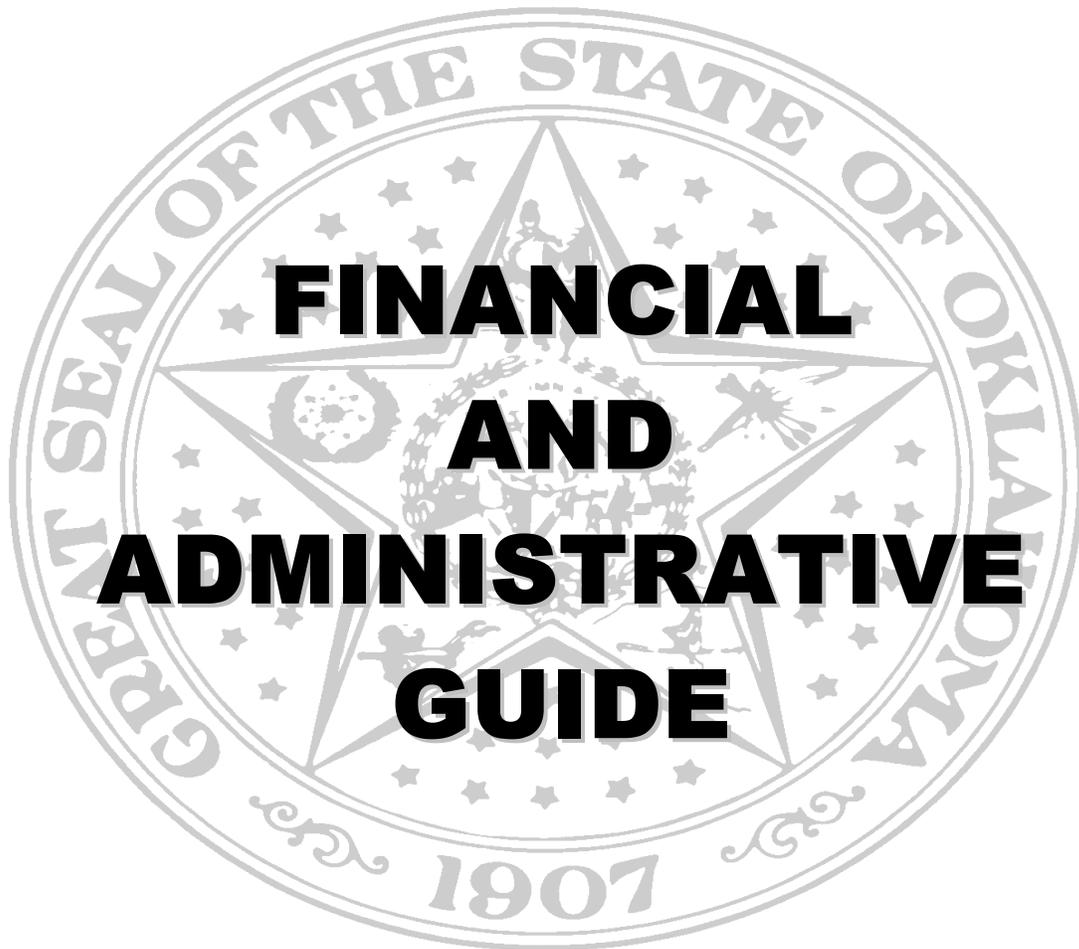


2007
Coverdell Forensic Science
Improvement Grant



District Attorneys Council
Federal Grants Division
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FORWARD

October 1, 2007

Dear Subgrantee:

On behalf of the District Attorneys Council (DAC), I want to congratulate you on receiving a Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant (Coverdell) Award.

As you may know, the Federal Grants Division within the DAC is responsible for the management of seven federal grant programs. Funding is primarily received from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice.

The Division serves as the point of contact between the state of Oklahoma and BJA in administering the grant programs. The mission of BJA is 1) to reduce and prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse; and 2) improve the functioning of the criminal justice system. BJA accomplishes this mission by providing federal grant funding to States.

