

# Grants – Best Practices

July 26, 2023



Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, P.L.L.C.

# Presenters



**John Bryant**  
**Member**



**Michele Allgood**  
**Member**

# Introduction

- Grants:
  - What are they?
  - Brief history
  - Who can receive one?
  - Who awards them?
  - Where can you find them?
- The Grant Lifecycle
- Grant Management
- IRA Grants





# Understanding the Grant Process

# What is a grant?

- Money given by a governmental entity or a private foundation to fund initiatives that provide public services and stimulate the economy.



# Brief History of Federal Grant Policy

- 1977 – Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act
- 1995 – Lobbying Disclosure Act
- 1999 – Public Law 106-107
  - Created Grants Policy Committee
- 2009 – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- 2014 – DATA Act
- 2016 – GONE Act
- 2020 amendments to OMB’s Uniform Guidance

## Policy Timeline

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 (1996)	Lobbying Disclosure Act (1995)
Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (1977)	

# Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Guidance

- Found in Title 2 of the C.F.R.
  - <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2022-title2-vol1/context>
- Known as the Uniform Guidance
- 2020 – most recent amendments to the UG

# Terms to Know

- **Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)** – someone within your organization authorized to submit grant applications
- **E-Business Point of Contact (Ebiz POC)** – someone responsible for administration and management of grant activities within your organization
  - Typically, the organization's CFO



# Terms to Know

- **Grant Agreement vs. Cooperative Agreement** – Both are agreements for financial assistance between the awarding government agency and your organization.
  - The former “provides for substantial involvement.” The latter does not.
  - Governed by 31 U.S.C. 6302-6305
- **Opportunity Package** – also known as the grant application
- **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** – required for a non-federal entity to have a UEI to complete grant applications; register for a UEI through [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)

# Who can receive grants?



Anyone?

# Who gives grants?

- **Governmental entities**

- Federal grants
- Arkansas specific grants can be found on the website for the Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Intergovernmental Services.

- **Private foundations**



# Recent Government Grants in AR

- Arkansas PBS received a **\$1 million** grant to digitize old magnetic tapes from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council
- Mississippi County awarded **\$2 million** total to be divided between 11 towns and cities through the Mississippi County Infrastructure Grant Program
- DOJ awarded Texarkana the **2023 Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance grant** to go toward the city's police department.

# Recent Private Foundation Grants in AR

- Crawford County allocated a \$30,000 grant from the National Fitness Campaign to the Diamond Center Park in Van Buren.
- UALR received a \$3.5 million grant from the Windgate Foundation for their School of Education.
- Walton Family Foundation gave grant to expand Bentonville City Hall.
- Walton Family Foundation awarded \$3.6 million grant to the Arkansas Teacher Corps.

# Opera in the Ozarks



Grant made by the Walton Family Foundation-[\\$34 million](#)

# Where can you find grants?

- [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov)
- [USgrants.org](https://www.USgrants.org)
- [Candid.org](https://www.Candid.org)
- [Instrumentl.com](https://www.Instrumentl.com)





