



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



AUG 18 2008

Memorandum

To: Heads of Bureau and Offices

From: Debra E. Sonderman, Director *Debra E. Sonderman*
Office of Acquisition and Property Management

Subject: Compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act
Relative to Financial Assistance Programs

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Transparency Act) directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to ensure the existence and operation of a single searchable website, www.USASpending.gov, which is accessible by the public, at no cost, and includes originating funding source(s) for each Federal award. In accordance with the Transparency Act, all Federal agencies must employ guidelines to submit data to OMB in an accurate and efficient format, and on a timely basis, to ensure compliance and to support collaborative efforts to promote transparency in government spending. We are required to report all transactions within 30 days of the award. USASpending.gov is required to include data for FY 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter.

OMB has decided that the Federal Assistance Award Data System (FAADS) will be the data source for financial assistance. FAADS is a central collection of selected, computer-based data on Federal financial assistance award transactions, compiled now on a monthly basis. Each action-by-action record contains such items as the name and location codes for the recipient, the amount of awarded or amend Federal assistance (on the basis of the obligated amount), the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Program under which the award was made, and a project description.

It is imperative that data submissions to FAADS be timely and correct due to the transparency of information made available to the public, the White House, Congress, the Government Accountability Office, and other Federal executive agencies. Further, OMB Circular A-123 "Management's Responsibility for Internal Control" mandates the implementation of internal controls to ensure that reliable, complete and timely data are maintained.

The long term objective is to include all Federal financial assistance programs in FAADS. This includes all assistance programs listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) as well as financial assistance awards not currently listed in the CFDA. What this means for the Department is that we must ensure that all programs, including both domestic and international programs, are assigned a number and are reported to FAADS. The CFDA number is a required data element for FAADS and reporting data to USASpending.gov.

Each Bureau must establish a financial assistance data quality control plan involving, at a minimum, the following: identification of a FAADS systems administrator; means by which the Bureau intends to capture unique FAADS reporting requirements; identification of programs in their financial assistance inventory currently not reported to FAADS or CFDA; and corrective action plans in response to persistent inaccurate or late reporting. The plan must be submitted to the Office of Acquisition and Property Management no later than October 31, 2008. Each Bureau must be able to certify to the completeness, timeliness and accuracy of FAADS data submissions by providing a written explanation that quantifies data accuracy, any known errors, and steps to be taken to further improve the quality of data submissions.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact E. Melodee Stith, Associate Director, Acquisition and Property Management on 202-208-5830 or Anita Hairston Financial Assistance Program Manager at 202-208-3433. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.