The grant programs administered by the Division are the:

1. *Justice Assistance Act Grant*
2. *National Criminal History Improvement and Policy Grant*
3. *S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program*
4. *Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program*
5. *Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant*
6. *Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant*
7. *Anti-Gang Initiative*

In administering these grants, the Federal Grants Division:

- Prepares the applications for the federal grant funds
- Ensures coordination between the federal funding sources and the subgrantees
- Provides staff support to the six oversight Boards and Task Forces
- Develops and distributes the grant application notices and the grant application forms
- Receives and coordinates the distribution of the grant applications to the various Boards for review
- Reviews and makes recommendations to the Boards regarding the funding of submitted grant applications
- Receives funds from the federal granting agency and then disburses funds to the subgrantees throughout the grant cycles
- Evaluates and monitors compliance of subgrantees in meeting state and federal requirements
- Provides guidance and technical assistance to subgrantees
- Collects statistical data from the subgrantees to assess program effectiveness and provide information to the federal granting agency

- Prepares and submits the required progress, financial, and evaluation reports to the federal granting source

One of the primary functions of the Federal Grants Division is to ensure the fiscal accountability and programmatic integrity of the federal grant program through the proactive monitoring of the subgrantees. It is the responsibility of the Programs Specialist, who is assigned to the various federal grant programs, to assist the subgrantees in implementing approved projects within a framework of relevant state and federal statutes, regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines to achieve maximum success. In doing so, the District Attorneys Council advocates good stewardship of the awarded federal funds and addresses a portion of the state-administering agency responsibilities.

We want each subgrantee to achieve success in implementing their grant program. We are available for consultation and technical assistance at any time. If assistance is needed, please contact us at 405/264-5008.

Sincerely,

DeLynn Fudge
Federal Grants Division Director

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMMATIC GUIDELINES

GRANT PURPOSE

The purpose of these funds is to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services to the criminal justice system in Oklahoma.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FUNDS

The Coverdell Grant funds shall not be used directly or indirectly for security enhancements or equipment for nongovernmental entities that are not engaged in criminal justice or public safety. In additions, Coverdell grant funds shall not be used for vehicles, vessels, or aircraft, luxury items, real estate, or construction projects.

AWARD PERIOD

The award period for this grant is October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008.

AWARD ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURES

The Federal Grants Division in the District Attorneys Council will forward the Award Notice, the Special Conditions, and other critical documents to the subgrantee prior to the award date. The Award Notice constitutes the operative document obligating and reserving the federal funds for use by the subgrantee. The obligation of the awarded funds is forfeited without further cause if the subgrantee fails to sign and return the Award documents by the date on the award or November 15, 2007.

The obligation of the awarded funds is forfeited without further cause if the subgrantee fails to sign and return the Award documents within 45 days from the date of the award.

AWARD DOCUMENTS	INSTRUCTIONS
Award Notice	Chief Executive Officer must sign and date. The document must be notarized. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.
Special Conditions	Chief Executive Officer and Project Director must sign and date. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.
Form A-1 Authorization to Sign Project Documents	Chief Executive Officer and Project Director must sign and date. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.
Form A-4 Certification of Equal Employment Opportunity Plan	Complete requested information. Chief Executive Officer must sign and date. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.
Form A-10 Statement of Audit Arrangements	Complete requested information. Chief Executive Officer must sign and date. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.

Budget Forms	If the Board approved less than the amount requested in the original application, all budget forms including the narrative, must be resubmitted. Complete and return by November 15, 2007.
Form A-12 Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Complete requested information. Chief Executive Officer must sign and date. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.
Goals and Objectives	If any of the submitted goals and objectives were not measurable, revisions will be required. Requests for revisions will be sent in a separate memorandum. If the Board approved less than the amount requested in the original application, review the goals and objectives to ensure that all can be obtained with the approved budget. Revised goals and objectives will be reviewed and approved by the Federal Grants Division. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.
W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification	If the applicant is a new subgrantee, complete requested information. Chief Executive Officer must sign and date. Return to DAC by November 15, 2007.