# Grant Lifecycle



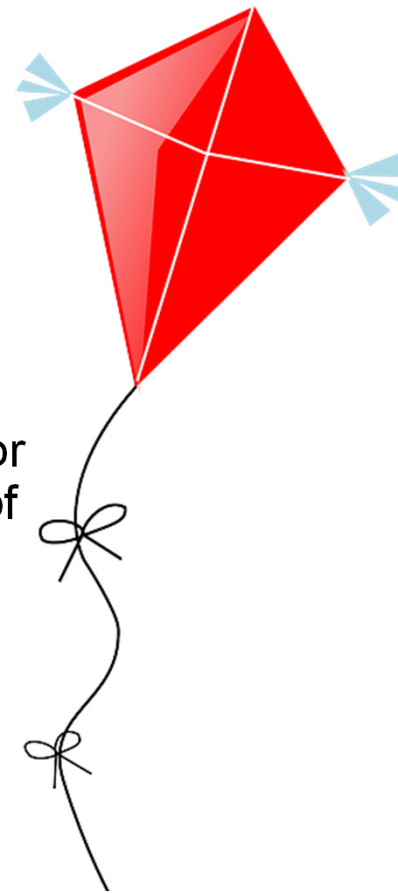


# The Grant Lifecycle



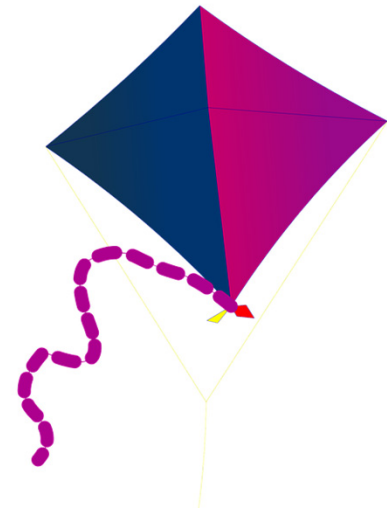
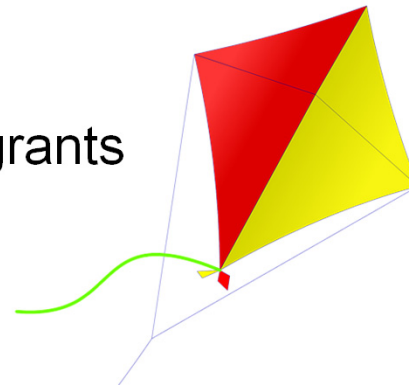
# Pre-Award Phase

1. Finding announcements for funding
2. Registration
3. Search databases
4. Application work
5. Submission
  - a. If you represent a state agency, board, commission, department, or institution, you must submit the grant application to the AR Dept. of Finance and Administration via the State Clearinghouse first.
  - b. Otherwise, submit the application directly to the granting source.



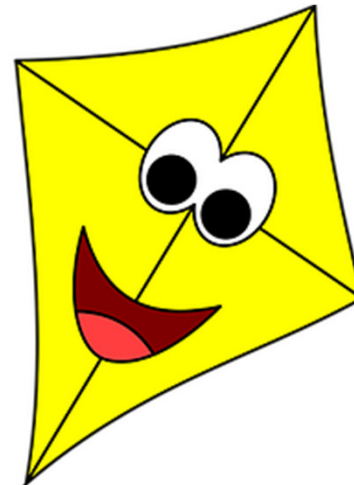
# Registration

- Process for getting access to federal grant applications
- Step 1: Getting a UEI through SAM.gov
  - Unique Entity Identifier
  - System for Award Management
  - Must have this number to fill out a federal grant application
- Step 2: Grants.gov
  - Where you can find and apply for federal grants



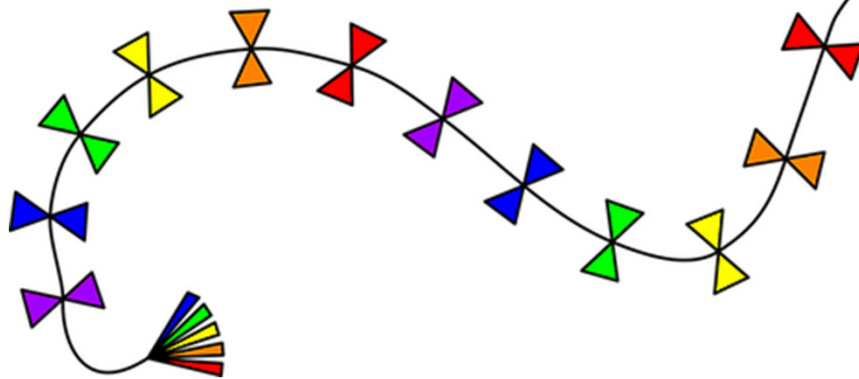
# Award Phase

Award decisions



Notice of Award  
(NOA)

