



LEARNING LABORATORY

and Partners present

FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER PRESSURE:

Navigating the Compliance Environment

EARN 11 CPE Credits/11 Yellow Book Hours

EARN 1.1 CEUs

OCTOBER 6-7, 2026 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

2-DAY LEARNING INTENSIVE + PARTICIPANT FIELD GUIDE

OBSERVE • QUESTION • CONNECT • APPLY



Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS) is accredited by the Continuing Education Unit Accreditation Council (CEUAC). MUS meets the CEUAC Informal Adult and Continuing Education Standards of Excellence, a validation of quality in instructional practices. Through this accreditation, Midwest Urban Strategies is authorized to issue CEUAC accredited Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Accreditation Expires: September 16, 2031.

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to Federal Funds Under Pressure: Navigating the New Compliance Environment! On behalf of Midwest Urban Strategies and our partners National Association for Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP), CALCO Consulting Group, and A&O Certified Public Accountants, I am pleased to welcome you to Milwaukee for two days of learning, conversation, collaboration, and practical application.



The environment surrounding federal funding faces increased attention to accountability, oversight, risk management, performance, and organizational capacity means that receiving a federal award is only one measure of success. Organizations must also be prepared to demonstrate that they have the people, systems, policies, internal controls, partnerships, and organizational culture necessary to manage public resources responsibly and achieve the outcomes those resources were intended to support.

For workforce organizations, this is especially important. Federal investments make possible many of the programs, services, partnerships, and innovations that connect people to opportunity and employers to talent. Understanding the requirements associated with those investments is therefore not simply the responsibility of the fiscal or compliance office. Strong federal grants management is an organizational responsibility. This intensive has been designed to bring together the perspectives of program, fiscal, procurement, operations, leadership, compliance, and grants professionals.

We encourage you to ask questions, challenge assumptions, learn from our subject matter experts and from one another, and use this Participant Field Guide to capture ideas that you can translate into action when you return home. We want you to consider what those rules mean for the way your organization operates. Where are your systems strong? Where might risk exist? Are responsibilities clearly understood? Are program and fiscal teams working together early enough? Could your organization readily produce the documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance? And, perhaps most importantly, are you building systems that support both compliance and better outcomes?

We also want you to know that Midwest Urban Strategies (MUS) is now accredited by the **Continuing Education Unit Accreditation Council!** This accreditation authorizes MUS to award **accredited CEUs** for all learning events. For attending this learning session, you will have the opportunity to earn **11 CPE Credits/11 Yellow Book Hours or 1.1 CEUs** to count towards your professional development.

Thank you for being here, for bringing your expertise to the conversation, and for your continued commitment to strengthening the workforce development system. I look forward to learning alongside you!

Warmly,

Tracey Carey
Executive Director
Midwest Urban Strategies

DID WE TELL YOU WE ARE ACCREDITED?!

Midwest Urban Strategies has achieved accreditation by the Continuing Education Unit Accreditation Council effective September 17, 2026. This means that MUS has demonstrated its commitment to quality, integrity, and continuous improvement in adult education and training. By engaging in a rigorous process of evaluation against the CEUAC Informal Adult & Continuing Education Standards of Excellence, we have made a conscientious decision to become a credible, workforce-ready adult learning program and separate ourselves from loosely structured offerings.

Federal Funds Under Pressure: Navigating the New Compliance Environment provides the opportunity for financial professionals to earn Yellow Book Hours from MUS, an accredited provider. The information is as follows:

Credit Info

11 CPE Credits | 1.1 CEUs

NASBA Field of Study:	Accounting (Governmental), Auditing (Governmental)
Level	Update
Prerequisites	Knowledge of accounting and auditing in the government environment.
Access	In-Person
Yellow Book Hours	11

For additional information or questions, contact Kellie Landaker, Director of Learning - kellie@midwesturbanstrategies.com



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Federal Funds Under Pressure:

Navigating the Compliance Environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Navigate Uniform Guidance with a deeper breadth of perspective
- ✓ Strengthen internal controls and reduce risk
- ✓ Build stronger cross-functional grants teams
- ✓ Improve readiness from proposal to implementation
- ✓ Compete more successfully for federal funding



INTENSIVE AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | PREPARATION IS KEY

TIME	LEARNING EXPERIENCE
9:00-10:30	Keynote: The New Federal Funding Environment
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	Beyond Silos: Building a Culture of Collaboration
12:15-1:15	Lunch
1:15-2:30	Concurrent Breakouts: Proposal Readiness / Risk & Capacity
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-4:00	Closing Session: Building the Grant Together
4:30-6:00	Networking Reception - Renaissance Milwaukee West Hotel

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 | IMPLEMENTATION & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

TIME	LEARNING EXPERIENCE
9:00-10:30	Keynote: From Award to Action
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	Concurrent Breakouts: Program Monitoring / Fiscal Monitoring
12:15-1:15	Lunch
1:15-2:15	Concurrent Breakouts: Internal Controls / Procurement / Cost Allowability
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-3:15	Closing: From Learning to Action

DAY 1 - PREPARATION IS KEY

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

9:00-10:30 AM



KEYNOTE • The New Federal Funding Environment: Understanding the Changing Landscape of Federal Grants Management

As federal agencies increase their focus on accountability, oversight, and risk management, organizations must prepare for a changing grants landscape. This keynote explores the foundational tenets of Uniform Guidance and practical strategies for strengthening organizational readiness before the next funding opportunity.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Laura Watson, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

10:30-10:45 AM **BREAK**

10:45 AM-12:15 PM



Beyond Silos: Building a Culture of Collaboration in Federal Awards Management

Successful grants require collaboration across programs, fiscal, procurement, HR, leadership, and compliance teams. Learn practical approaches for improving communication, reducing compliance risks, and building shared responsibility throughout the grant lifecycle.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Paulette Francois, Chief Operating Officer, CALCO Consulting Group; Elizabeth Tyson-Jankowski, Government & Non-Profit Services Manager, Andrea & Orendorff

12:15-1:15 PM **LUNCH**

1:15-2:30 PM



CONCURRENT BREAKOUT A • How Do We Build a Winning Grant Before We Apply?