All documents must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer. Some documents may require the Project Director's signature in addition to the Chief Executive Officer. **The Chief Executive Officer is the State Agency Director, District Attorney, City Manager, Mayor, Chairperson of the County Commissioners, or Tribal Chief.** The Project Director, Police Chief, or Sheriff does NOT have authorization to sign as the Chief Executive Officer.

No federal funds will be disbursed to the subgrantee until all award documents have been signed and returned.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Special Conditions include the terms and conditions of the award. The Special Conditions may include global requirements that apply to all subgrantees or only to the individual subgrantee, such as the revision of the project objectives to adhere to the requirement that objectives must be measurable. Failure to comply with the award's Special Conditions may result in a withholding of funds.

1. The subgrantee agrees that the Award Documents constitutes the operative document obligating and reserving the federal funds for use by the subgrantee. The obligation of the awarded funds is forfeited without further cause if the subgrantee fails to sign and return the Award Document and all other documents as required by the Federal Programs Division within **45 calendar days** of the date on the Award, or **November 15th**.
2. The subgrantee agrees to comply with the financial and administrative requirements set forth in the most current edition of *the National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Grant Financial and Administrative Guide* as developed by the Federal Grants Division in the District Attorneys Council and the financial and administrative requirements as set forth in the current edition of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Financial Guide.

3. The Project Director and the Fiscal Officer of the project must attend the mandatory Financial Meeting, scheduled for **November 1, 2007**, in Oklahoma City. Further information on this meeting will be provided to the subgrantee.
4. The subgrantee agrees to comply with the organizational audit requirements of OMB Circular, A-133, Audit of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations.
5. If required as per Form A-4 Form - Equal Opportunity Employment Plan (EEO), the subgrantee agrees to submit the applicant agency's EEO to the District Attorneys Council within 30 days of the date of the award. Failure to submit an approved EEO is a violation of the special conditions and may result in the suspension or termination of funding. Until such time as the subgrantee is in compliance.
6. The subgrantee shall submit progress reports within 15 days after the end of the reporting periods, which are June 30th and December 31st, for the life of the award.
7. The subgrantee agrees that federal funds under this award will be used to supplement, but not supplant, state or local funds.
8. The Federal Grants Division will approve the budget in the framework of the award amount. The subgrantee understands and agrees that any deviations to the approved budget must be in compliance with the most current edition of the Administrative and Financial Guide. Deviations outside of the scope of the approved budget and/or the Administrative and Financial Guide may result in unallowable expenditures and therefore lead to the return of federal funds by the subgrantee.
9. The subgrantee agrees to cooperate with any assessment, national evaluation efforts, or information or data collection requests, including, but not limited to, the provision of any information required for the assessment or evaluation of any activities within this project.
10. The subgrantee agrees to comply with all federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations application to the development and implementation of the activities to be funded under this grant.
11. The subgrantee acknowledges that the Office of Justice Programs reserves a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and authorize others to use, for Federal government purposes: (1) the copyright in any work developed under an award; and (2) any rights of copyright to which a subgrantee purchases ownership with Federal support.
12. Recipient acknowledges that the Office of Justice Programs has the right to (1) obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data first produced under an award; and (2) authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.
13. The subgrantee agrees that reimbursed funds shall be returned to the specific Department in which the funds were originally expended.
14. The subgrantee understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior written approval of OJP.
15. Funds provided under this award shall be used only for the purposes and types of expenses set forth in the year 2007 grant announcement. Funds shall not be used for general law enforcement functions or nonforensic investigatory functions, and shall not be used for research or statistical

projects or activities. Use of award funds for construction of new facilities is restricted by statute. Any questions concerning this provision should be directed to the NIJ Program Manager prior to incurring the expense or commencing the activity in question.

16. To ensure compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (Pub. L. No. 103-62), program performance under this award is measured by the following: (1) the number of days between submission of a sample to a forensic science laboratory and delivery of test results to a requesting office or agency; (2) the number of samples used for criminal justices purposes; and (3) the number of samples used in forensic science and medical examiner services. Subgrantees are required to collect and report data relevant to this measure.
17. The subgrantee shall have in place a process for the independent, external investigation into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct by employees or contractors substantially affecting the integrity of forensic results.
18. A. Generally Accepted Laboratory Practices. The recipient shall ensure that any forensic laboratory system, medical examiner's office, or coroner's office that will receive any portion of the award uses generally accepted laboratory practices and procedures as established by accrediting organizations or appropriate certifying bodies.

