



Section 5 Grants Pilot: Learn Grants Test Model

Webinar

Purpose

To provide an summary of the DATA Act and the Section 5 Grants Pilot and execute the Learn Grants Test Model.

Discussion Topics

DATA Act Overview	
Section 5 Grants Pilot Requirements	
Section 5 Grants Pilot – Approach & Framework	
Grants.gov Background	
Learn Grants Background	
First Knowledge Quiz	
Learn Grants Content Overview	
Second Knowledge Quiz	
Conclusion	

In May 2014, Public Law 113-101 Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) was signed into law with the purpose to establish government-wide financial data standards and increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of federal spending information.



The goal of the Pilot is to implement Section 5 of DATA Act, which requires the Federal Government to, “establish a pilot program with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for -



(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal government (§5(b)(1)(A));



(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting (§5(b)(1)(B));



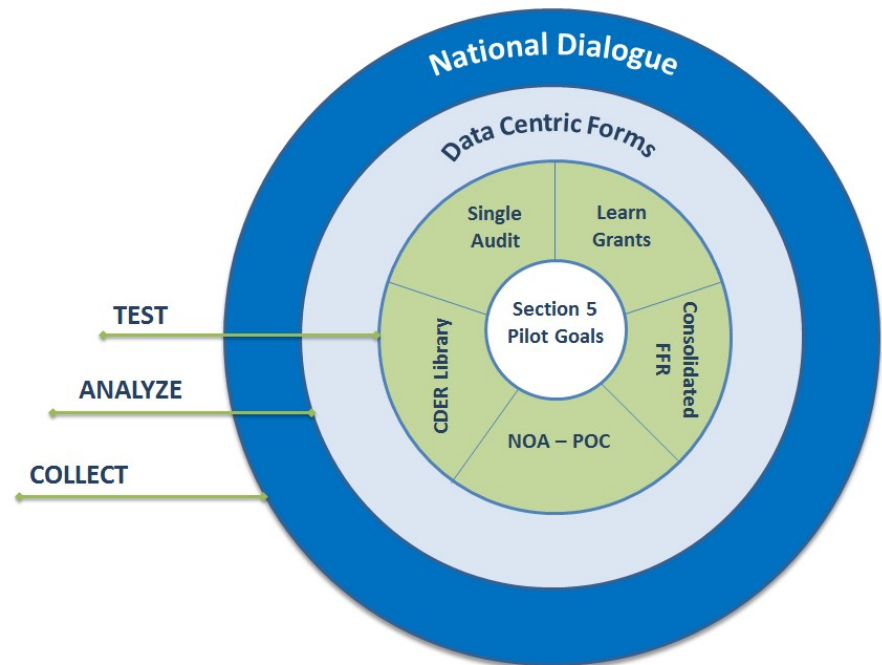
(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards (§5(b)(1)(C)).”

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has engaged HHS to serve as the executing agent for the Section 5 Grants Pilot.

HHS DAP created the Section 5 Grants Pilot Framework, which takes a holistic approach to meeting the Section 5 Pilot Goals by:

- *Collecting* feedback through the National Dialogue (<https://cxo.dialogue2.cao.gov/>).
- *Analyzing* data centric forms.
- *Testing* models like the CDER Library, Consolidated FFR, Single Audit, NOA – POC, Learn Grants, and other models as appropriate.
- Each component of the Framework *interacts* with and informs the others.

Section 5 Grants Pilot Framework



Section 5 Pilot Goals

- ✓ Standardize reporting elements.
- ✓ Eliminate unnecessary duplication.
- ✓ Reduce compliance costs for Federal award recipients.

- The Grants.gov Program Management Office was established in 2002 and is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services as an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget.
- The site is an online portal serving as a single access point for the 26 Federal grant-making agencies and houses information on over 1,000 grant programs (including international programs funded by Federal agencies).
- The portal allows individuals and organizations to:
 - Register with Grants.gov;
 - Find funding opportunities by searching for specific opportunities or filtering based on search criteria;
 - Complete, sign, and submit application packages.
- Grants.gov also allows individuals and organizations to track their applications throughout the Federal review process.

In 2015 Grants.gov:

- Averaged nearly 20,000 daily users;
- Posted over 4,700 total discretionary opportunities; and
- Processed over 250,000 total submissions!

