, even after the award is closed.
- ✓ Real property must be monitored to ensure it continues to serve the purpose for which it was originally purchased.
- ✓ Real property may be disposed of when it no longer serves the intended purpose, WITH PRIOR APPROVAL.
- ✓ Awards may contain special terms and conditions on use and disposal of equipment.
- ✓ Awardees should maintain an inventory of equipment showing the purchase price, date of purchase, funding source and other pertinent accounting information.
- ✓ Generally, awardee records must be maintained for 3 years from the date of submission of the last expenditure report unless actions involving audits, litigation, claims or negotiations.

List of Documents in Tab 11

1. Acronyms List
2. FA Authority Pyramid diagram
3. 505 DM 2 – DOI Contracts and Financial Assistance Chapter
4. USFWS Issuing a New Financial Assistance Award Guidance
5. Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977

List of Common Acronyms in Financial Assistance Training

Updated June 29, 2016

AGM - Advanced Grants Management course

AIM - Administration and Information Management

ARRA – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

ASAP - Automated Standard Application for Payments

BFA - Basic Financial Assistance course

BGM - Basic Grants Management course

CCR - Central Contractor Registry

CE (or CatEx) - Categorical Exclusion

CESU - Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

CFDA - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

CIAP - Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Cash Management Improvement Act

DATA – Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014

DM - Department Manual

DNR - Department of Natural Resources

DOI - Department of the Interior

DUNS - Dun and Bradstreet's Data Universal Numbering System

EA - Environmental Assessment

EAS – Environmental Action Statement

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement

EMIS – Enterprise Management Information System

EO - Executive Order

ESA - Endangered Species Act

FA - Financial Assistance

FAADS - Federal Assistance Award Data System

List of Common Acronyms in Financial Assistance Training

Updated June 29, 2016

FAPIIS – Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System

FAPO - Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight

FAR - Federal Acquisition Regulation

FAS - Financial Assistance Systems

FBMS - Financial and Business Management System

FFATA - Federal Funding And Transparency Act of 2006

FFR - Federal Financial Report

FGCCA – Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977

FONSI - Finding of No Significant Impact

FSRS - FFATA Subaward Reporting System

FWS - Fish and Wildlife Service

GAAP - Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

GONE – Grants Oversight and New Efficiency (Act)

IBC - Interior Business Center

LCC - Landscape Conservation Cooperative

LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund

MCI - Management Concepts, Incorporated

NAWCA - North American Wetlands Conservation Act

NCTC - National Conservation Training Center

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act

NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act

NICRA – Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

NOA - Notice of Award

NOFO - Notice of Funding Opportunity

NOI - Notice of Intent

OIG - Office of the Inspector General

List of Common Acronyms in Financial Assistance Training

Updated June 29, 2016

OMB - Office of Management and Budget

PLC - Project Leader's Course

PMO - Program Management Office (USFWS)

PRISM - Purchase Request Information System

PO - Program Office

POP – Period of Performance

RO - Regional Office

ROD - Record of Decision

SAM - System for Award Management

SAP – Systems, Applications, and Products (FBMS)

SEC - Securities Exchange Commission

SF - Standard Form

SHPO - State Historic Preservation Office

SM - Service Manual

SMART - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound

SOL - Solicitor's Office

SWG - State Wildlife Grants

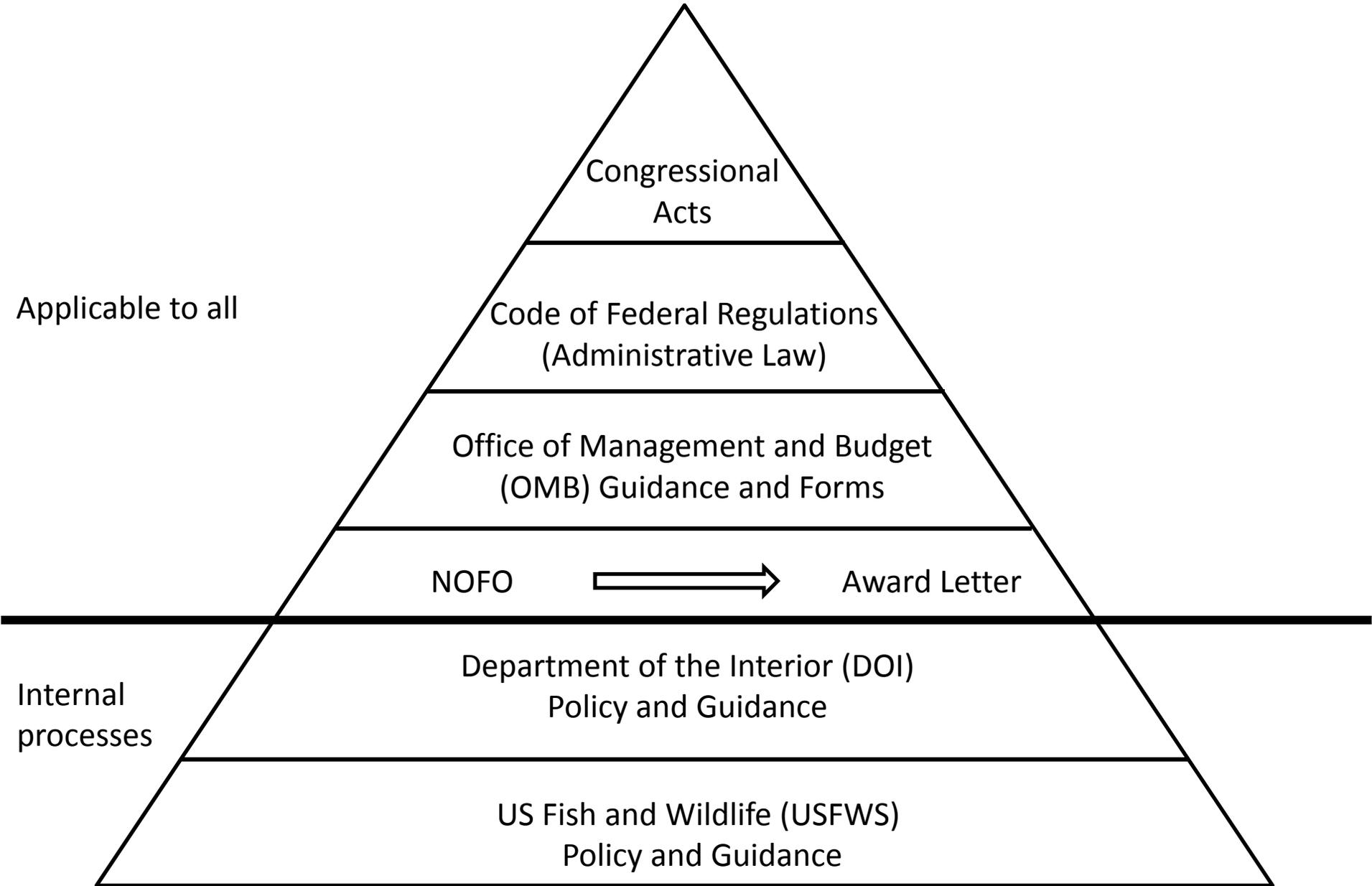
THPO - Tribal Historic Preservation Office

UDO – Undelivered Report (FBMS)

USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WSFR - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

Financial Assistance Authority Pyramid



Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

Effective Date: 1/9/08

Series: Federal Assistance Programs

Part 505: Grants Administration

Chapter 2: Procurement Contracts, Grant and Cooperative Agreements

Originating Office: Office of Acquisition and Property Management

505 DM 2

2.1 Purpose. This chapter provides Departmental guidance to implement provisions of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act, and related guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and it updates Departmental guidance on Grants.gov requirements and processes.

2.2 Background. The OMB final guidance on the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act was published in the Federal Register on August 18, 1978, (43 FR 36860). The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (revised and incorporated in the provisions at Title 31 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6308) and hereinafter referred to as the "Act", characterizes the relationship between executive agencies and contractors, States, local governments, and other recipients in acquiring property and services and in providing United States Government assistance. The Act also prescribes criteria for executive agencies in selecting appropriate legal instruments to achieve (a) uniformity in their use by executive agencies; (b) a clear definition of the relationship they reflect; and (c) a better understanding of the responsibilities of the parties to them. The Act seeks to promote increased discipline in selecting and using procurement contracts, grant agreements, and cooperative agreements, to maximize competition in making procurement contracts, and to encourage competition in making grant agreements and cooperative agreements. Title 31 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6308, however, will not be cited as the authority for any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

2.3 Authority. The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, Public Law (P.L.) 106-107, was enacted to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, to simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, to improve the delivery of services to the public, and to facilitate greater coordination among those responsible for delivering such services.

2.4 Applicability.

A. The authorities for this chapter apply to all bureau and office programs which use procurement contracts, grant agreements, and cooperative agreements, and to all recipients eligible for these awards. This chapter also applies to Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, except for those awards made pursuant to the authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638, 88 Stat. 2204), as amended.

1/9/08 #3784

Replaces 3/29/06 #3706

However, Sec. 9 of P.L. 93-638 does provide for use of a grant agreement or cooperative agreement when mutually agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the tribal organization involved.

B. This chapter does not apply to instruments such as intra- and inter-agency agreements, international agreements (excluding grants and cooperative agreements with foreign recipients), memoranda of understanding or agreement, cooperative research and development agreements, concession contracts, or permits. Licenses, sale documents, leases, and special use permits are covered by this issuance only when issued for the purpose of public support or stimulation.

2.5 Definitions.

A. Financial Assistance - The transfer of a thing of value from a Federal agency to an eligible recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation as authorized by a law of the United States. An agency may provide financial assistance through various types of transactions including grants, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and transfers of property in place of money.

B. Discretionary Grant - A grant program that permits the Federal Government, according to specific authorizing legislation, to exercise judgment in selecting the project, grantee/recipient organization, and/or the amount of the award through a competitive grant process.

C. Mandatory Grant - A grant program in which the Federal agency is required to make an award based on prerequisites specified by statute or implementing program regulations, e.g., an entity submits an acceptable State Plan or application that meets the eligibility and compliance requirements of the statutory and regulatory provisions of the grant program. There is generally no competition for funds among eligible entities in mandatory grants.

D. Single Source - A funding opportunity specifically directed to a known recipient, e.g., a friends' group, fundraising partner, non-governmental organization, landowner or geographically positioned entity, either statutorily designated or determined by a bureau or office to be an appropriate partner based on demonstrable criteria, such as unique expertise or capacity.