B. External Investigations. The recipient shall ensure that the requirements of 42 U.S.C. section 3797k(4) (which relate to independent external investigations into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct by employees or contractors) are satisfied with respect to any forensic laboratory system, medical examiner's office, coroner's office, law enforcement storage facility, or medical facility in the State that receives a portion of the grant amount.

C. Use of Funds; No Research. Funds provided under this award shall be used only for the purposes and types of expenses set forth in the fiscal year 2007 grant announcement. Funds shall not be used for general law enforcement functions or nonforensic investigatory functions, and shall not be used for research or statistical projects or activities. Use of award funds for construction of new facilities is restricted by statute. Any questions concerning this provision should be directed to the NIJ Program Manager prior to incurring the expense or commencing the activity in question.

D. Performance Measures. To ensure compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (Pub. L. No. 103-62), program performance under this fiscal year 2007 award is measured by the following; (1) change in the number of days between submission of a sample to a forensic science laboratory and delivery of test results to a requesting office or agency; (2) the number of backlogged forensic cases analyzed with fiscal year 2007 Coverdell funds, if applicable to the award; and (3) the number of forensic science or medical examiner personnel who completed appropriate training or educational opportunities with fiscal year 2007 Coverdell funds, if applicable to the award. Recipients are required to collect and report data relevant to these measures.

INITIATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROJECT

A project is required to be operational within 60 days of the start date of the award period. If there is a delay in the initiation of the project beyond the 60 days, the subgrantee must forward a letter to the Federal Grants Division on the steps that have been taken to initiate the project, the reasons for the delay, and the expected start date.

If the project is not operational within 90 days of the start date of the award period, the subgrantee must submit a second letter to the Federal Grants Division explaining the implementation delay. Upon receipt of the 90-day letter, or if notification is not sent at all regarding the delay in implementation, the award may be cancelled without further notice by DAC.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

The Project Director must be an employee of the applicant agency and is the direct contact person for program activities and is responsible for meeting the goals and objectives of the grant. The Project Director shares responsibility with the Fiscal Officer to ensure that all expenditures are within the approved budget.

The Fiscal Officer is the person who actually completes the reports related to financial activity of the grant. The Fiscal Officer is responsible for fiscal matters relating to the project, including the accounting, management of funds, verification of expenditures, and subgrantee financial reports.

The Project Director and Fiscal Officer may **not** be the same person.

The CEO is the person with official signature authority to make financial and programmatic commitments on behalf of the applicant agency. The Chief Executive Officer must be a state agency head, mayor, city manager, chairperson of the Board of Directors, chairperson of the County Commission or an authorized tribal leader.

If there is a personnel change for either the Project Director or the Fiscal Officer during the award period, the Federal Grants Division must be notified. This may be accomplished by completing Form A-9 Change of Project Director/Fiscal Officer.

CHANGE IN THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The subgrantee may only use the funds for the activities and purposes approved in the application and the budget. A change in the scope of the project occurs when programmatic activities or budget revisions would cause a deviation from the approved application. If this is the case, the subgrantee must submit a request to change the scope of the project to the Federal Grants Division Director.

ASSIGNMENT OF SUBCONTRACT OR SUBAWARD

A state agency or unit of local government may serve as the subgrantee and contract a portion of the services of the project with a governmental or nonprofit organization. However, a subgrantee must obtain written approval from the Federal Grants Division Director prior to subcontracting for any services. A subgrantee may not assign the responsibility of the grant to another party.

DATA GATHERING

Each funded program will require pertinent data to be collected throughout the life of the grant from the agency or agencies carrying out the objectives of the grant.

PROGRAMMATIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following table identifies the programmatic reporting requirements and corresponding due dates.

FORM	DATE DUE
COVERDELL GRANT PERFORMANCE REPORT	* Due January 15, 2008 and July 15, 2008.