- In May 2015 Grants.gov launched the Learn Grants tab within Grants.gov.
- Learn Grants was developed by feedback from the grant recipient community and provides a single source of information regarding the Federal grants lifecycle.
- **Test:** As a Section 5 Grants Pilot Test Model participant, we would like to test your level of understanding of the Federal grants lifecycle before and after using the Learn Grants tab.

Next Steps

In order to test the effect of using the Learn Grants tab on your understanding of the grants lifecycle we will conduct two knowledge quizzes. The first knowledge quiz will be taken without using Learn Grants, while the second will be taken after access to the tab.

1. Knowledge quiz without Learn Grants (15 minutes)
2. Learn Grants content overview
3. Knowledge quiz with use of Learn Grants (15 minutes)
4. Learn Grants survey

Please complete the first knowledge quiz on the grants lifecycle using the link below.

You will have 15 minutes to complete this exercise.

Please do not consult Learn Grants or Grants.gov.

Please let us know if you have any questions or experience any technical difficulties.

Do not worry if you do not know the answers, just try your best.

First Knowledge Quiz Link: <<SURVEYMONKEY>>

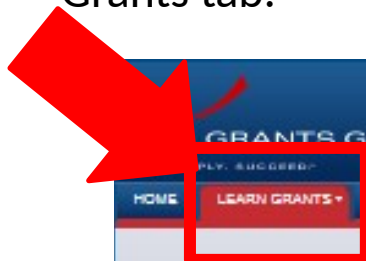
10 Minutes Remaining!

5 Minutes Remaining!

Thank you for your participation, if you have not done so please submit your quiz now.

Learn Grants Content Overview – Grants Learning Center

- Learn Grants homepage containing links to all information housed in the Learn Grants tab.



The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website's 'Learn Grants' section. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for HOME, LEARN GRANTS (highlighted), SEARCH GRANTS, APPLICANTS, GRANTORS, SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM, FORMS, OUTREACH, and SUPPORT. A search bar is located to the right of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar is a large banner with the text 'GRANTS LEARNING CENTER' and a word cloud containing terms like 'Grant', 'Apply', 'Applicant', 'System', 'Find', 'Track', 'View', 'Services', 'Release', 'Apply', 'Manage', 'System', 'Family', 'Information', 'Application', 'Process', 'Award', 'Phase', 'Post-Award', 'Phase', 'Reporting', 'Oversight', 'Fraud', 'Abuse', 'Community', 'Eligibility', 'Terminology', 'Funding', 'Who Gives Grants', 'Rules & Legislation', 'Grant Systems', 'Find Funding', 'Reporting & Oversight', 'Fraud & Abuse', 'Grant Community', 'Who's Who in the Grant Community', 'Policies in the News', 'A Short History of Grant Legislation', 'Infographic: How Grant Policies Are Made', 'Explore Grant Policies', 'Explore Grant-Making Agencies', 'Explore Grant Reporting & Oversight', 'Explore Grant Fraud', 'Explore Grant Eligibility', 'Explore Grant Terminology', 'Explore Grant Programs', 'Explore Grant Systems', 'Explore Grant Community', 'Explore Grant Fraud'. Below the banner are several content blocks with icons and titles: 'Grants 101', 'Are You Eligible?', 'Grant Systems', 'Grant Terminology', 'Find Funding', 'Who Gives Grants?', 'Reporting & Oversight', 'Fraud & Abuse', 'Rules & Legislation', and 'Grant Community'. Each block contains a brief description and a list of links to explore the topic further.

Learn Grants Content Overview – Grants 101

- Introduction to the phases of the grants lifecycle.
- Includes detailed information on the Pre-Award, Award, and Post Award phases.

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HELP, MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS, REGISTER, and LOGIN. A search bar is present with the text 'SEARCH: Grant Opportunities' and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: GRANTS.GOV > Learn Grants > Grants 101.

The main content area is titled 'GRANTS 101'. On the left, there is a sidebar with a list of topics:

- » Grants 101
 - » The Grant Lifecycle
 - » Pre-Award Phase
 - » Award Phase
 - » Post Award Phase
 - » Getting Started Checklist
- » Grant Policies
- » Grant Eligibility
- » Grant Terminology
- » Grant-Making Agencies
- » Grant Community
- » Grant Systems
- » Grant Programs
- » Grant Reporting
- » Grant Fraud

The main content area features a hand-drawn diagram of the grant lifecycle with terms like 'Criteria to win', 'Management', 'Practices', 'Success Stories', 'Intro', 'Gov', and 'Search'. Below the diagram is the section 'A Short Summary of Federal Grants' with the following text:

What is a grant? A grant is a way the government funds your ideas and projects to provide public services and stimulate the economy. Grants support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other programs listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA).