2.6 **Policy.** Consistent with the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act and the guidance provided in this DM chapter, bureaus and offices will determine and use the appropriate instrument (i.e., procurement contract, grant agreement, or cooperative agreement) when acquiring property and services or in providing financial assistance. Files should be documented, with justification of the appropriate financial assistance instruments. Bureaus are encouraged to seek advice from the Office of the Solicitor on the selection of an award instrument, as needed. Bureaus will conduct periodic reviews to ensure compliance with this policy and will use the following criteria when determining to use a procurement contract, grant agreement or cooperative agreement:

A. Procurement contracts will be used as legal instruments reflecting a relationship between the bureau or office and a State, local government, or other awardee when the principal purpose of the instrument is to acquire (by purchase, lease, or barter) property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Government or when the head of the agency determines, in a specific instance, that the use of a procurement contract is appropriate.

B. Grant agreements will be used as legal instruments when the relationship between the bureau or office and a State, local government, or other recipient has as its principal purpose the transfer of a thing of value to the recipient in order to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States and substantial involvement is not expected between the bureau or office and the State, local government, or other recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the agreement.

C. Cooperative agreements will be used as legal instruments when the relationship between the bureau or office and a State, local government, or other recipient has as its principal purpose the transfer of a thing of value to State or local government or other recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States and substantial involvement is expected between the bureau or office and the State, local government, or other recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the agreement.

2.7 Exemptions.

A. The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act provides for the Director of the OMB to exempt individual transactions or programs from the Act.

B. Requests for exemptions to the Act will be submitted by heads of bureaus and offices through the appropriate program Assistant Secretary and the Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM)) to the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget (AS/PMB). PAM will review and coordinate such requests, on behalf of the AS/PMB, prior to forwarding to OMB. Requests for exemptions will be coordinated with the Office of the Solicitor prior to forwarding requests to the appropriate program Assistant Secretary.

2.8 Responsibilities.

A. Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget. The AS/PMB is the Secretarial officer responsible for implementing the Act and the supplemental guidance issued by OMB.

B. Office of Acquisition and Property Management. On behalf of the AS/PMB, PAM is responsible for providing Departmental oversight, implementing the Act, and serving as the DOI representative to OMB, with final decision making by the AS/PMB. PAM is also responsible for coordinating with the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization on all matters involving business development programs which relate to the requirements of the Act (i.e. procurement contracts).

C. Program Assistant Secretaries. Each Program Assistant Secretary is responsible for ensuring that bureaus and offices under their jurisdiction implement and comply with the Act and requirements of this chapter. Assistant Secretaries must also review, reject or recommend approval of all requests prepared by bureaus and offices under their jurisdiction for exemptions to the Act in accordance with the provisions of 505 DM 2.7.

D. Office of the Solicitor. The Office of the Solicitor (SOL) will assist bureaus and offices with legal questions which may arise as the result of implementing the Act, the OMB guidance, and the provisions of this issuance, normally within seven (7) workdays. Cooperative agreements and grant awards, issued under well-established programs, do not require SOL review, unless requested. However, SOL will assist bureaus in review or development of new programs or policies affecting future allocations of financial assistance awards, including grants and cooperative agreements. SOL will review and advise the bureau or office, upon request, if a proposed cooperative agreement or grant is of such complexity or novelty or exhibits intellectual property issues or potential conflicts of interest, or other such concerns to warrant legal review.

E. Bureaus and Offices. Heads of bureaus and offices will identify the actions required to carry out the policies, procedures, and guidelines established in this issuance and designate those officials responsible for them. Necessary actions include, but are not limited to:

(1) Establishing procedures for determining proper selection of award instruments to be used for supporting bureau or office programs. These procedures may include official determinations that instruments to be used in making awards within a specific program are contracts, grant agreements, or cooperative agreements in keeping with 505 DM 2.6. Procedures must also be established for the conduct of reviews at an organization level separate from the level where the determinations are made to ensure objectivity in the decision-making process and to ensure that assistance instruments are not being used to circumvent applicable Federal procurement laws or regulations. Written determinations regarding selection of award instruments must contain complete information on the nature of the relationship between the bureau or office and the recipient to justify the use of the instrument selected. For competitive grant awards, it is sufficient to provide the written justification at the program level, e.g., not for each individual recipient of a competitive grant under the grant program. Public notices, solicitations, or requests for applications should indicate the type of relationship contemplated (procurement or assistance), the instrument to be used, and for cooperative agreements, an explicit statement of Federal programmatic involvement.

(2) Assuring that recipients of Federal funds are required to maintain adequate records to permit review by the Secretary, the Inspector General, the Comptroller General of the United States, or their authorized representatives.

(3) Preparing for each cooperative agreement an explicit statement of substantial Federal programmatic involvement which includes the nature, character, and extent of the anticipated Federal involvement. This statement is to be part of the official agreement and file.

(4) Establishing oversight and review procedures to ensure compliance with the Act, the OMB final guidance, and this issuance.

(5) Obtaining review by SOL of proposed cooperative agreements and grants, regardless of dollar amount, when review is advisable because of complexity, novelty, intellectual property issues, potential conflicts of interest, or other such concerns to warrant legal review. Cooperative agreements and grant awards issued under well-established programs do not require SOL review, unless requested. However, bureaus will seek legal advice from SOL in the review or development of new programs or policies affecting future allocations of financial assistance awards, including grants and cooperative agreements.

(6) Periodically conducting compliance reviews on competitive grant and cooperative agreement criteria, procedures and awards and meeting internal control review requirements for financial assistance programs under OMB Circular A-123, Management's Responsibility for Internal Controls and Appendix A, Internal Control over Financial Reporting. These reviews of all financial assistance awards, conducted on a 4-year cycle, will highlight any program changes and improvements, implemented or proposed.

2.9 Selection of an Award Instrument.

A. Procurement Contract. The basic criterion for selection of a procurement contract is that the relationship between the bureau or office and the awardee is for the principal purpose of acquiring (by purchase, lease, or barter) property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government.

B. Grant Agreement and Cooperative Agreement.

(1) The basic criterion for selection of a grant agreement or cooperative agreement is that its primary function is to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, and for the cooperative agreement, substantial involvement is expected between the bureau or office and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the agreement.

(2) Anticipated substantial Federal involvement is a relative rather than an absolute concept. In general, when the terms of an assistance instrument indicate the recipient can expect to perform the project without bureau or office collaboration, participation, or intervention (as long as performance is in accordance with the terms of the assistance instrument) substantial involvement is not anticipated. When the assistance instrument indicates the recipient can expect bureau or office collaboration or participation in the management or performance of the project, substantial Federal involvement is anticipated.

(3) The following examples are not meant to be a checklist or to be considered as individual determinants, but as a basic guide to selecting the proper assistance instrument:

(a) A bureau, office or organizational unit may anticipate substantial involvement when it: (i) participates and collaborates jointly with the recipient partner, volunteer, scientist, technician or other personnel, in carrying out the scope of work, trains recipient personnel, or details Federal personnel to work on the project effort; (ii) reviews and approves one stage of work before the next stage can begin; (iii) reviews and approves proposed

modifications or sub-grants, prior to the award; (iv) helps select project staff or trainees; (v) directs or redirects the work because of interrelationships with other projects; (vi) has power to halt immediately an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met; and (vii) limits recipient discretion with respect to scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance.

(b) Anticipated substantial involvement during performance does not include: (i) Government approval of recipient plans prior to award; (ii) normal exercise of Federal stewardship responsibilities during the project period such as site visits, performance reporting, financial reporting, and review to insure that the objectives, terms and conditions of the award are accomplished; (iii) unanticipated Government involvement to correct deficiencies in project or financial performance from the terms of the assistance instrument; (iv) general statutory requirements understood in advance of the award such as civil rights, environmental protection, and provisions for the handicapped; (v) Government review of performance after completion of the assisted activity; and (vi) general administrative requirements, such as those included in OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A-102, A-110, A-133, and applicable implementing regulations.

(4) The determination to use a cooperative agreement will in all cases be based on the need for substantial Federal involvement in the assisted activity after considering a variety of factors including the management, financial, and technical needs of the recipient.

(5) Federal involvement in cooperative agreements will be limited to the minimum required consistent with program requirements. Nothing in the Act should be construed as allowing the Government to increase its involvement beyond that which is authorized by applicable laws and OMB requirements.

(6) Should bureau or office programs now using grant agreements require in the future the award of cooperative agreements exclusively for particular activities, this determination should be based on statutory requirements or policy level determinations of the need for substantial Federal involvement in the performance of an assisted project.

2.10 Grant Agreement and Cooperative Agreement Structure and Contents.

A. The grant agreement or cooperative agreement will be structured in a manner which:

(1) Adequately describes the relationship based upon the degree of involvement of the parties; and

(2) Defines and allocates respective responsibilities, obligations, rights, and accountability as appropriate to the particular project. Requirements contained in statutes and implementing regulations will govern.

B. The grant agreement or cooperative agreement will set forth the respective rights and obligations of the parties in such areas as project performance and management, partial or total

termination of the work, changes in the scope of work, period of performance, application of funding and resources, title to property, records maintenance and access, liability, etc. Each agreement will be clear and concise and will include terms agreed upon between the parties. A grant agreement or cooperative agreement will include, as a minimum, the following provisions or items:

(1) Notification of Award will:

- (a) Identify the agreement by entering thereon a document number which will be compatible with the Federal Assistance Award Data System;
- (b) Provide the name and address of the recipient in the award agreement and, the names, titles, office address, and telephone numbers for the respective bureau/office and recipient project managers;
- (c) Identify the project by program code (e.g., CFDA number) and a brief summary of the purpose of the project;
- (d) Identify basic funding information (e.g., the total amount of funds initially obligated by the grant agreement or cooperative agreement);
- (e) Specify the project period;
- (f) Identify the bureau or program office which has been assigned responsibility for execution and administration of the agreement; and,
- (g) Provide unique Identifier of Entity and Parent Entity, if applicable.

(2) U.S. Code citation(s) to the statutory authorization and/or appropriation permitting expenditure of the identified funds for an authorized purpose. If the authority is not codified, then the citation(s) will identify the Public Law by name and year and provide the specific section and, as appropriate, title or subtitle containing the authority. The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act will not be cited as authority.

(3) A statement of joint objectives, schedule, if applicable, project management plan, general terms and conditions (e.g., OMB Circulars, property management and disposal, payment methods) or a referenced Departmental Internet site where general terms and conditions may be found, and special conditions (e.g., technical requirements, special reporting/legislative requirements), if required.

2.11 Administrative Requirements for Grant Agreements and Cooperative Agreements.

A. The basic administrative requirements applicable to an individual grant agreement or cooperative agreement will be determined by the type of recipient.