M | W



# Checklist to Get Started

- Review lifecycle of the grant
- Determine eligibility to find funding opportunities on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Identify the right types of funding opportunities
- Learn about reporting requirements for each grant
- Register with SAM.gov and Grants.gov (if federal grant)
- Search for grant
- Confirm eligibility for grant
- Complete application for grant

# Post Award Phase

## 1.Reporting

## 2.Auditing

- General audits from the GAO or OIG
- Single audit

## 3.Closeout



# Grant Management

M | W







# Reports: Logistics

- Grant management officer
- Extensive prep work / goal setting early → more success in grant management later
- Progression timeline



# Reports: Money

- Budget/accounting system
- Ongoing tasks:
  - Reporting
  - Monitoring money
- Only spend money as designated in the approved budget
  - If spending outside the budget, get written approval
- Documentation with every expenditure (receipt filing)
- Multiple sign-offs on expenditures



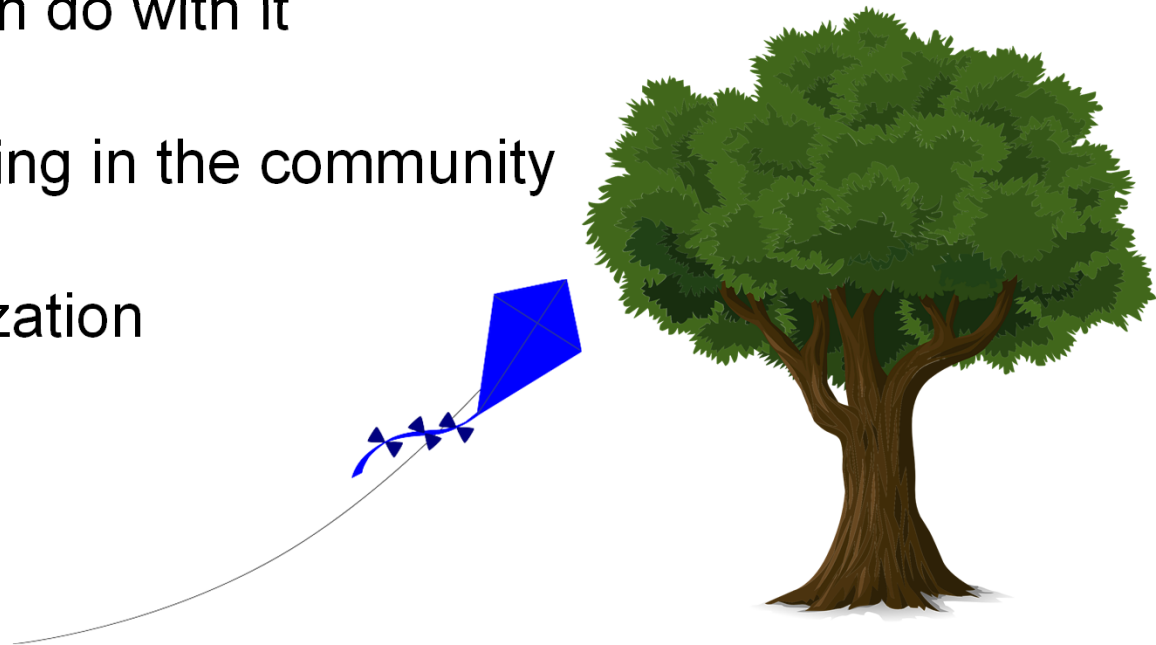
# Overview of Topics Included in a Report

- Financial overview
- Progress so far
- Restating anticipated outcomes
- Any change of plans
- Challenges, successes, and/or lessons
- Extras



# Why is monitoring & reporting important?

- Honoring commitments from grant agreement
- Better understanding of what you have leads to a better understanding of what you can do with it
- Care for reputation and standing in the community
- Overall success as an organization