A grant is one of many different forms of federal financial assistance. Federal financial assistance is a broad term to refer to the various ways the U.S. government redistributes resources to eligible recipients. On Grants.gov you will find grant and cooperative agreement opportunities from federal agencies that award grants.

The section 'The Grant Lifecycle' explains that the grant process follows a linear lifecycle that includes creating the funding opportunity, applying, making award decisions, and successfully implementing the award. It also states that the specific actions along the lifecycle are grouped into three main phases:

1. Pre-Award Phase - Funding Opportunities and Application Review
2. Award Phase - Award Decisions and Notifications
3. Post Award - Implementation, Reporting, and Closeout

On the right side of the main content area, there is a table titled 'Grant Lifecycle':

Grant Lifecycle	
Pre-Award Phase	Funding Opportunity Announcement & Application Review
Award Phase	Award Decisions & Notifications
Post Award Phase	Implementation, Reporting & Closeout

Learn Grants Content Overview – Rules & Legislation

- Contains a history of Federal grant policies, an overview of rules & regulations, and links to relevant legislation.

How Grant Policies Are Made

When a new law is added to the books, that is only the beginning.

Legal Hierarchy	Key Roles	Example
STAGE 1 Statutes Regulations	Congress appropriates funds to Federal agencies and passes other grant-related legislation	2014: Congress passes DATA Act, which directs that all Federal award data be accessible to the public on a single website
STAGE 2 Executive Orders Memoranda Circulars	Executive Office of the President issues guidance for implementing the legislation	2015: Executive Office of the President creates task force and launches pilot program to determine how DATA Act will be implemented
STAGE 3 Administrative Policies & Procedures	Grant-making agencies develop administrative policies based on guidance	2017: Agencies adjust their internal and external policies to the final guidance issued by the Executive Office of the President

Key Legislation

Other legislation has addressed everything from lobbying efforts to auditing requirements, to reporting procedures, to transparency and cross-agency data-sharing.

The OMB – along with other bodies – has continued to play an important role in interpreting and implementing the laws among the Federal government’s awarding agencies. Today’s current grant policies have been largely shaped by a range of statutes, regulations, Executive Orders and guidance.

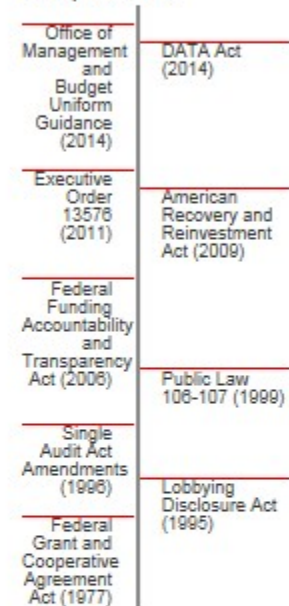
To learn more about current grant policies, click below for summaries of the laws and their intended impact, beginning with the most recent:

- Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance (2014)
- DATA Act (2014)
- Executive Order 13576 (2011)
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009)
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (2006)
- Public Law 106-107 (1999)
- Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996
- Lobbying Disclosure Act (1995)
- Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (1977)

The following pages further flesh-out the Federal grant policy:

- A Who’s Who of policy-defining bodies, offices and agencies
- Brief synopses of policy developments reported in the news

Policy Timeline



Learn Grants Content Overview – Grant Eligibility

- Helps applicants determine if they are eligible for funding opportunities on Grants.gov.

