



Exploring Federal Grant Opportunities: What to Know Before You Dive In

Resilient Georgia

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1. Purpose of meeting

- Help understand 2025 changes to federal grant requirements
- Provide general decision matrix for this and future NOFOs
- Can't give legal advice about specific organization's activities

2. Participant poll: Who has applied for federal grants before? In 2025?

3. SLIDE Update on federal grants changes

- Background: 8/7/2025 EO - [*Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking*](#)
- Discretionary grants:
 - 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 wording: "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 counts as DEI "encouraging violation of immigration law"?
 - Undefined

- Speculation: [Forbes trigger word article](#)
- Federal discrimination law still applies
- Changing wording on public-facing communications while continuing prohibited work is prosecutable under the False Claims Act
 - Federal whistleblower protections apply
- Termination for convenience clauses allow award cancellation if they no longer align with policy priorities or “national interest”

4. Unchanged: Federal grant application process can be complex

- Standard: Obtain UEI through SAM.gov, complete SF-424 in Grants.gov, register with individual grants management system (JustGrants)
- Look for “key dates and times” in NOFO for deadlines

5. Decision matrix

- Read NOFOs **carefully** (*multiple reads recommended*)
- Does your work align with the grant goals and administration’s priorities?
- What is the funding instrument, and does it align with your needs?
 - Grants: Often require upfront expenditures with reimbursement
 - Cooperative agreement: “substantive involvement” of agency
- Does your work or any communications about your work violate their requirements?
 - Does the organization have DEI-related goals, populations of focus, etc.?
 - Do you serve undocumented individuals?
 - Legal advice needed
- Do you already have UEI and previous registrations with federal systems?
 - UEI takes up to 10 business days and must be renewed annually
 - Confirmed authorized representative?
 - Registered in federal agency’s grant management system (e.g., JustGrants)
- Do you have successful federal grant narratives you can build on?
- If required, do you have an updated logic model, evaluation framework, and program data readily available?
- Do you have the resources and bandwidth to dedicate to moving quickly and accommodating short timelines?
 - Prep time varies widely but general guideline is 100 hours, all-in
 - Budgets and finance person to address related required documents?
 - Legal counsel to mitigate risk and aid and ensure compliance?
 - Program or other staff ready to provide information quickly and respond to drafts?
 - Existing MOUs/letters of intent with existing partners (if applicable)?

6. How to stay updated

- [National Council of Nonprofits](#)
- [Grant Professionals Association](#)
- [GrantStation](#)

7. What to do

- Seek legal advice
- Talk to your member of Congress about impact

8. Government shutdown impact

- Most or all agencies can't process drawdowns, answer questions, etc.
- Make sure you understand where your funding comes from
 - Some state funding is federal