B. For recipients covered by OMB Circular A-102, "Grants and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments," and implementing regulations at 43 CFR Part 12, Subpart C or OMB Circular A-110, "Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations," and implementing regulations at 43 CFR Part 12, Subpart F, the administrative requirements specified in these circulars and regulations will apply unless a waiver has been obtained from OMB (see 505 DM 3.5 or 505 DM 5.5).

C. The administrative requirements will always reflect the cooperative effort and the respective interests, investments and rights of the parties to the agreement.

D. The Federal Audit Clearinghouse operates on behalf of OMB and maintains a database of completed audits, provides appropriate information to agencies, and is responsible for following up with known auditees that have not submitted the data collection forms and reporting packages.

E. Bureau/office programs are responsible for accessing the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website (<http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>) to determine when audit reports have been submitted. If reports have not been submitted, bureau/office programs will request follow-up action by the Clearinghouse. At their discretion, and in accordance with guidance at 43 CFR 12, programs may consider the imposition of sanctions, e.g., award no new grants, in cases of continued inability or unwillingness of applicable financial assistance awardees to have audits conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended, and OMB Circular A-133.

2.12 Posting Grant and Cooperative Agreement Funding Opportunities. In order to provide the public opportunity to view potential funding opportunities (as recipients and possible sub-grantees) thereby maintaining transparency consistent with the customer service mandates prescribed in P.L. 106-107, synopses of all cooperative agreement and discretionary grant funding opportunities must be posted to Grants.gov (www.grants.gov). Exceptions include:

A. Programs that only publish funding opportunities in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA);

B. Announcements of funding opportunities for awards less than \$25,000 for which 100 percent of eligible applicants live outside of the United States;

C. Single source announcements of funding opportunities issued by an agency which are specifically directed to a known recipient;

D. The exception cited at 505 DM 2.4A;

E. An award for which there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed;

2.13 Competition for Federal Financial Assistance Awards. Competition in making awards through cooperative agreements is strongly encouraged and is expected in awarding discretionary grants, unless otherwise directed by Congress. In all cases, bureaus and offices are required to make awards based on the merits in accordance with the law.

2.14 Single Source Determinations. The Department recognizes that there are circumstances where an organization or an individual may be determined to be an appropriate partner based on demonstrable criteria such as unique expertise or capacity to receive an award through a cooperative agreement without competition. Applying the criteria set forth in this section, bureaus and offices must consider the totality of circumstances in determining whether to authorize a single-source award. Decisions to transfer funds under a cooperative agreement to a single source without engaging in competition must be able to withstand scrutiny, should protect the public interest, and should comport with management priorities, objectives and statutory requirements.

A. When anticipating a single-source award for \$25,000 and above, the bureau or office must, prior to issuance:

(1) Publish a notice of its intent to make the award either in the Federal Register or on Grants.gov, in order to provide for transparency; and,

(2) Prepare a written justification and document the file to explain why competition is not practicable, including a statement of which criteria described below justify the action and why. The justification will include a discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

B. Criteria for Justifying Award Without Competition. In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

(1) Unsolicited proposal - The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;

(2) Continuation - The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity.

(3) Legislative intent - The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict award to a particular recipient or purpose.

(4) Unique Qualifications - The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership,

voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability, if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;

(5) Emergencies - Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

2.15 Posting Grant Agreement and Cooperative Agreement Applications. Bureaus and offices will make every effort to meet annual goals assigned to the Department of the Interior in support of the standardization and streamlining requirements of P.L. 106-107 and government-wide E-Gov initiatives, by posting grant and cooperative agreement application packages using the appropriate Standard Form 424 on Grants.gov. Additionally, bureaus will strongly encourage potential applicants to use Grants.gov when submitting responses to posted applications.

2.16 Awarding Discretionary Grant Agreements and Cooperative Agreements

A. Independent Objective Evaluation of Grant Agreement and Cooperative Agreement Applications. If consistent with the statute authorizing the program, bureaus and offices will develop procedures which provide for an independent objective evaluation of the applications prior to award. In developing the procedures, consideration will be given to ensuring that applications are reviewed and evaluated by qualified reviewers; applications are scored on the basis of announced criteria; applications are ranked; and funding determinations made. Submissions from debarred or suspended applicants may be considered and reviewed because the applicant's debarred or suspended status may change between proposal submission and actual award. However, awards may not be made to applicants who remain debarred or suspended at the time the award would be made.

B. Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants. Unsuccessful applicants include both those whose applications were disapproved and those whose applications were approved but not funded. Both types of unsuccessful applicants should be promptly notified of the actions taken on their request and given an explanation of the reasons why their applications were unsuccessful.

2.17 Authority to Vest Title in Tangible Personal Property for Research. The Act provides for the head of an executive agency to vest title in tangible personal property in a nonprofit institution of higher education or in a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is conducting scientific research when the property is bought with amounts provided under a procurement contract, grant agreement, or cooperative agreement with the institution or organization to conduct basic or applied scientific research. This authority may be exercised when the head of the agency decides the vesting of title furthers the objectives of the agency, there is no further obligation to the United States Government, and other conditions, if any, the head of the agency considers appropriate are met. Requests to use this authority will be coordinated with the Office of the Solicitor.

2.18 Use of Multiple Relationships for Different Parts of Jointly Financed Projects. The Act does not require an executive agency to establish only one relationship between the United States Government and a State, local government, or other recipient on a jointly financed project involving amounts from more than one program or appropriation when different relationships would otherwise be appropriate and beneficial for different parts of the project.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Financial Assistance Business Process Issuing a New Financial Assistance Award Guidance

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Point of Contact

Send any questions about this guidance by email to the Chief, Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO) Branch, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), Division of Administration and Information Management (AIM). See the FAPO About/Contact Us Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAPO-About> for contact information.

Document Change Log

FAPO will update this document over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations, Department of the Interior (DOI) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) policy, or new/changed Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) functionality. We will post updated

versions of this document on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> and will log updates made to this guidance in the following table:

Table 1: Document Change Log

Date Changed	Description of Change Made
9-30-2015	Added link to new DOI-AAAP Portal (Table 2); Incorporated Service “Budget Review Guidance” as new Attachment 6 and adjusted subsequent attachment numbers; inserted reference to “ FAS User Guide - How to Create a Funding Opportunity and Synopsis ” (step 3B); incorporated Partners and Coastal program-specific conflict of interest form (step 4B); clarified award total restrictions for foreign entities waived from SAM (step 6A); and updated SAM Exclusions review process to meet new “DOI-AAAP-0039, Pre-award Eligibility Screening Requirements” (step 6B).
2-20-2015	<p>Incorporated requirements under new 2 CFR 200, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (see 200.203); • Changed minimum NOFO posting time from 30 to 60 calendar days (see 200.203); • Updated “Notice of Award Elements” (Table 5) to incorporate new requirements (see 200.210); and • Removed references to A-133 and replaced with 2 CFR 200-Subpart F, and changed single audit threshold from \$500K to \$750K (see 200.501)
2-20-2015	<p>Incorporated requirements under recently issued Department policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIG 2011-03, Amendment 1, “Financial Assistance Monitoring Protocol” (see also “Service Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance”); • DIG 2013-06, “Financial Assistance Cost Review Guidance”; • DOI-AAAP-0008, “Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures for Financial Assistance”; and • DOI-AAAP-0009, “Financial Assistance Application and Merit Review Process”.
2-20-2015	<p>Other changes were made for clarity and continuity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated “Documentation required” boxes throughout to reflect changes made to checklist item numbering and overall format; • Updated minimum application requirements section to reflect complete list of required application elements; • Restructured SAM registration and SAM Exclusions reviews sections to simplify guidance and incorporate new expanded SAM Exclusions review of principal/key project person(s); • Removed “USFWS Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions” as an attachment to this document. Changed all references to http://www.fws.gov/grants/; and • Updated pre-award documentation checklist to reflect all new requirements.

References

Table 2: References

Reference	Location
This guidance and attachments	https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards
DOI Manual, Series 29: Federal Assistance Programs	http://elips.doi.gov/elips/browse.aspx

DOI Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) FA	http://www.doi.gov/pam/programs/financial_assistance/index.cfm
DOI Acquisition, Assistance, and Asset Policy (DOI-AAAP) Portal	https://sites.google.com/a/ios.doi.gov/policydistribution/home-1

Attachments

- [Attachment 1 – Financial Assistance Business Process Tasks List Template](#)
- [Attachment 2 – Notice of Funding Opportunity Template](#)
- [Attachment 3 – Selection of Funding Instrument Decision Diagram](#)
- [Attachment 4 – FWS Form 3-2460, *Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award*](#)
- [Attachment 5 – Sample Grants.gov Print Screens](#)
- [Attachment 6 –Budget Review Guidance](#)
- [Attachment 7 – Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements](#)
- [Attachment 8 – Setting Performance Period Dates for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards](#)
- [Attachment 9 – Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance](#)
- [Attachment 10 – Notice of Award Letter Template](#)
- [Attachment 11 – Sample Financial Assistance Award Special Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Attachment 12 – Modifying the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page](#)

Purpose

This guidance: 1) provides step-by-step guidance and instructions for issuing new grant and cooperative agreement awards, 2) provides standardized templates and forms for the new award process, 3) details all required pre-award documentation, and 4) delivers Service-specific standard financial assistance award terms and conditions.

Scope

This guidance applies to all employees who issue, administer, and manage grant and cooperative agreement awards.

This guidance does not apply to financial assistance awards issued to Federal entities. Federal entities, including other Service programs, may be eligible to compete for awards under some Service programs. When a Federal entity receives a financial assistance award, the award is not issued as a grant or cooperative agreement. Instead, financial assistance awards to Federal entities are issued following the standard business processes for:

- Program-to-program funds transfers, for awards to other Service programs;
- Intra-agency awards, for awards to other Bureaus within DOI; and
- Inter-agency awards, for awards to all other (non-DOI) Federal entities.

Instructions

Employees with the FBMS Agreements Officer role are responsible for making sure that all applicable steps of this guidance are completed, including compiling all required pre-award documentation and

making sure the notice of award document is signed by the authorized Service employee (see [516 FW 3, Signature Authority for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards](#)), **BEFORE** releasing a new award in the FBMS FA/Contract Management System (PRISM).

This guidance is a model and is not intended to dictate who will complete each step, e.g., program office staff versus award servicing office staff, or in what order the steps must be completed. Programs and their servicing offices are responsible for determining which office has primary responsibility for completing all of the major actions/tasks required to manage a financial assistance award through a complete award lifecycle. Programs can use the [Financial Assistance Tasks List Template](#) (Attachment 1) to make sure that all required actions/tasks are being performed and, if the program relies on a servicing office, to document which office has responsibility for each action/task. Add program- or servicing office-specific actions/task to the template, as needed. Contact your program leadership or award servicing office for program-specific standard operating procedures.