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- Grants 101**: Don't let the grant management process intimidate you! This section will help you successfully navigate every key phase, from applying and reporting to the award closeout. Includes sub-sections: The Grant Lifecycle, Getting Started Checklist, Pre-Award Phase, Award Phase, Post Award Phase. Link: [Explore Grants 101 >](#)
- Are You Eligible?**: Find out whether you or your organization are eligible to apply for and receive a Federal award. Link: [Explore Grant Eligibility >](#) (highlighted with a red box and a red arrow)
- Grant Terminology**: Become an expert in standard grant-related terminology and acronyms. Link: [Explore Grant Terminology >](#)
- Find Funding**: Struggling to identify the right opportunity on Grants.gov? Try these other funding options. Link: [Explore Grant Programs >](#)
- Rules & Legislation**: Policies governing the disbursement and use of federal award funds are always evolving. Get smart fast with this overview of legislation, regulations, and policies. Includes sub-sections: A Short History of Grant Legislation, Infographic: How Grant Policies Are Made, Who's Who in the Grant Community, Policies in the News. Link: [Explore Grant Policies >](#)
- Who Gives Grants?**: Learn more about the federal agencies that award grants and the programs those funds advance. Link: [Explore Grant-Making Agencies >](#)
- Grant Community**: Connect with others in the grant community and access third-party resources and training. Link: [Explore Grant Community >](#)
- Grant Systems**: Federal and third-party software applications are used to register, apply for, and administer grants. Link: [Explore Grant Systems >](#)
- Reporting & Oversight**: Learn more about reporting and oversight procedures for federal grants and prepare for success. Link: [Explore Grant Reporting & Oversight >](#)
- Fraud & Abuse**: Billions of dollars are allocated each year for federal grants. Help combat fraudulent behavior. Link: [Explore Grant Fraud >](#)

Learn Grants Content Overview – Grant Terminology

- Provides a glossary of grant terminology.

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Learn Grants Content Overview – Grant-Making Agencies

- Contains information on the 26 Federal grant-making agencies.

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Learn Grants Content Overview – Grant Community

- A source of grant community information including upcoming events and updates on the Section 5 Grants Pilot!

GRANTS.GOV™
FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.™

HELP | MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS | REGISTER | LOGIN

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities | Enter Keyword... | GO

HOME | LEARN GRANTS | SEARCH GRANTS | APPLICANTS | GRANTORS | SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM | FORMS | OUTREACH | SUPPORT

GRANTS.GOV > Learn Grants > Grant Community

GRANT COMMUNITY

- Grants 101
- Grant Policies
- Grant Eligibility
- Grant Terminology
- Grant-Making Agencies
- Grant Community
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- Grant Programs
- Grant Reporting
- Grant Fraud

Welcome to the Grant Community!

The Grant Community is developing into a place to connect with your fellow grant applicants, writers, and organizations. The Community page provides the latest grant-related news and events you may be interested in. We would love to hear your ideas – after all, this is your community! Connect with us on Twitter @grantsdotgov!

Are You Ready for the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot Program?

One of the key objectives of the DATA Act, passed in 2014, is to make federal grants information accessible and searchable.

A DATA Act pilot program that launched in May 2015 is laying the foundation for reforms that will impact the entire federal grant community.

To learn more about the DATA Act and the Section 5 Pilot Program, please check out the following resources:

- The DATA Act page on USA.gov
- Video from the April 1, 2015 webinar about the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot Program
- Presentation slides from the April 1, 2015 webinar
- DATA Act policy page in the Grants Learning Center
- Public forum for commenting on the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot Program

Upcoming Events

Check back often for links to seminars, workshops and webinars hosted by grant-making Federal agencies and others in the grants community. Coming up:

- Grants Managers Network 11th Annual Conference - March 14-16, 2016 in New Orleans, LA
- NGMA's 2016 Annual Grants Training Program - March 29-31, 2016 in Arlington, VA
- 2016 Government and Non-Far-Profit Conference - April 28, 2016 at University of Maryland University College
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs - 2016 Financial Management Training Seminars - Multiple Dates in Washington, D.C.
- Management Concepts Federal Grants Update 2016 - Multiple Dates and Locations

Twitter

Grants.gov is your Twitter source for connecting with the grant community and staying up to date with news and opportunities. Join the conversation! (Follows and retweets are not endorsements.)

- Grants.gov Retweeted
- Extramural Research (@NIHgrants)
 - Tip from @NIHgrants: Expand your search for research funding opportunities to @grantsdotgov which spans all Federal funding opps
- Grants.gov (@grantsdotgov)
 - Multistakeholder Partnerships to Stimulate Cybersecurity Education & Workforce Development grants.gov/web/grants/ve... twitter.com/iamatgov/stat...
- Grants.gov Retweeted
- Extramural Research (@NIHgrants)
 - Follow your submitted #NIHgrant application through @grantsdotgov and #eRAcommons to make sure it appears and processes error-free #NIHsem
- Grants.gov Retweeted
- HUDRegion10 (@HUDNorthwest)

Learn Grants Content Overview – Grant Systems

- Contains links to the various systems and tools involved in the registration, application, and reporting process associated with Federal awards. Includes links to tools such as the Common Data Repository (CDER) Library and USASpending.gov.