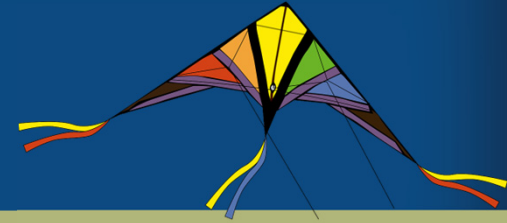
Examples of

**FRAUD**

in Grants



# Univ. of Washington – Oct. 2021



- University of Washington paid over **\$800,000** in a settlement with the DOJ after a professor allegedly submitted false information in a grant application.
- Grant was worth **\$1.4 million** from the National Science Foundation.





# NYU – Jan. 2023



- Cindy Tappe allegedly embezzled **\$3.5 million** from grant she applied for while working at NYU.
  - Allegedly used **\$80,000** for a swimming pool and **\$600,000** for renovations to her home in Westport, CT.
- Grant was worth **\$23 million** and was supposed to go toward supporting minority and female-owned businesses.
- Misuse allegedly occurred in 2018.
- Tappe left NYU at that time and went to work at Yale until she was terminated after her indictment.



# Utah – Jan. 2023



- Utah prisoner discovered the fraudulent activities while working in a prison print shop and then gave information to the federal government.
- Between 2009 to 2015, state public safety officials were falsely claiming job losses and budget cuts to take **millions** given in grants from the federal government.
- Settlement amount unknown, but it was approved by the state legislature effective March 1, 2023.





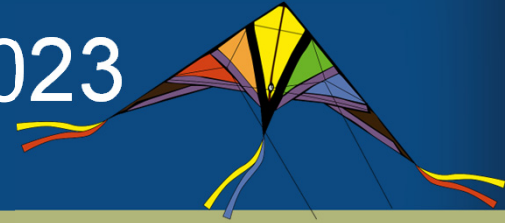
# Eastpointe, MI – March 2023



- Mayor of Eastpointe allegedly submitted false information on grant under CARES Act in November 2020.
- Received **\$10,000** from the grant.
- Indicted with 5-year felony in March.



# SBA Inspector General Report – June 2023



- The Inspector General for the Small Business Administration published a report, stating that **\$200 billion** in pandemic relief money was wasted likely due to fraud.



- Over **\$2.1 trillion** was given out during the pandemic, and nearly **\$30 billion** of the funds lost have been reclaimed through other governmental efforts.

# Univ. of Oklahoma – July 2023

- A University of Oklahoma professor and his wife were awarded a grant from the Department of Energy for their company, MicroChem Solutions.
- Spent grant money not in line with the purpose of the grant or their company's mission; submitted fake budgeting documents.
- Sentenced to serve over 3 years each and pay [\\$2.1 million](#) in restitution.



# Brett Favre & Mississippi



- Money came from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which was supposed to provide grant funds to states.
- Mississippi Dept. of Health allegedly gave some of this funding to two nonprofit organizations with direction to give contracts to various parties for social services that were never provided.
  - Favre was paid **\$500,000** in December 2017 and **\$600,000** in June 2018 for appearances and speeches he never did.
- Case is ongoing.