Prerequisite: Develop full text of the program or project Notice of Funding Opportunity

We must develop the full text of our program or project announcement, before we can post a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on Grants.gov and/or issue awards (see Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200 (2 CFR 200), section 200.203(c) and Appendix I to Part 200—Full Text of Notice of Funding Opportunity). A Grants.gov funding opportunity is required for discretionary programs and single source awards over \$25,000 (see Service policy [516 FW 6, Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition](#)). For the purposes of this guidance, the following definitions apply:

- **Discretionary program:** A program with an authorizing statute that allows the government to exercise judgment in selecting the project, recipient, and/or the amount of the award through a competitive process. In general, we must provide the public, when meeting applicable eligibility requirements, the opportunity to compete for discretionary awards.

Discretionary programs, in accordance with their authorizing statute, must establish a competitive review process, including the merit and other review criteria that evaluators will use to judge applications. Discretionary programs must also determine how the review process will work, including who is responsible for evaluating applications, how evaluators are selected, the minimum number of evaluators required for a review, who will make the final project selections, how potential conflicts of interest will be avoided, and any other factors outside of the established merit and review criteria that might be used to make final project selections.

- **Mandatory program:** A program with an authorizing statute that requires the government to make an award to each eligible entity under the conditions and in the amount (or based on the formula) specified in the statute. Under mandatory programs, no competition for funds among eligible entities is required. The following table lists the Service’s mandatory programs by Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number:

Table 3: Service Mandatory Programs by CFDA Number

CFDA	Program Title	Program Type
15.605	Sport Fish Restoration Program	Formula Grants
15.611	Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education	Formula Grants
15.625	Wildlife Conservation and Restoration	Formula Grants
15.626	Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety Program	Formula Grants
15.634	State Wildlife Grants (Non-competitive)	Formula Grants

15.659	National Wildlife Refuge Fund (Refuge Revenue Sharing)	Direct Payments with Unrestricted Use
15.663	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Project Grants (Mandatory)
15.668	Coastal Impact Assistance Program	Formula Grants

- **Single source awards:** An award made with discretionary funds outside of a competitive process. Single source awards must be used sparingly and only when they meet the criteria detailed in Service policy [516 FW 6, Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition](#).

Use the [Notice of Funding Opportunity Template](#) (Attachment 2) as a starting point for developing a program- or award-specific NOFO. The [NOFO Template](#) follows the standard format prescribed in Appendix I to Part 200—Full Text of Notice of Funding Opportunity. Programs that already have a NOFO in place must compare that document to this template at least annually to make sure it contains all required elements and content. FAPO will update the NOFO Template over time to incorporate changes resulting from any new government-wide regulations, DOI or Service policy, or new/changed Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) functionality.

NOFOs must include the valid CFDA number for the program or project being announced. Some NOFOs may be assigned multiple CFDA numbers, depending on how the program is administered. The CFDA(s) assigned to a NOFO determines the CFDA to be assigned to the award in FBMS (see Step 8 of this guidance). All Service financial assistance programs that have existed for longer than one year must apply to be included in the CFDA and assigned a unique CFDA number. Go to the Service's CFDA Intranet page at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/CFDA> for more information on how to obtain a CFDA number.

New financial assistance programs may use the Service's general CFDA program numbers, as appropriate to the type of program, until the program's unique CFDA number is assigned. The Service's general CFDA programs are:

- 15.649 for training and technical assistance projects
- 15.650 for research projects
- 15.664 for Congressionally mandated or directed (earmarked) awards

See the [CFDA Frequently Asked Questions](#) document posted on the Service's CFDA Intranet page or contact the Service's CFDA Coordinator (contact information posted on the Service's CFDA Intranet page) for more information.

NOTE: 5 CFR 1320, Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public, requires financial assistance programs to submit to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance for the collection of the following types of information from applicants and recipients:

- Application project and budget narratives and any other required documentation other than that found on OMB-approved Government-wide application forms (Standard Form (SF) 424 "Family");
- Program-specific application forms;
- Recipient technical/progress/performance reporting;
- Any other program or project-specific reporting required other than the information requested on OMB approved Government-wide recipient forms such as, but not limited to, the SF 425

(Federal Financial Report), SF 270 (Request for Advance or Reimbursement), SF 271 (Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs), SF 428 (Tangible Personal Property Report), or SF 429 (Real Property Status Report); and

- Written requests for changes to project and budget narratives required prior to award amendment other than the information requested on OMB approved Government-wide application forms (SF 424 Family).

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that when a Federal agency collects information from the public, those collections must minimize duplication and burden on the public, have practical utility, and support the proper performance of the agency's mission. For more information and a listing of Service programs with OMB clearance, see the Service's financial assistance information collection clearance page on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/OMB-ICC>.

Step 1: Determine appropriate funding instrument

Refer to the [Selection of Funding Instrument Decision Diagram](#) (Attachment 3) to assist you in determining the appropriate funding instrument.

NOTE: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), or Letter of Intent (LOI) specifies mutually-accepted expectations between the Service and one or more Federal agency, State, Tribal Government, Local Government, non-profit organization, for profit organization, or university partners. The parties to the MOU, MOA, or LOI contribute their efforts and resources toward mutually agreed-upon activities or projects. An MOU, MOA, or LOI does not represent legislative authority to issue grant and cooperative agreement awards. An MOU, MOA, or LOI is neither a legally-binding document nor a mechanism to receive or provide funds. An MOU, MOA, or LOI is not a requirement for awarding grant and cooperative agreement awards.

- A. Evaluate funding tool:** In accordance with 505 DM 2, Section 2.9, the program office must evaluate if the activity to be funded is an acquisition/contract or a financial assistance award. The principal purpose of financial assistance is to transfer funds, services, or property from the Service to an eligible, non-Federal recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation as authorized by a law of the United States. Any benefit to the Service will be incidental (i.e., funded activities complement the Service mission). An agency may provide financial assistance through various types of transactions including grants, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and transfers of property in place of money. Financial assistance does not include obtaining goods or services for the Service. If financial assistance is not the appropriate funding tool for the award being considered, **STOP HERE** and contact your contracting office.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#) (Attachment 4), select "YES" in the Item 1 Response box to confirm the determination of financial assistance as the appropriate funding tool. NOTE: Selecting "YES" for Item 1 covers the determination documentation requirement.

- B. Determine award instrument:** The program office must determine if the financial assistance award should be issued as a GRANT or a COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT. In terms of award administration, grants and cooperative agreements are subject to the same government-wide regulatory and policy framework. For both types of awards, we are responsible for monitoring recipient performance to ensure that the objectives are accomplished in accordance with the award terms and conditions. The only difference between a grant and a cooperative agreement

is that in a cooperative agreement the Federal government, in addition to performing the routine administrative and monitoring activities expected for all financial assistance awards, is *substantially* involved in the project. The following table details the types of substantial activities that would qualify the award as a cooperative agreement and compares them to the routine activities to be performed for all awards:

Table 4: Substantial versus Routine Federal Activities

Substantial Activities	Routine Activities
<p>According to 505 DM 2, Section 2.9 the Service is <i>substantially</i> involved in a project when our staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates and collaborates jointly with the recipient partner, volunteer, scientist, technician or other personnel, in carrying out the scope of work, including training recipient personnel or detailing Federal personnel to work on the project effort; • Reviews and approves one stage of work before the next stage can begin; • Reviews and approves, prior to recipient action, proposed modifications or sub-awards; • Helps select project staff or trainees; • Directs or redirects the work because of interrelationships with other projects; • Has power to immediately halt an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met; and • Limits recipient discretion with respect to scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance under the award. 	<p>The following routine Federal administrative and monitoring activities to be performed by Service staff in fulfillment of their Federal oversight responsibilities do not qualify as substantial involvement and <u>should not be included</u> in any substantial involvement justification, funding opportunity description, or notice of award document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Federal funds; • Assigning a project officer; • Approving recipient plans prior to award; • Fulfilling the normal and expected Federal stewardship responsibilities during the performance period such as setting reporting schedules, conducting desk audits or site visits, reviewing and approving financial and performance reports, providing general technical assistance as requested by the recipient, and other coordination or monitoring activities undertaken to ensure that the objectives are accomplished in accordance with the award terms and conditions; • Correcting unanticipated deficiencies in project or financial performance from the terms of the award; • Setting general statutory requirements understood in advance of the award such as civil rights, environmental protection, and provisions for the handicapped; • Implementing general administrative requirements understood in advance and included in the award terms and conditions and other applicable regulations; and • Assessing recipient performance after completion of the funded activity.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select “YES” in the Item 2 Response box and then select the funding instrument to be used from the drop down list under Item 2.

NOTE: For cooperative agreements, the program must include in the Grants.gov funding opportunity and the notice of award a detailed description of the Service’s expected/actual substantial involvement.

Step 2: Justify issuing a single source award

This step is not applicable to awards issued under the Service's mandatory programs (see Prerequisite section, Table 3 of this guidance). For all other programs, see Service policy [516 FW 6, Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition](#). In general when meeting applicable eligibility requirements, we must provide the public the opportunity to compete for discretionary awards. We must issue single source awards sparingly and only when the criteria detailed in 516 FW 6 are met.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select either "YES" or "NO" in the Item 3 Response box to indicate if the award is a single source award.

If "YES" is selected, complete [FWS Form FWS 3-2452, Determination for Issuing a Single Source Financial Assistance Award](#). The completed and signed form must be maintained in the official award file. For single source awards of \$25,000 or more, a NOFO must be posted on Grants.gov (see Step 3 of this guidance).

Step 3: Post/Justify not posting a NOFO on Grants.gov

Mandatory programs are not required to post NOFOs on Grants.gov. For discretionary single source awards and competitive financial assistance programs, we must either post a complete NOFO on Grants.gov or justify not posting a NOFO based on criteria provided in 505 DM 2.

A. Justify not posting a NOFO on Grants.gov: 505 DM 2 provides the following justifications applicable to Service programs for not posting a NOFO on Grants.gov:

1. This award is made under a mandatory program (see Prerequisite section of this guidance);
2. This award NOFO is made under a discretionary program that issues awards for less than \$25,000 and for which 100 percent of the eligible applicants are foreign entities;
3. This award is a discretionary single source award for less than \$25,000 (see Step 2 of this guidance);
4. This award is made under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638, 88 Stat. 2204); and
5. Because of a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety, there is not enough time to follow adequate competitive procedures for this award. Lack of planning or processing delays do not constitute unusual urgency.

