



Grant Management During Times of Change

From a Finance and Development Perspective

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Session Objectives:

- ☐ Understand the evolving federal grant landscape-Challenges
- ☐ Strengthen cross-functional collaboration between Finance and Development and Program staff
- ☐ Maintain compliance during regulatory changes
- ☐ Managing Indirect Costs (IDC) - Current administration challenges
- ☐ Justifications in Payment Management Systems
- ☐ Build resilient systems for sustainable grant operations

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Challenges in a Changing Landscape



- ☐ Shifting federal priorities and new administration policies
- ☐ Increased scrutiny and audit activity
- ☐ More competitive funding environment
- ☐ Demand for stronger reporting and impact measurement
- ☐ Inconsistent guidance across the federal agencies
- ☐ Impact of CR's (Continuing Resolutions) and funding delays on execution of annual workplans
- ☐ Agency turnover and leadership transitions

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Strengthening Cross-Collaboration

To truly succeed in our work—and in our missions of Nation Rebuilding—we must see the full picture



That means understanding and integrating the perspectives of our program staff, finance team, and development team.

Program staff know the community needs, what it takes to implement services on the ground, and where gaps exist.

Finance ensures we budget realistically, comply with regulations, and safeguard the organization's resources.

Development identifies funding opportunities and crafts compelling narratives that resonate with funders.

Each brings critical expertise—but if these perspectives stay siloed, we risk under-budgeting, over-promising, or missing opportunities. When they come together, we're able to design grants that are both visionary and viable, compliant and community-driven.

In short: Integrating these perspectives isn't just good practice—it's essential for securing funding, using it responsibly, and delivering real impact."

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Why Does This Matter?



As the federal, state, and philanthropic funding landscape becomes more competitive and compliance-focused, organizations must be prepared to respond with both strategy and precision.

A strong team of program, finance and development staff brings:

1. Strategic Funding Alignment
2. Competitive Advantage in Applications
3. Stronger Compliance and Risk Mitigation
4. Maximized Use of Funds
5. Internal Collaboration and Efficiency
6. Long-Term Sustainability

~Remember it isn't just about receiving the funding– it's about building the infrastructure, accountability, and foresight to sustain impact for years to come.

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Best Practices for Building Compliance Strategies

- ☐ Build a strong internal controls environment
- ☐ Stay current on OMB Uniform Guidance updates
- ☐ Staff training on federal grant compliance
- ☐ Use technology for tracking and reporting-Grant Management Software
- ☐ Set up regular grant health check-ins with other program, finance, or development staff
- ☐ Plan for staff onboarding and knowledge transfer-including sharing points of contact at federal agencies (Project Officer contact info, etc.)
- ☐ Align grants with long-term and/or short-term strategic goals
- ☐ Prepare for scenario planning and risk assessment

Proactive systems and policies ensure compliance and program success

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Approach to IDC Currently



Check the NOFO per **2 CFR § 200.414 (c)(4)** (policies relating to indirect cost rate reimbursement) and **§ 200.414 (c)(3)** (deviations from negotiated rates)

Subject to item 1, if you currently have a NICRA, use it in any new awards/continuation funding IF:

- a. Agency is not capping
- b. Agency has deferred implementation of cap or
- c. Agency under injunction not to implement cap

If negotiating a rate, again, see NOFO

If electing to use de minimis rate, and agency is capping at 15%, then no issue

Keep up to date regarding on-going litigation (impact of pending appeals on IDC)

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Justification of Payments

New justification per DPMS, ASAP and other federal systems

1. Adhere to all requests per the agency giving details as required
2. Best practice is to only include what is required. Nothing overly detailed
 - a. Space limitations
 - b. Viewable publicly – potentially
 - c. Agency reviewer may not be familiar with grants, Indian country etc. No context for details

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Thank You!

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