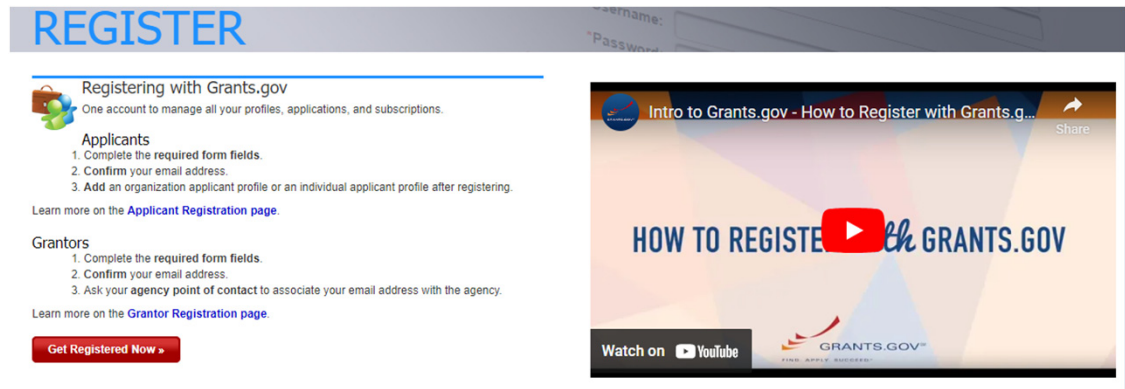
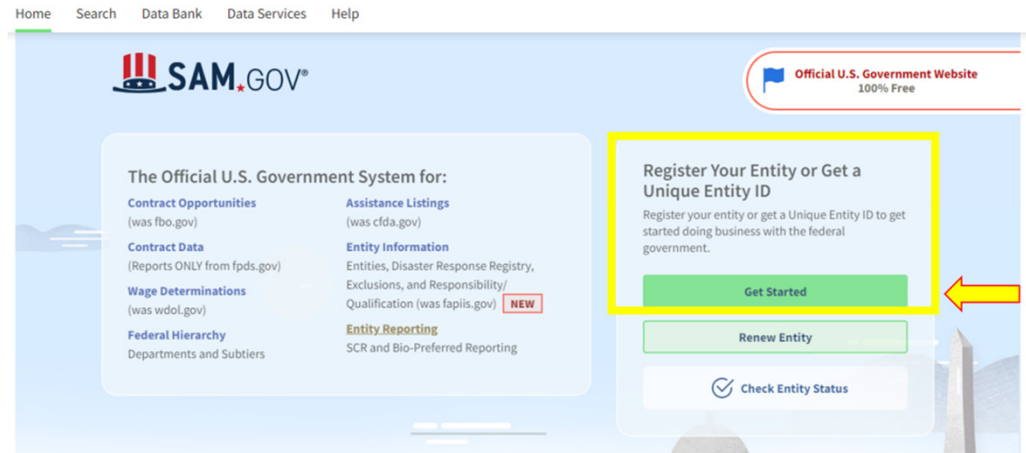


# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Grants

# IRA Grant Process

Need active registrations:

- **SAM.gov**
- **Grants.gov**



# IRA Grant: Methane Emissions Reduction Program

- Funded by the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation
- Available until September 30, 2028
- Eligible recipients include states, counties, cities/townships
- Funding for reducing methane and greenhouse gas emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems

# IPA Grant: Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program

- Funded by the Dept. of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration
- Available until September 30, 2026
- Eligible recipients include states and units of local governments
- Funding for projects that improve walkability and safety and provide affordable public transportation access



# Other IRA Grants Available

- Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles
- Diesel Emissions Reductions
- Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption
- Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program
- Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program
- Endangered Species Act Recovery Plans

# Sources

- [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- <https://sam.gov/content/home>
- <https://us.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/w-037-5100>
- <https://www.hhs.gov/grants-contracts/grants/get-ready-for-grants-management/index.html>
- <https://www.lovetoknow.com/life/lifestyle/grant-giving-foundations>
- [www.instrumentl.com](http://www.instrumentl.com)
- [www.candid.org](http://www.candid.org)
- <https://facweb.census.gov/FAQs.aspx#s-q1>
- <https://registrations.publichealthpractice.org/Training/Detail/99>
- <https://www.tgci.com/managing-your-grant>
- <https://prezi.com/p/myqp2skn0o3j/grants-management-workshops>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Guidebook.pdf>
- [https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/intergovernmentalServicesOffice/GrantsManual.p  
df](https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/intergovernmentalServicesOffice/GrantsManual.pdf)