Documentation Required: If not posting to Grants.gov is justified under 505 DM 2, on [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#) select "YES" in the Item 4.A. Response box and then select the applicable justification from the drop down list provided under Item 4.A.

B. Post a NOFO on Grants.gov

For all discretionary competitive programs not exempted from the Grants.gov posting requirement (see Step 3.A. of this guidance) AND all single source awards for \$25,000 or more, we must post a complete NOFO on Grants.gov. Discretionary programs must post a new NOFO each Fiscal Year (FY). Programs that have multiple application due dates within the FY

can modify their annual posting as needed throughout the year, but must create a new Funding Opportunity at the start of the next FY. Programs must post discretionary competitive NOFOs on Grants.gov for at least **60 calendar days** (see 2 CFR 200.203 (b)). Single source Funding Opportunities must be posted for at least **five** business days prior to award.

The steps of the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity posting process are detailed in this diagram:



To be complete, a NOFO must include:

1. A Synopsis (created in and posted to Grants.gov from PRISM), which contains the NOFO summary information required in 2 CFR 200.203(a),
2. The full text of the NOFO required in 2 CFR 200.203(b), uploaded as an attachment to the Synopsis (will appear for the public under the Full Announcement screen); and
3. An Application Package (will appear for the public under the Application screen).

For more information, see the Prerequisites section of this document, 2 CFR 200.203, Appendix 1 to Part 200—Full Text of Notice of Funding Opportunity, and the Service’s [How to Create and Post a Funding Opportunity and Synopsis](#) user guide posted at <http://fawiki.fws.gov/display/GGOV/FWS+Grants.gov+Guidance+Information>.

Posting a NOFO on Grants.gov does not mean the applicant must apply through Grants.gov. The program must provide program-specific application instructions in the full text of the NOFO.

All NOFOs must include a valid and appropriate CFDA number. For more information on CFDA numbers, see the [CFDA Frequently Asked Questions](#) document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/CFDA>.

If the NOFO will result in the funding of one or more cooperative agreements, the Synopsis “Description” field must include a statement describing the expected substantial Service involvement in the project. Use the following as a template for completing the required statement: *“Substantial involvement on the part of the Service is anticipated for the successful completion of the activities to be funded. In particular, the Service will be/expects to be responsible for the following: [list the specific project-related activities to be performed by Service staff].”*

For more information on Grants.gov, see the Service’s Grants.gov Information page on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/grants.gov> or the Service’s Grants.gov Wiki page at <http://fawiki.fws.gov/display/GGOV/FWS+Grants.gov+Information>.

Documentation Required: Go to the publicly-posted NOFO on Grants.gov and, from within the browser window, print (Ctrl+P) the following: 1) Synopsis screen; 2) Full Announcement screen; and the 3) Application screen.

See the attached [Sample Grants.gov Print Screens](#) (Attachment 5) if you are unsure as to which screens must be printed. Using the Ctrl+P function inserts the print date on the bottom of the printed page. The dated Grants.gov print screens must be maintained in either the official award file (this is the required method for single source awards) or a centralized subject-matter file (acceptable when multiple awards are made under a single funding

opportunity).

On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), enter the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number in the corresponding header field and then select “YES” in the Item 4.B. Response box. Use the check boxes provided under Item 4.B. to document where the required Grants.gov print screens will be maintained.

Step 4: Review and approve application

A. Minimum application requirements: The approved application is the road map for project implementation. Approved applications should clearly describe the project goals, objectives, activities, methods, timetable, resources and staff needed to accomplish goals, project monitoring and evaluation plan, and expected outputs/outcomes of the project. The [NOFO Template](#) provides sample text for requesting these key elements from applicants. At a minimum, applicants must submit the following:

1. A complete and signed [SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance](#) (SF 424, SF 424-Individual or SF 424-Mandatory) form. Service employees must not sign the SF 424 application form for the applicant. The Service is responsible for signing the official notice of award, not the application forms. The only exception to the SF 424 requirement is if the program has OMB approval to use an alternate application form (see Prerequisite section of this guidance).

NOTE: The SF 424-Mandatory form is for use only by applicants to mandatory programs (see Table 3, Prerequisite section of this guidance).

2. A signed [SF 424, Assurances](#) form (SF424B for non-construction projects or SF 424D for construction projects);
3. A complete [SF 424, Budget](#) form (SF424A for non-construction projects or SF424C for construction projects) and related budget narrative (see the [NOFO Template](#), section IV.E.). The only exception to these budget documentation requirements is if the program has OMB approval to collect budget information in an alternate format (see Prerequisite section of this guidance);
4. A signed [SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#) form, if applicable;
5. Notice of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award (see [DOI-AAAP-0008, Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures for Financial Assistance](#) and [NOFO Template](#));
6. A statement regarding their indirect cost rate circumstance, for all applicants except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate must provide; and
7. A statement regarding their single audit reporting status, for all U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government and non-profit applicants.

All awards must be based on applications *that match the award to be made* in regards to funding amount and project scope. Following review, we may need to ask the applicant to revise their proposed scope of work, project narrative, budget and/or timeline to reflect the Service’s final funding decision. Programs must maintain all final approved application documents in the official award file.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), enter the recipient's name, project title and type in the corresponding header fields, then select "YES" in the Item 5 Response box to confirm that the award is made based on an approved application that: 1) includes complete and signed SF 424 Application (or OMB-approved alternate), SF 424 Assurances, and SF LLL Lobbying (if applicable) forms; 2) includes a complete SF 424, Budget form and a budget narrative (or OMB-approved alternates); 3) matches the award to be made in regards to funding amount and project scope; and 4) will be maintained in the official award file.

B. Reviewer conflict of interest certification: This step does not apply to awards issued under the Service's mandatory programs (see Table 3, Prerequisite section of this guidance).

Discretionary programs issuing both competitive and single source awards must provide all staff reviewers (except Partners for Fish and Wildlife Service and Coastal Program employees), peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors a copy of Department policy [DOI-AAAP-0008, Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures for Financial Assistance](#). Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff reviewers (except Partners for Fish and Wildlife Service and Coastal Program employees), peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office point of contact the [Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification](#) attached to DOI-AAAP-0008.

Each fiscal year, all Partners for Fish and Wildlife Service and Coastal Program employees must sign and return to the designated point of contact the [PFW&CP Annual Conflict of Interest Certification](#) posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAPO-NewAwards> prior to participating in any review or evaluation process in that fiscal year. This program-specific form incorporates the certification requirements in DOI-AAAP-0008.

All discretionary programs must maintain signed reviewer conflict of interest certification statements related to approved awards following the same records schedule as for the program's official award files (see [283 FW 2, Disposition Schedules](#) for more information), in either the official award file or a centralized subject-matter file.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select in the Item 6 Response box either:
"N/A-Mandatory", for awards issued under a mandatory program, or
"YES", to confirm that all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, or advisors participating in the review of this discretionary award signed the required conflict of interest certification. If "YES" is selected, use the check boxes provided under Item 6 to document where the reviewer conflict of interest certification statements related to this award will be maintained.

C. Merit review: This step does not apply to awards issued under the Service's mandatory programs (see the Prerequisite section, Table 3 of this guidance). Discretionary programs issuing both competitive and single source awards must establish a merit review and selection process following the requirements in Department policy [DOI-AAAP-0009, Financial Assistance Application and Merit Review Process](#). Programs must ensure that: 1) applications are reviewed and evaluated by qualified reviewers; 2) applications are scored and/or selected based on announced criteria; 3) consideration is given to applicant risk and past

performance; 4) competitive applications are ranked; and 5) funding determinations are made. Programs must establish an evaluation plan comprised of five basic elements: 1) merit review factors and sub-factors; 2) a rating system for competitive applications (e.g., adjectival, color coding, numerical, or ordinal); 3) evaluation standards or descriptions which explain the basis for assignment of the various rating system grades/scores; 4) program policy factors; and 5) the basis for selection. The program merit review and selection process must be detailed for applicants in the full text of the NOFO (see Prerequisite section of this guidance). Programs must maintain all merit review documentation (e.g., reviewer scores and comments) related to approved awards following the same records schedule as for the program's official award files, in either the official award file or a centralized subject-matter file.

Documentation Required: On **FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award**, select in the Item 7 Response box either:
 "N/A-Mandatory", for awards issued under a mandatory program, or
 "YES", to confirm that a merit review of this project was conducted following the requirements in DOI-AAAP-0009. If "YES" is selected, use the check boxes provided under Item 7 to document where the merit review documentation related to this award will be maintained.

D. Budget review: Programs must conduct and document their review of the proposed budget following the requirements in the **Budget Review Guidance** (Attachment 6). Financial assistance recipients are subject to the Federal cost principles detailed in the Service's Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions posted on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>. Allowable costs are determined in accordance with the cost principles applicable to the organization incurring the cost. Employees must be familiar with and consider the cost principles when reviewing applications and monitoring awards. The extent of the budget review will depend on the level of detail in the budget-related information that the program requests from applicants. Programs have the discretion to request OMB approval to require more detailed budget formats (see Prerequisite section of this guidance). Programs must maintain all budget review documentation related to approved awards following the same records schedule as for the program's official award files, in either the official award file or a centralized subject-matter file.

Documentation Required: On **FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award**, select "YES" in the Item 8 Response box to confirm that a budget review was conducted and documented as required under DIG 2013-06. Use the check boxes provided under Item 8 to document where the budget review documentation related to this award will be maintained.

When reviewing a proposed budget, we must consider the following:

- 1. Indirect costs:** A recipient receiving an award as an individual separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate is not eligible to charge indirect costs to an award. All other applicants must provide in their application one of the statements detailed in the **Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements** guidance document (Attachment 7) and in the **Notice of Funding Opportunity Template**. Based on the information provided by the applicant, programs must assess the proposed indirect costs and ensure that the final approved budget and notice of award document reflect the recipient's indirect cost circumstance.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select in the Item 9 Response box either:

“N/A-Individual”, if the award is to an individual, or

“YES”, to confirm that: 1) the applicant's indirect cost circumstance was determined and considered during the budget review; and 2) the final approved budget and notice of award reflect those considerations. If “YES” is selected, select the applicable indirect cost rate circumstance from the drop down list provided under Item 9. Use the check boxes provided under Item 9 to indicate where any indirect cost rate documentation for the recipient will be maintained.