Assess organizational readiness, align staffing and partnerships, strengthen proposal planning, and position the organization to compete successfully for federal funding.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Laura Watson; Tracey Carey, Executive Director, Midwest Urban Strategies

1:15-2:30 PM



CONCURRENT BREAKOUT B • How Do We Prepare Our Organization for Success?

Identify vulnerabilities, evaluate organizational capacity, strengthen internal systems, and prepare to manage federal awards with confidence.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Elizabeth Tyson-Jankowski; Felicia Fountain, Program/Operations Manager, CALCO Consulting Group

2:30-2:45 PM **BREAK**

2:45-4:00 PM



Closing Session: Building the Grant Together - Aligning Program, Fiscal, and Operations Before the Award

Using a practical scenario, explore how program, fiscal, leadership, and operational teams can collaborate to identify risks, strengthen planning, and build proposals ready for successful implementation.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Paulette Francois; Elizabeth Tyson-Jankowski

4:30-6:00 PM

**NETWORKING RECEPTION • Renaissance
Milwaukee West Hotel**

Hors d'oeuvres, libations, and networking.

DAY 2 - IMPLEMENTATION & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

9:00-10:30 AM



KEYNOTE • From Award to Action: Successfully Implementing Federal Grants

Practical approaches to project management, performance monitoring, data collection, and cross-functional collaboration that support successful grant implementation.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Laura Watson; Felicia Fountain

10:30-10:45 AM **BREAK**

10:45 AM-12:15 PM



CONCURRENT BREAKOUT A • Program Monitoring, Performance, and Accountability

Strategies for monitoring performance, managing subrecipients, documenting outcomes, identifying risks early, and building systems that support accountability and stronger program results.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Melissa Robbins, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP); Tracey Carey

10:45 AM-12:15 PM



CONCURRENT BREAKOUT B • Fiscal Monitoring, Risk, and Compliance

Practical approaches to managing financial risk, strengthening procurement compliance, maintaining audit-ready documentation, and supporting successful grant implementation.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Laura Watson; Elizabeth Tyson-Jankowski

12:15-1:15 PM LUNCH

1:15-2:15 PM



BREAKOUT A • Building a Strong System of Internal Controls

Strengthen policies, procedures, accountability, and organizational readiness while creating systems that support long-term compliance.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Ryan Goerres, Managing Partner, Andrea & Orendorff

1:15-2:15 PM



BREAKOUT B • Procurement and Contract Administration

Review procurement requirements, documentation expectations, contract administration practices, and strategies for reducing compliance risk.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Laura Watson

1:15-2:15 PM



BREAKOUT C • Applying the Principles of Cost Allowability

Apply necessity, reasonableness, allocability, and public purpose to make informed financial decisions and reduce the risk of questioned costs.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Elizabeth Tyson-Jankowski, Government & Non-Profit Services Manager, Andrea & Orendorff Certified Public Accountants

2:15-2:30 PM BREAK

2:30-3:15 PM



**CLOSING • From Learning to Action:
Preparing Your Organization for What's Next**

A facilitated conversation with subject matter experts about lessons learned, key takeaways, stronger grants management systems, and preparation for future federal funding opportunities.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Tracey Carey; panel: Paulette Francois, Melissa Robbins, Ryan Goerres, Laura Watson

PRESENTERS & FACILITATORS

LAURA WATSON - Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

Laura previously served as Administrator of the Office of Grants Management, overseeing \$9 billion in annual federal awards. With extensive federal assistance expertise, she worked closely with OMB and helped shape today's Uniform Guidance.

TRACEY CAREY - Executive Director, Midwest Urban Strategies

Tracey leads MUS and its consortium of urban workforce boards and affiliate members, leveraging millions in investments to drive strategic partnerships, economic and business growth elevating transformational workforce innovation across the country.

PAULETTE FRANCOIS, M.Ed. - Chief Operating Officer, CALCO Consulting Group

Paulette is Chief Operating Officer of CALCO Consulting Group and a former state workforce executive with extensive experience leading federal workforce initiatives, grants management, program operations, technical assistance, and organizational improvement.

ELIZABETH TYSON-JANKOWSKI - Government & Non-Profit Services Manager, A & O

Elizabeth provides outsourced CFO services and expertise in federal grants, Uniform Guidance, Single Audits, internal controls, and nonprofit financial management.

FELICIA FOUNTAIN - Program/Operations Manager, CALCO Consulting Group

Felicia is a Program and Operations Manager at CALCO Consulting Group with over 15 years of workforce development experience, including federal leadership, discretionary grant oversight, technical assistance, and managing complex initiatives that strengthen workforce systems.

MELISSA ROBBINS, CGFM, CWDP - Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP)

With over 20 years of experience in Workforce Development, Melissa currently serves as the Executive Director of NAWDP.

RYAN GOERRES, CPA, CFE - Managing Partner, A & O

Ryan has over 13 years of experience as an auditor, including service with the State of Illinois. He is currently a Managing Partner and Andrea & Orendorff Certified Public Accountants.



890 Elm Grove Rd.
Suite 5-1
Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-794-3019

<https://www.midwesturbanstrategies.com>

