

# Guide to Opportunities for Improving Grant Accountability

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## What is the Domestic Working Group?

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- Chaired by Comptroller General
- 18 Federal, State and Local Auditors
- Addresses areas of mutual interest

## DWG Grants Accountability Project Participants

### Federal Agencies

- EPA
- AID
- Agriculture
- Commerce
- Education
- Energy
- HHS
- DHS
- HUD
- Interior
- Justice
- Labor
- State
- Transportation
- Archives
- NEH
- NASA
- NSF
- GAO
- OMB

## DWG Grants Accountability Project Participants

### State Agencies

- Arizona Auditor General
- New York State
- Kansas Legislative  
Division of Post Audit
- Texas State Auditor

### Local Agencies

- City of Orlando
- Metro Government of  
Nashville and Davidson  
County



## Reasons for This Project

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- Significant portion of federal budget
- Audits have identified problems with accountability for use of funds and results
- Senior managers need to understand the importance of grant accountability
- Help resolve top management challenge



# Project Methodology

- Identified issues affecting grant accountability
  - Identified promising practices in agencies own agencies
  - Solicited input from other organizations
    - AGA
    - NASACT
    - Public Law 106-107 workgroup
    - Intergovernmental Audit Forums
  - Target audience is Federal, state and local government executives

# Overall Message



## Area 1: Internal Control Systems

- Preparing policies and procedures before issuing grants.
- Consolidating information systems to assist in managing grant activities.
- Providing grants management training to staff and grantees.
- Coordinating programs with similar goals and purposes.



## Area 2: Performance Measures

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- Linking activities with program goals.
- Working with grantees to develop performance measures.



## Area 3: Pre-Award Process

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- Assessing applicant capability to account for funds.
- Competing grants to facilitate accountability.
- Preparing work plans to provide framework for grant accountability.
- Including clear terms and conditions in grant award documents.



## Area 4: Managing Performance

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- Monitoring the financial status of grants.
- Ensuring results through performance monitoring.
- Using audits to provide valuable information about grantees.
- Monitoring subrecipients as a critical element of grant success.



## Area 5: Assessing and Using Results

- Providing evidence of program success.
- Identifying ways to improve program performance.



## Next Steps

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Comments to draft due September 23, 2005

- Factual accuracy of information presented
- Usefulness of the information presented
- Other examples, particularly from state and local level