- 2. Pre-award costs:** Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the effective date of the award and only with the written approval of the awarding program. See the [Setting Performance Period Dates for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards](#) (Attachment 8) guidance for information on setting start dates on an award or award budget period with approved pre-award costs. To qualify for pre-award cost reimbursement, an applicant must demonstrate in the application that some pre-award activities were necessary and reasonable for accomplishing the overall program objectives and would have been approved had they occurred within the project period. An entire project must never be funded retroactively as pre-award costs, i.e., obligating funds after the project period has ended. We must fund awards prospectively for activities to be initiated after the project period start date.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select either “YES” or “NO” in the Item 10

Response box to indicate if pre-award costs are approved under the award. If YES, all correspondence/documentation resulting from the approval process must be maintained in the official award file.

- E. Compliance reviews:** Programs are responsible for making sure all legally required compliance reviews are completed **BEFORE** the recipient starts any potentially impactful activities funded under an award. We strongly recommend that all compliance reviews are completed before funds are obligated. However, in the event an award is released in PRISM and funds are obligated in FBMS before all compliance reviews are complete and the program wishes to allow the recipient or their subrecipient(s) to begin the portion of the approved work that has no potential to impact the environment, endangered species or their habitats, or historical/cultural artifacts, the notice of award must include the following special condition (see the [Sample Financial Assistance Award Special Terms and Conditions](#) (Attachment 11)):

[Insert a detailed description of the work that can be started and the work that must not be started until all compliance reviews are complete]. As a condition of award, the recipient and their subrecipient(s) must not begin any potentially impactful work related to this award until the Service has notified you in writing that such work can begin. Recipients and subrecipients of Federal grants and cooperative agreement awards must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 7 of Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The required compliance reviews are:

1. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Compliance:

Any project with the potential to cause effects on historic properties must be accounted for under the Section 106 consultation process. For ALL projects with activities being conducted within the United States, including U.S. embassies and military installations in foreign countries, contact your Headquarters/Regional Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) for guidance on which projects require additional documentation and review. See the list of HPOs on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/historicPreservation/contactUs.html>.

Documentation Required: On *FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award*, select "YES" in the Item 11 Response box to confirm that a Section 106 NHPA review was conducted for the award. Select the applicable Section 106 NHPA circumstance from the drop down list provided under Item 11. Use the check boxes provided under Item 11 to document where any Section 106 NHPA review documentation for the award will be maintained.

2. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance: Programs must conduct and document a NEPA review for all projects with activities to be conducted in the United States, includes U.S. embassies and military installations in foreign countries. A NEPA review requires an evaluation of the: project scope, the potential for significant impact on the human environment, e.g., the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people to that environment, and the level of public interest and/or controversy generated by the proposed project. Programs must document review results, even for projects found to be completely covered by a Categorical Exclusion and not considered an Extraordinary Circumstance.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required BEFORE any potentially impactful activities are started if the project:

- Is not completely covered by a Categorical Exclusion under 43 CFR 46.210 or 516 DM 8.5;
- Does not meet the criteria for any Categorical Exclusion under 43 CFR 46.210 or 516 DM 8.5; OR
- Is considered an Extraordinary Circumstance under 43 CFR 46.215.

The Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, Branch of Conservation Planning Assistance is responsible for coordination of Service NEPA responsibilities and activities. For more information, see the Service's [NEPA Reference Handbook](http://www.fws.gov/r9esnepa/index.html) on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/r9esnepa/index.html>.

Documentation Required: On *FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award*, select "YES" in the Item 12 Response box to confirm that a NEPA review was conducted for the award. Select the applicable Section NEPA circumstance from the drop down list provided under Item 12. Use the check boxes provided under Item 12 to document where any NEPA review documentation for the award will be maintained.

3. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance: Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA directs all Federal agencies to make sure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out does not jeopardize the continued existence of an listed, proposed or candidate endangered or threatened species or a designated or proposed critical habitat. Under the implementing regulations (50 CFR 402), Federal agencies must review financial assistance applications for all actions to be conducted within the United States, including U.S. embassies and military installations in foreign countries and the high seas, to determine whether the actions proposed may affect Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or proposed or designated critical habitat. The high sea is the sea or ocean beyond the three-mile limit or territorial waters of a country. No further review is required if:

- All project activities will occur outside of the United States; or
- Some or the entire project will be conducted within the United States but either no listed, proposed or candidate endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat exists in the project area or the project has no potential to affect species or their designated critical habitats.

The program must determine if further review is required when any project activities are to be conducted in the U.S. or on the high seas and any listed, proposed or candidate endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat exists in the project area. If the project *may affect* a listed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat, the program must follow the appropriate intra-Service consultation procedures. The procedures will vary by region, and may vary by program. The process must be completed BEFORE any potentially impactful activities are started by the recipient or their subrecipients. For more information, contact your regional Ecological Services office.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select "YES" in the Item 13 Response box to confirm that a Section 7 ESA review was conducted for the award. Select the applicable Section 7 ESA circumstance from the drop down list provided under Item 13. Use the check boxes provided under Item 13 to document where any Section 7 ESA review documentation for the award will be maintained.

F. Legal review: See [505 DM 2](#), Section 2.8 D and E (5) for a description of the legal review responsibilities. There is no dollar threshold or any other pre-defined criteria requiring a legal review of a grant or cooperative agreement. For grants and cooperative agreements, a legal review is generally optional. A legal review is needed only when we determine that the proposed project is of high complexity/novelty, or exhibits intellectual property issues or potential conflicts of interest, or other such concerns.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select either "YES" or "NO" in the Item 14 Response box to indicate if a legal review from the Office of the Solicitor was requested. If "YES" was selected, a copy of the request and any response received must be maintained in the official award file.

G. Single audit status review: All U.S. states, local governments, Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments and non-profit organizations that spend \$750,000 or more in Federal award funds in a fiscal year must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the provisions of [2 CFR 200, Subpart F—Audit Requirements](#) and submit

those reports to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. As part of their application, these entities must submit a statement regarding whether they were required to have a single audit for their most recently closed fiscal year and, if required, indicate if the report for that audit has been uploaded to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse-Single Audit Database.

For all entities reporting that they were required to submit a single audit report in their most recently closed fiscal year, the program office must search the Federal Audit Clearinghouse-Single Audit Database on the Internet at <http://harvester.census.gov/fac> to confirm that the report is available on the site. A dated screen print of the database search results must be maintained in the official award file or centralized subject-matter file.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select "YES" in the Item 15 Response box to confirm that a single audit status review was conducted for the intended award recipient. Select the applicable single audit circumstance from the drop down list provided under Item 15. For recipients who were required to submit a single audit in their most recently closed FY, use the check boxes provided under Item 15 to document where the required Single Audit Database screen print dated prior to award will be maintained.

TIP: To generate a dated screen print, print (Ctrl+P) the "Results from Query of Single Audit Database" screen from within the browser window. Using the Ctrl+P function inserts the date printed on the bottom of the printed page.

Step 5: Conduct recipient risk assessment

Follow the instructions in the [Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance](#) (Attachment 9) to complete a pre-award risk assessment for each recipient who will be awarded one or more awards from the program. Programs must document the results of their assessment on [FWS Form 3-2462, Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment](#) and incorporate the appropriate monitoring activities into all notices of award to the recipient following the instructions in the [Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance](#). The completed risk assessment must be maintained in either the official award file or centralized subject-matter file (may be preferred if issuing multiple awards to the recipient in a single fiscal year).

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select "YES" in the Item 16 Response box to confirm that [FWS Form 3-2462 Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment](#) was completed and that the appropriate monitoring activities were incorporated into the notice of award following the instructions in the [Recipient Risk Assessment Guidance](#). Use the check boxes provided under Item 16 to document where the completed risk assessment for the intended recipient will be maintained.

Step 6: Verify intended recipient eligibility

The program or servicing office must verify the intended recipient's eligibility to receive a Federal assistance award. To do this, the program or servicing office must: 1) make sure that the entity has complied with, or is waived from, the System for Award Management (SAM) and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) registration requirements; and 2) confirm that the entity and any key project staff are not suspended or debarred from receiving Federal financial assistance.

NOTE: Employees performing this step must create and maintain an Individual User Account on SAM.gov. When applicants register on SAM.gov, they are given the choice to opt out of the public

search function. Opting out of the public search function means that their SAM.gov record cannot be seen by the casual public user. To see all SAM records, government employees must register for a SAM.gov Individual User Account with their government email address.

A. Verify compliance with, or obtain a Service waiver from, the SAM registration requirements

This step does not apply to individuals applying for or receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate. Regulations require all entities except individuals that apply for or receive financial assistance awards to register and maintain current information in SAM, unless the Service waives the requirement. To maintain an active registration in SAM, recipients must review and update their SAM information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently when information changes. Before registering in SAM, an entity must register in DUNS.

The Service may only approve a waiver from the SAM/DUNS registration requirements if one of the following criteria is met:

1. We must protect information about the entity from disclosure to avoid compromising classified information or national security or jeopardizing the personal safety of the entity's clients, or
2. A foreign entity is applying for or receiving an award for less than \$25,000, the project will be conducted outside of the United States, and we find it impractical for the entity to comply with the requirement.

If one of these criteria is met, the entity can be waived. To request a SAM/DUNS waiver, see the instructions in [516 FW 5, Data Universal Numbering System \(DUNS\) and System for Award Management \(SAM\) Registration Requirements](#). For SAM-waived entities, the completed and signed [FWS Form 3-2451, Financial Assistance Recipient Data Universal Numbering System \(DUNS\)/System for Award Management \(SAM\) Registration Waiver](#) reflecting the approval must be maintained in the award file. For SAM-waived foreign entities, once the cumulative total Federal award amount becomes equal to or more than \$25,000, the waiver is automatically revoked and the foreign entity must register in SAM.

To verify an entity's compliance with the SAM registration requirements, go to <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>, log in, and then search for the entity by the DUNS number provided by the applicant on their SF 424, *Application for Federal Assistance* form. The search by DUNS must return an Active Entity record for the entity. If an Active Entity record is not found, we must contact the entity to inform them that they must register in SAM or revalidate their expired SAM registration. To determine if the entity must either register or revalidate an existing registration, filter your search results to show both Active and Inactive records (the default search is to show only Active records). Once an Active SAM record is available for the entity, do the following:

- Review their registration expiration date, to see if their registration is likely to expire before the award is issued.
- Review their SAM Core Data information, to verify if the entity has one or more DUNS-Plus-4 designations. If they do, see if they have multiple CAGE codes associated with their DUNS number. If they do, the entity will have multiple vendor records in FBMS, one for each unique DUNS-CAGE code combinations. In these cases, we must contact the entity to find out which CAGE code should be associated with the award, as this will be important when selecting the correct FBMS vendor record in Step 7 of this guidance.

