

Maneuvering Grants in a Contracts World

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Introduction

Me

- ▶ State Grant Coordinator
- ▶ Federal Grant Coordinator
- ▶ Federal Grant Manager
- ▶ Contract Specialist

You

- ▶ Role under grant umbrella?
 - ▶ None
 - ▶ Minimal
 - ▶ added a contract # to a grant agreement
 - ▶ Assist with grant management
 - ▶ Subaward development
 - ▶ Subrecipient monitoring
 - ▶ Perform functions of a grant manager
 - ▶ Submit application
 - ▶ Report writing/submission

Disclaimers

Grants

- ▶ Definitions are far from clear cut or all-encompassing
- ▶ Numerous types of grants from different agencies and for different purposes
- ▶ This presentation will focus mainly on federal grants
- ▶ Federal government alone offers nearly 1,000 different grant programs; distributed by 26 agencies

The answer to most questions:

It Depends!

Contract

Vs.

Grant

- ▶ Usually procured through competition or an allowed exception to competition
- ▶ A voluntary, legally binding agreement signed by two or more parties
- ▶ Legal and financial repercussions in case of failure

- ▶ A financial award given to a qualified recipient for a designated/specific purpose that furthers the mission of the awarding agency on the basis of merit or need
- ▶ Reasonable hopes that the task can be accomplished but there will be no legal repercussions in case of failure as long as no laws are broken
- ▶ Recipients may decide specific activities/project as long as the project meets the intent of the grant
- ▶ Funding is usually through cost reimbursement of activities and purchases spent for grant purposes
- ▶ May require receiving entity to provide 'match'
- ▶ Requires compliance with grantor's laws, regulations, policies, etc.

Grants - Introduction

- Grantors
- Classification
- Types
- Life Cycle
- Agency Roles
- Requirements

- Grantors

- ▶ Federal government
- ▶ State government
- ▶ Private entities

- **Classifications**

- ▶ **Direct grant:** recipient receives money directly
- ▶ **Pass-Through:** awarded to an entity which in turn distributes the funds to other participants (subrecipients)

- ## Types

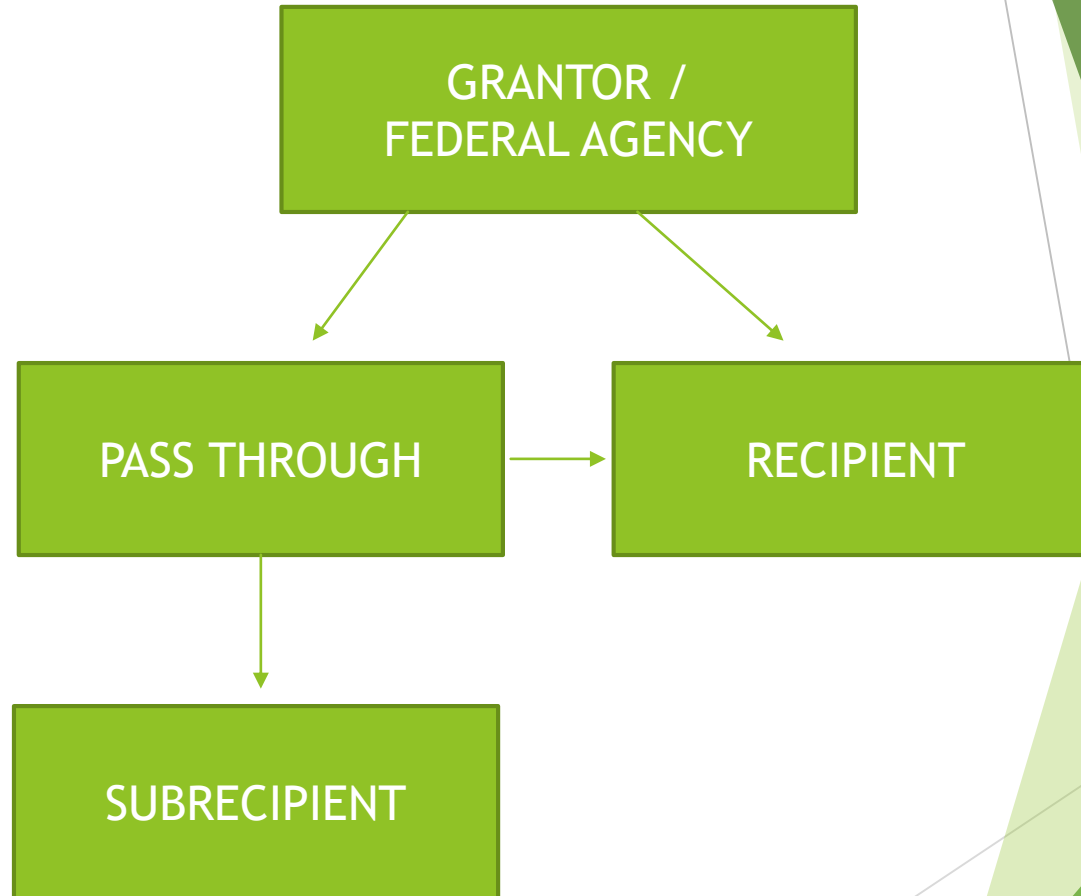
- ▶ **Discretionary/Project/Competitive:** for a specific project or area of research. Usually for science, education, technology communities
- ▶ **Categorical:** for more specific, precise, and spelled-out purposes. Some require recipients/subrecipients to provide a 'match'.
 - ▶ **Block:** Comprised of smaller, categorical grants. Often for large-scale community projects and maintenance
 - ▶ **Mandatory/Formula:** distributed as predefined by law based on factors like population, poverty level, taxes
- ▶ **Earmark:** appropriated by Congress for very specific purposes

