

Exploring Federal Grant Opportunities

What to Know Before You Dive In

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- **Introduction(s)**
- **You will get slides, notes, and decision matrix**
- **This is being recorded**
- **Please interrupt to clarify**



- **Understanding 2025 changes to federal grant requirements**
- **Provide general decision matrix**
- **Can't give legal advice**



- **Have you applied for federal grants before?**
- **Applied in 2025?**
- **Answer in chat or unmute**
 - **Yes, in 2025**
 - **Yes, but not in 2025**
 - **No**



Background: 8/7/2025 EO - [Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#)

Discretionary grants:

- (i) must...demonstrably advance the President's policy priorities.
- (ii) shall **not** be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate:

(A) *racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the grant recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation*;

(B) *denial by the grant recipient of the sex binary in humans or the notion that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic*;

(C) *illegal immigration*; or

(D) any other initiatives that compromise public safety or promote *anti-American values*.



Example from DOJ NOFOs

“Compliance with Federal civil rights and nondiscrimination laws is material to the government’s decision to make any award and payment under this program, including for purposes of the False Claims Act, and each recipient will be required to certify (in its acceptance of the conditions of the award) that it does not operate any programs (including any such programs having components relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion) that violate any applicable Federal civil rights or nondiscrimination laws.”

Funds can’t be used for “programs or activities that violate, or encourage the violation of, federal immigration law”



What Does That Mean?

- **Federal discrimination law still applies**
- **DEI never defined, but speculation**
 - [Forbes trigger word article](#)
 - **Any use of race, sex/gender, or proxies to focus services?**
- **“Encouraging violation” of immigration law also undefined**



What Does This Mean?

- **Must certify compliance**
- **Change to wording but not work = prosecutable under the False Claims Act**
 - **Federal whistleblower protections apply**
- **“Termination for convenience” clauses**
 - **Misalignment with policy priorities or “national interest”**



- **Short timelines on NOFOs**
- **Government appointees making decisions**
 - Peer review optional



- **Standard:**
 - UEI through SAM.gov
 - Complete SF-424 in Grants.gov
 - Register with agency grants management system (e.g., JustGrants)
- **Restrictions:** funding matches, reimbursement format, differing funding instruments
- **Look for “key dates and times” in NOFO for deadlines**



- **Read NOFOs carefully (multiple reads recommended)**
- **Project alignment with the grant goals and administration's priorities?**
- **Organization's work violate requirements?**
- **Funding instrument align with needs?**
- **Organizational capacity and bandwidth?**
 - Legal and financial leads?
 - Comply with short timelines?
 - Previous successful federal grant narratives?
 - Existing grant system registrations?
 - Evaluation framework, program data, logic model
 - Partner relationships/MOUs/letters of intent?
- **Decision Matrix**

- National Council of Nonprofits
- Grant Professionals Association
- GrantStation
- **Others**



- **Seek legal advice**
- **Understand source of funds**
 - **Some state funding is federal**
- **Understand impact of shutdown on you**
 - **No drawdowns, answering questions, etc.**
- **Tell Congress about impact**



- **Questions?**

- **Contact:**

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