The screenshot displays the Grants.gov website's 'Grants Learning Center'. The page features a navigation bar with links like 'HOME', 'LEARN GRANTS', 'SEARCH GRANTS', 'APPLICANTS', 'GRANTORS', 'SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM', 'FORMS', 'OUTREACH', and 'SUPPORT'. A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area is titled 'GRANTS LEARNING CENTER' and contains several informational tiles. A large red arrow on the left side of the page points to the 'Grant Systems' tile, which is also enclosed in a red rectangular box. The 'Grant Systems' tile includes a brief description: 'Federal and third-party software applications are used to register, apply for, and administer grants.' Other tiles include 'Grants 101', 'Rules & Legislation', 'Are You Eligible?', 'Grant Terminology', 'Who Gives Grants?', 'Grant Community', 'Find Funding', 'Reporting & Oversight', and 'Fraud & Abuse'.

Learn Grants Content Overview – Grant Programs

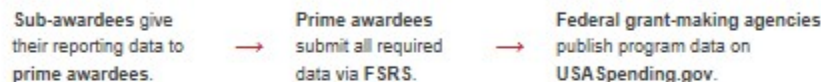
- Helps users identify funding opportunities and leverage resources for all kinds of potential grant applicants.

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- The Reporting & Oversight page includes an overview of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) as well as information on the oversight and reporting processes.

Making Sense of the Grant Reporting Process



Types of Oversight

What kinds of data are federal award recipients expected to include in their reporting?

The information falls into one of three categories: financial data, such as expenses paid for with federal funds; compliance information to ensure the recipient is following federal regulations; and project data highlighting progress and/or community impact.

Grant-making agencies use this information, in part, to gauge the success of their own programs and initiatives.

The required information may be collected through several different channels, including regular progress reports, site visits, and audits (see table below).

Progress Reports

Grant recipients submit regular reports (called "Performance Progress Reports" or "Research Performance Progress Reports") documenting a project throughout its lifespan.

These reports may include both expense-related data and quantitative information about the project's impact.

Site Visits & Technical Assistance

Grant recipients may receive site visits from the federal grantor agency. Such visits provide an opportunity for two-way communication between the grantor and the award recipient.

Technical assistance provided by the grantor is also a means for ensuring that the grant recipient is complying with the award agreement.

Audits

The [Single Audit Act](#) (amended in 1998) states that grant recipients may be subject to an audit once a year.

The audit aims to ensure compliance with government regulations and evaluate financial information, including expenses paid for with federal award funds.

Learn Grants Content Overview – Grant Fraud

- Provides an overview of grant fraud and scams as well as resources for identifying and reporting fraudulent behavior.

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- Fraud & Abuse**: Billions of dollars are allocated each year for federal grants. Help combat fraudulent behavior. (This section is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow points to it from the 'Who Gives Grants' section).

Please complete the second knowledge quiz on the grants lifecycle using the link below.

You will have 15 minutes to complete this exercise.

Please feel free to navigate the Learn Grants tab, <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html>, to assist you in answering the questions.

Please let us know if you have any questions or experience any technical difficulties.

Do not worry if you do not know the answers, just try your best.

Second Knowledge Quiz Link:
<<SURVEYMONKEY>>

10 Minutes Remaining!

5 Minutes Remaining!

Please complete the Learn Grants survey below.

This brief survey asks you to provide your opinion about your Learn Grants experience and will be used by HHS DAP to obtain input regarding the Learn Grants tab.

Survey Link: <<SURVEYMONKEY>>

For more information or questions, please contact the DAP Mailbox:

DATAActPMO@hhs.gov

Q: Even though no funds are available for the Pilot, might you be able to make experts available to the participants in implementing the Pilot. Will any type of technical assistance be available?

A: DAP will be available to assist Pilot participants through out the test process.

Q: What is the intent of the Section 5 Grants Pilot?

A: The intent of the Section 5 Grants Pilot is to test tools/methods/forms/models to meet DATA Act's Section Pilot 5 Pilot requirements.

Q: What will be expected of Section 5 Grants Pilot participants?

A: Depending on the Test Model, Pilot participants will be expected to complete surveys, forms, and/or participate in tests and/or focus groups. Participants will be expected to share data on burden hours and any other data that may assist DAP in making recommendations to Congress.

Q: What is the timeframe for the Section 5 Grants Pilot?

A: Overall, DAP began Section 5 Pilot testing in March 2016 and will continue until May 2017