- Life Cycle - 3 main phases
(Pre-Award, Award, Post-Award)



- Agency Roles

- ▶ Pass Through Entity
- ▶ Recipient
- ▶ Subrecipient



Sidebar:

Subrecipient

- ▶ An entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program.
- ▶ A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency.
- ▶ Usually another governmental entity

Vs. Contractor

- ▶ According to the Uniform Grant Guidance: An entity that receives a contract as defined in § 200.22 Contract of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance: receives a contract for commodity or services under an agreement that does not meet the definition of a subaward.

- Requirements / Compliance

- ▶ Federal Administrative Law

- ▶ 2 CFR § 200: Office of Management and Budget's (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Grants (Uniform Guidance)

- ▶ Grant Announcement (Notice of Funding Opportunity, Announcement, Solicitations)

- ▶ Awarding Agency

- ▶ Recipient Agency Policies

Sidebar:

2 CFR § 200: UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

- ▶ Streamlines and consolidates requirements for receiving and using federal awards to reduce administrative burden and improve outcomes
- ▶ Published December 19, 2014, and became effective for new and continuation awards issued on or after December 26, 2014
- ▶ Updated November 12, 2020
- ▶ For federal agencies that pass down the requirements to grant recipients

Roles & Responsibilities - Grant Team

- ▶ Grant Manager
- ▶ Project Manager
- ▶ Grant Coordinator
- ▶ Financial Staff
- ▶ Contract Staff

Grant Manager

- ▶ Manage, supervise, lead, or perform administrative, business, policy, and analytical work across the pre-award, award, and post award phases of the grant lifecycle
- ▶ The Grant Manager may be an official position or a working title

Project Manager

- ▶ Responsible for a specific project within a grant award
- ▶ Reports progress/issues to Grant Manager

Grant Coordinator

- ▶ Assists Grant Manager with administrative needs/requirements

Financial Staff

- ▶ Provide budget figures for application and grant modifications
- ▶ Submit quarterly financial reports

Contract Staff

- ▶ Varies by agency

Contract Specialist's Role in the Grant Cycle - *It Depends*

- ▶ Pre-Award
 - ▶ Application development
 - ▶ Market research, RFI/RFP
 - ▶ Application submission

Contract Specialist's Role in the Grant Cycle - *It Depends*

- ▶ Award
 - ▶ Award acceptance: contracting process
 - ▶ Subrecipient agreements

Contract Specialist's Role in the Grant Cycle - *It Depends*

- ▶ Post-Award
 - ▶ Grant management team
 - ▶ Amendments (extension, change of scope, budget)
 - ▶ Reporting
 - ▶ Audits
 - ▶ Federal agency monitoring
 - ▶ Subrecipient monitoring
 - ▶ Procurement
 - ▶ Final Report
 - ▶ File Disposition

Best Practices

- ▶ Determine responsibilities
- ▶ Become familiar with the grant announcement
- ▶ Become familiar with award
- ▶ Encourage establishing a Grant Management Team

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Questions?