- Click on either the “Save PDF” or “Print” icons on top of the search results screen, and then save/print a dated copy of the results.

As applicable to the above circumstance, the required approved SAM waiver or SAM Entity Overview screen print dated prior to award showing an “Active” registration must be maintained in the official award file.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select in the Item 17 Response box either:

“N/A-Individual”, for awards to individuals, or

“YES”, for awards to all other entity types to confirm that the entity was subject to the SAM registration requirement. Then select the applicable SAM registration circumstance from the drop down list provided under Item 17. For SAM-registered entities, enter their DUNS number in the corresponding form header field.

B. Conduct SAM Exclusions review

Department policies [DOI-AAAP-0009, Financial Assistance Application and Merit Review Process](#) and [DOI-AAAP-0039, Pre-award Eligibility Screening Requirements](#), require that we perform a SAM Exclusions check for both the intended recipient and any key/principal project staff person(s): 1) prior to selecting a final award recipient, and 2) on the same day and before the award is issued (i.e., released by the Agreements Officer in PRISM).

Service mandatory programs (see Prerequisite section, Table 3 of this guidance) are not required to perform two SAM Exclusions checks. Mandatory programs are required to perform and document one SAM Exclusions check on the same day and before the award is issued.

For all discretionary programs/awards, programs/servicing offices must perform both SAM Exclusions checks but are only required to fully document the final SAM Exclusions check as detailed below. Programs/Servicing offices that find an active exclusion during the initial SAM Exclusions check that prohibits the entity from receiving an award from the funding program must print a copy of the exclusion and maintain it as part of the rejected application record.

To conduct and document the final SAM Exclusions check, to be performed on the same day and before the award is issued, go to <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>, log in, and:

1. **For SAM-registered entities**, search for the intended recipient by the DUNS number provided by the applicant on their SF 424, *Application for Federal Assistance* form. This search will return the same results as when completing Step 6.A. of this guidance for SAM-registered entities. If the SAM registration search results record saved/printed in Step 6.A. shows that there are no active exclusions for the intended recipient, no additional documentation is required. For every active exclusion record returned, you must carefully review the record to determine if the exclusion prohibits the entity from receiving a new award from the funding program. In some cases exclusions are specific to a particular type of project or activity. If an active exclusions is found that prohibits the recipient from receiving a new award from the funding program, **STOP HERE. Do not make an award to a suspended or debarred entity!** For active exclusion records that prohibit the entity from receiving funds from the program, click on either the “Save PDF” or “Print” icons on top of the detailed active exclusion record screen, and then save/print a dated copy of the results and maintain it as part of the rejected application record.

For all active exclusions records found that do not prohibit the entity from receiving funds from the program, click on either the “Save PDF” or “Print” icons on top of the detailed active exclusion record screen, and then save/print a dated copy of the results.

2. **For each SAM-waived entity (includes individuals) and each key/principal project person(s)**, click on the “Search Records” tab, enter their name in the “Quick Search” data entry field, and then click the “Search” button (or see the “Advanced Search-Exclusions” button on the “Search Records” to search for more than one name at a time). Review the search results to ensure that neither the intended recipient nor any of their key/principal project person(s) are suspended or debarred from receiving Federal funds under the program.

For each search conducted that results in no active exclusions found for the entity or key/principal project person(s), click on either the “Save PDF” or “Print” icons on top of the search results screen, and then save/print a dated record of the results.

For every active exclusion record returned, you must carefully review the record to determine if the exclusion prohibits the entity from receiving a new award from the funding program. In some cases exclusions are specific to a particular type of project or activity. If an active exclusion is found that prohibits the entity from receiving a new award from the funding program, **STOP HERE. Do not make an award to a suspended or debarred entity!**

For all active exclusions records found that do not prohibit the entity from receiving funds from the program, click on either the “Save PDF” or “Print” icons on top of the detailed active exclusion record screen, and then save/print a dated copy of the record.

All dated copies of final SAM Exclusions search and review results as described above must be maintained in the official award file.

Documentation Required:

On **FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award**, select “YES” in the Item 18 Response box to confirm that a search of the SAM Exclusions database was conducted on the same day and before the award was issued for the intended recipient and key/principal project person(s). Select the applicable SAM Exclusions search result from the drop down list provided under Item 18.

Step 7: Identify FBMS vendor and verify payment method is established

We must establish a payment method for the expected recipient BEFORE releasing an award and obligating funds in FBMS to that recipient. A recipient’s payment method is documented on their vendor record in FBMS. Releasing an award before the recipient’s payment method is documented on their FBMS vendor record will cause system errors and payment delays!

To complete this step, follow the **Establishing a Recipient’s Payment Method before Obligating Funds for a New Grant or Cooperative Agreement Award in FBMS** guidance document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/Payments-New>. All attachments referenced in the guidance are also posted on the Intranet on the same page.

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), select “YES” Item 19 Response box to confirm that all applicable steps of the [Establishing a Recipient’s Payment Method before Obligating Funds for a New Grant or Cooperative Agreement Award in FBMS](#) guidance were completed.

Step 8: Identify the CFDA number

All awards must be assigned a single, valid CFDA number. The CFDA number assigned to an award must match at least one of the CFDA number(s) identified in the NOFO (see Prerequisite section of this guidance) and Grants.gov Funding Opportunity (see Step 3.B. of this guidance). For more information on the CFDA, see the [CFDA Frequently Asked Questions](#) document posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/CFDA>.

It is important that you assign the correct CFDA Number to the award! Assigning a CFDA number to an award documents the Service’s authority to award the grant or cooperative agreement. See the Authorization section of the program’s CFDA.gov profile for a list of authorizing legislation. Service programs, and the Service as a whole, use the CFDA number assigned to their awards as a means to filter or consolidate program data used to respond Congressional and Departmental information requests, produce required Congressional reports, and support annual budget justification exercises, among other reporting needs. Assigning an invalid CFDA number to an award will impact the accuracy of that program’s reporting.

If you have any questions regarding which CFDA number to assign to an award, contact the Service’s CFDA Coordinator (contact information posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/CFDA>).

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), enter the CFDA number and CFDA program title to be assigned to the award in the corresponding header fields.

Step 9: Complete a notice of award

For every award, we must provide a complete notice of award to the recipient. Awards must include all of the elements required in 2 CFR 200.210. The [Notice of Award Letter Template](#) (Attachment 10) addresses all of the required elements. The table below provides guidance on some of these elements:

Table 5: Notice of Award Elements

Element	Guidance
<p>Award cover page or letter</p>	<p>The Service has two official formats for the award cover page/letter. Programs may use: 1) the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page or 2) a customized notice of award letter based on the Notice of Award Letter Template. No other award formats/documents are authorized for Service use. Award cover pages/letters must be signed by an authorized Service representative (see Service policy 516 FW 3).</p> <p>For guidance on setting performance period dates, see the Setting Performance Period Dates for Grant and Cooperative Agreements (Attachment 8) guidance.</p> <p>Awards must include an indication of the timing and scope of expected performance by the non-Federal entity as related to the outcomes intended to be achieved by the program. In some instances, this may be limited to the requirement to submit performance reports. Where appropriate, the award may include specific performance goals, indicators, milestones, or expected outcomes (such as outputs, or services performed or public impacts of any of these) with an expected timeline for accomplishment. If the recipient’s application contains such information, incorporating the application by reference into the award meets these requirements (see 2 CFR 200.210(d)).</p> <p>Programs sending the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page to a recipient must modify the form (see Step 11 of this guidance) and make sure the recipient receives all of the required elements not otherwise provided on the form, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Service project officer contact information, • Detailed payment instructions, and • Detailed financial and performance reporting requirements, including reporting periods, due dates and submission instructions, as required under Service policies 516 FW 1 and 516 FW 2.
<p>General Terms and Conditions</p>	<p>A notice of award must include, either by citation or as an attachment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions posted on the Internet at http://www.fws.gov/grants/.</p>
<p>Special Terms and Conditions</p>	<p>When special terms and conditions are applicable, they must be included in the notice of award. Do not include special terms/conditions that do not apply to the particular award being issued. Use the Sample Financial Assistance Award Special Terms and Conditions document as a starting point for developing any special terms and conditions for the award. Not all the suggested special terms and conditions will apply to every award.</p>
<p>Additional Information</p>	<p>Attach any additional information required by the program. It is not necessary to re-send the recipient their approved application, as all awards will be based on approved applications submitted by the applicant that match the award to be made in regards to funding amount and project scope (see Step 4 of this guidance).</p>

Documentation Required: On [FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award](#), enter in the “Performance Period Start” header field either the actual performance period start date or “Signature date” (if the performance period will start on the date the notice of award

cover sheet/letter is signed). Enter the performance period end date in the corresponding header field. A copy of the complete and signed notice of award must be maintained in the official award file.

Step 10: Compile required pre-award documentation

The following pre-award documentation is required, as applicable to the award:

- ✓ Completed and signed **FWS Form 3-2460, Checklist for a New Financial Assistance Award**.
Note: The form is electronically fillable. If the form is signed electronically, the signed form must be printed as a paper copy or as a new PDF document (use the “Save As” button on the top right of the form) so that the responses entered cannot be changed after the signature date.
Note: FWS Form 3-2460 must not be modified to incorporate any additional items, program/servicing office-specific operating procedures, or for any other reason. Such items/procedures/needs must be documented separately.
- ✓ If a single source award, completed **FWS Form 3-2452, Determination for Issuing a Single Source Financial Assistance Award**.
- ✓ For discretionary competitive programs not exempted from the Grants.gov posting requirement under 505 DM 2 AND all single source awards for \$25,000 or more, evidence in the form of dated print screens that a complete Grants.gov NOFO was published.
- ✓ The recipient’s complete approved application that: 1) includes complete and signed SF 424 Application (or OMB-approved alternate), SF 424 Assurances, and SF LLL Lobbying (if applicable) forms; 2) includes a complete SF 424, Budget form and a budget narrative (or OMB-approved alternates); and 3) matches the award to be made in regards to funding amount and project scope
- ✓ For discretionary awards, signed reviewer Conflict of Interest Certification forms as required in DOI-AAAP-0008.
- ✓ For discretionary awards, complete merit review documentation as required in DOI-AAAP-0009.
- ✓ Complete budget review documentation as required in DIG 2013-06.
- ✓ If applicable, a copy of the applicant’s current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate agreement.
- ✓ Evidence that all legal compliance requirements including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were or will be met, and award was conditioned accordingly.
- ✓ If legal review from the Office of the Solicitor was requested, documentation of the request and any response received.
- ✓ For all entities reporting that they were required to submit a single audit report for their most recently closed fiscal year, the “Results from Query of Single Audit Database” print screen.
- ✓ Completed FWS Form **3-2462, Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment**
- ✓ If the AD-WSFR approved a DUNS/SAM waiver for the recipient, the documentation required in Service policy **516 FW 5**.
- ✓ If the entity is required to register in SAM, the SAM.gov print screen showing the entity has an Active registration.
- ✓ Either the SAM.gov print screen(s) showing no active exclusions were found the intended recipient and their key/primary project person(s), or, for every Active Exclusion found, a copy of

the complete exclusion record showing that the exclusion does not prohibit the recipient from receiving the award.

- ✓ A complete notice of award, including an award cover page or letter signed by the authorized Service representative (see Service policy [516 FW 3](#)).

Step 11: Complete Grants Purchase Request and PRISM Award processes

Follow your program/servicing office instructions for completing a Grants Purchase Request and a new award in PRISM.

If you will send the completed [PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page](#) form to the recipient as part of the notice of award, the form must be modified before it is sent to the recipient. See the [Modifying the PRISM Grant and Cooperative Agreement Cover Page](#) (Attachment 12) guidance document for more information.

FBMS Work instructions and the training materials posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/go/post/FAS-Branch> are your best resources for resolving issues. Open an FBMS Help Desk ticket when you are unable to resolve the issue from work instructions and training materials. To open an FBMS Help Desk ticket, send an email to FBMS_helpdesk@nbc.gov with a detailed description of the issue, including screenshot of any system error messages and/or screens relevant to the issue being reported.

Step 12: Send Notice of Award to the recipient

Whenever possible, send the complete Notice of Award to the recipient electronically. Recipients are not required to co-sign award cover sheets/letters. Asking a recipient to co-sign the award adds an unnecessary burden and increases the award processing time. See Service policy [516 FW 3](#) and the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions](#) for clarification on when a recipient accepts responsibility for the terms and conditions of the award.

Step 13: Create a PRISM Milestone Plan

A PRISM Milestone Plan is required for all awards issued after March 21, 2013. See Service policy [516 FW 2, Performance Reporting for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards](#) for more information on the Milestone Plan requirement. For instructions on creating a Milestone Plan, see the [Create a Milestone Plan Tutorial](#) posted on the Intranet at <https://inside.fws.gov/index.cfm/go/post/FAS-Tutorials>.

Step 14: Establish an official award file

In general, all pre-award documentation unique to an award must be maintained in a single official award file. When official file documentation must be shared between a program office and a servicing office, the offices are jointly responsible for ensuring that the appropriate servicing office and program office employees have ready access to the official award file documentation. This means offices must provide each other hard copies of any official file documentation as soon as it becomes available or upload the documents to a shared, electronically accessible space where they can be easily accessed by servicing and program office staff.

The only exception to the standard of maintaining a single official award file is when the program can eliminate excessive duplication of effort by maintaining some documentation in centralized subject-matter files. All centralized subject-matter files related to financial assistance awards must be well

marked, well maintained, accessible to all appropriate servicing and program office staff, and readily available upon request for reviews or audits. However, there are some documents that must *always* be maintained in the official award file. See the Required Documentation boxes throughout this guidance for more information on which documents must be maintained in the official award file.

Public Law 95-224
95th Congress

An Act

To distinguish Federal grant and cooperative agreement relationships from Federal procurement relationships, and for other purposes.

Feb. 3, 1978
[H.R. 7691]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act be cited as the "Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977".

Federal Grant
and Cooperative
Agreement Act of
1977.
41 USC 501 note.
41 USC 501.

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) there is a need to distinguish Federal assistance relationships from Federal procurement relationships and thereby to standardize usage and clarify the meaning of the legal instruments which reflect such relationships;

(2) uncertainty as to the meaning of such terms as "contract", "grant", and "cooperative agreement" and the relationships they reflect causes operational inconsistencies, confusion, inefficiency, and waste for recipients of awards as well as for executive agencies; and

(3) the Commission on Government Procurement has documented these findings and concluded that a reduction of the existing inconsistencies, confusion, inefficiency, and waste is feasible and necessary through legislative action.

(b) The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to characterize the relationship between the Federal Government and contractors, State and local governments, and other recipients in the acquisition of property and services and in the furnishing of assistance by the Federal Government so as to promote a better understanding of Federal spending and help eliminate unnecessary administrative requirements on recipients of Federal awards;

(2) to establish Government-wide criteria for selection of appropriate legal instruments to achieve uniformity in the use by the executive agencies of such instruments, a clear definition of the relationships they reflect, and a better understanding of the responsibilities of the parties;

(3) to promote increased discipline in the selection and use of types of contract, grant agreement, and cooperative agreements and to maximize competition in the award of contracts and encourage competition, where deemed appropriate, in the award of grants and cooperative agreements; and

(4) to require a study of the relationship between the Federal Government and grantees and other recipients in Federal assistance programs and the feasibility of developing a comprehensive system of guideline for the use of grant and cooperative agreements, and other forms of Federal assistance in carrying out such programs.

DEFINITIONS

41 USC 502.

SEC. 3. As used in this Act, the term—

(1) "State government" means any of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, any agency or instrumentality of a State, and any multi-State, regional, or interstate entity which has governmental functions;

(2) "local government" means any unit of government within a State, a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, sponsor group representative organization, other interstate government entity, or any other instrumentality of a local government;

(3) "other recipient" means any person or recipient other than a State or local government who is authorized to receive Federal assistance or procurement contracts and includes any charitable or educational institution;

(4) "executive agency" means any executive department as defined in section 101 of title 5, United States Code, a military department as defined in section 102 of title 5, United States Code, an independent establishment as defined in section 104 of title 5, United States Code (except that it shall not include the General Accounting Office), a wholly owned Government corporation; and

(5) "grant or cooperative agreement" does not include any agreement under which only direct Federal cash assistance to individuals, a subsidy, a loan, a loan guarantee, or insurance is provided.

USE OF CONTRACTS

41 USC 503.

SEC. 4. Each executive agency shall use a type of procurement contract as the legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the Federal Government and a State or local government or other recipient—

(1) whenever the principal purpose of the instrument is the acquisition, by purchase, lease, or barter, of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government; or

(2) whenever an executive agency determines in a specific instance that the use of a type of procurement contract is appropriate.

USE OF GRANT AGREEMENTS

41 USC 504.

SEC. 5. Each executive agency shall use a type of grant agreement as the legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the Federal Government and a State or local government or other recipient whenever—

Transfers.

(1) the principal purpose of the relationship is the transfer of money, property, services, or anything of value to the State or local government or other recipient in order to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute, rather than acquisition, by purchase, lease, or barter, of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government; and

(2) no substantial involvement is anticipated between the executive agency, acting for the Federal Government, and the State or local government or other recipient during performance of the contemplated activity.

USE OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

SEC. 6. Each executive agency shall use a type of cooperative agreement as the legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the Federal Government and a State or local government or other recipient whenever— 41 USC 505.

(1) the principal purpose of the relationship is the transfer of money, property, services, or anything of value to the State or local government or other recipient to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute, rather than acquisition, by purchase, lease, or barter, of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government; and Transfers.

(2) substantial involvement is anticipated between the executive agency, acting for the Federal Government, and the State or local government or other recipient during performance of the contemplated activity.

AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 7. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each executive agency authorized by law to enter into contracts, grant or cooperative agreements, or similar arrangements is authorized and directed to enter into and use types of contracts, grant agreements, or cooperative agreements as required by this Act. Contracts, grant or cooperative agreements. 41 USC 506.

(b) The authority to make contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements for the conduct of basic or applied scientific research at non-profit institutions of higher education, or at nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is the conduct of scientific research shall include discretionary authority, when it is deemed by the head of the executive agency to be in furtherance of the objectives of the agency, to vest in such institutions or organizations, without further obligation to the Government, or on such other terms and conditions as deemed appropriate, title to equipment or other tangible personal property purchased with such funds. Scientific research.

STUDY OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SEC. 8. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in cooperation with the executive agencies, shall undertake a study to develop a better understanding of alternative means of implementing Federal assistance programs, and to determine the feasibility of developing a comprehensive system of guidance for Federal assistance programs. Such study shall include a thorough consideration of the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Government Procurement relating to the feasibility of developing such a system. 41 USC 507.

The Director shall consult with and to the extent practicable, involve representatives of the executive agencies, the Congress, the General Accounting Office, and State and local governments, other recipients and other interested members of the public. The result of the study shall be reported to the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but in no event later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act. The report on the study shall include (1) detailed descriptions of the alternative means of implementing Federal assistance programs and of the circumstances in which the use of each appears to be most desirable, (2) detailed Contents.

Consultation.

Report to congressional committees.

descriptions of the basic characteristics and an outline of such comprehensive system of guidance for Federal assistance programs, the development of which may be determined feasible, and (3) recommendations concerning arrangements to proceed with the full development of such comprehensive system of guidance and for such administrative or statutory changes, including changes in the provisions of sections 3 through 7 of this Act, as may be deemed appropriate on the basis of the findings of the study.

GUIDELINES

- 41 USC 508. SEC. 9. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is authorized to issue supplementary interpretative guidelines to promote consistent and efficient use of contract, grants agreement, and cooperative agreements as defined in this Act.

REPEALS AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS

- Repeal; effective date. SEC. 10. (a) The Act entitled "An Act to authorize the expenditure of funds through grants for support of scientific research, and for other purposes", approved September 6, 1958 (72 Stat. 1793; 42 U.S.C. 1891 and 1892), is repealed, effective one year after the date of enactment of this Act.
- 41 USC 501 note. (b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to render void or voidable any existing contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into up to one year after the date of enactment of this Act.
- 41 USC 509. (c) Nothing in this Act shall require the establishment of a single relationship between the Federal Government and a State or local government or other recipient on a jointly funded project, involving funds from more than one program or appropriation where different relationships would otherwise be appropriate for different components of the project.
- Excepted transactions. 41 USC 501 note. Expiration date. (d) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget may except individual transactions or programs of any executive agency from the application of the provisions of this Act. This authority shall expire one year after receipt by the Congress of the study provided for in section 8 of this Act.

Approved February 3, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-481 (Comm. on Government Operations).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-449 accompanying S. 431 (Comm. on Governmental Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 123 (1977): Sept. 27, considered and passed House.

Oct. 1, considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 431.

Vol. 124 (1978): Jan. 19, House agreed to Senate amendment.