* If the subgrantee requests and is approved for an extension, progress reports will be due July 15th and January 15th for the life of the award.

COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMMATIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Subgrantees must submit all programmatic reports by the deadlines as set by the Federal Grants Division within the DAC. The Programs Specialist for the grant program will maintain a checklist and routinely review compliance of the subgrantee in submitting the programmatic reports. **If these deadlines are not met, subsequent monthly draws will be held until the reports are submitted.** Refer to the Payments to Subgrantees subsection in the Payment of Grant Funds Section.

Should the dates for any programmatic report change, the subgrantee will be notified in writing of the new due date.

CONFIDENTIALITY

No subgrantee or any personnel involved in the project, shall use or reveal any information received from the project for any purpose other than the purpose for which such information was obtained.

PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS

When developing a publication with Coverdell funds, federal guidelines require special steps. By federal definition, a publication is defined as “the initiation of the procurement of writing, editing, preparation of related illustration material, including videos”.

A subgrantee that publicizes any project activities with Coverdell funds must adhere to the following:

1. All materials publicizing or resulting from award activities shall contain an acknowledgement of the awarding agency assistance. An acknowledgement of support shall be made through use of the following or comparable footnote:

This project was supported by Grant No. (obtain grant number from Programs Specialist) and awarded by the National Institute of Justice, , Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice to the State of Oklahoma.

2. Responsibility for the direction of the project activity should not be ascribed to the awarding agency. The publication shall include the following Statement:

The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice.

The receipt of awarding agency funding does not constitute official recognition or endorsement of any project. A separate application for Official Recognition may be filed with the awarding agency.

3. A subgrantee is expected to publish or otherwise make widely available to the public, as requested by the awarding agency, the results of work conducted or produced under an award.
4. Further guidelines regarding royalties, license, copyright, official Logo's and distribution plans can be found in the current copy of the U.S. Department of Justice Financial Guide, December 2006 Issue. Please consult this guide or the administrative agency for further assistance on publications.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The subgrantee must establish accounting system controls and procedures that assure that federal and matching grant funds are properly utilized and accounted for. Awarded funds may be expended only for activities and purposes set forth in the approved application and budget and within the approved grant period. All funds must flow through the applicant agency.

Similar to the responsibilities of the DAC, the subgrantee must maintain the highest standards in order to preserve the public trust, which accompanies the authority to expend public funds.

ACCOUNTING SYSTEM CRITERIA

The subgrantee is free to use a manual, automated, or a combination manual and automated accounting system, if the system meets the following criteria:

1. The accounting system must identify the receipt and expenditure of grant and matching funds separately for each grant from the receipt and expenditure of other funds in the account and should be classified by source, such as NFSIA, Cash Match, etc.
2. The accounting system must provide for the recording of grant and match expenditures for each grant in the approved budget categories of the grant, such as: Personnel, Personnel Benefits, Supplies and Operating Expenses, Confidential Funds, Travel, Equipment, Contractor/Consultants, and Facilities/Rental.
3. All entries in the accounting system should be supported by documentation, such as invoices and purchase orders, which support the entry and which can be readily located. The supporting documentation should reflect the appropriate project (subgrant) number.
4. Time records must be maintained for each employee that is paid with federal or matching funds so that the number of weekly hours spent implementing the grant can be specifically attributed to the grant.
5. The accounting system should be integrated with an adequate system of internal controls to safeguard the funds and assets covered, check the accuracy and reliability of accounting data, promote operational efficiency, and encourage adherence to prescribed management policies.
6. The accounting system must include budgetary controls to avoid spending funds in excess of the total funds available for a budget line item.
7. Internal controls should be in place for approval of obligation and expenditure of funds. All requests for payments should contain not less than two different individuals' authorizations for payment in accordance with the organization's policies and

procedures. No single individual can have complete control over receipt and expenditure of funds.

8. The accounting system should include a system of property records for all equipment (discussed in the Equipment section).
9. All project records shall be maintained until an audit has been completed and all questions arising there from are resolved and five (5) years from the date of the final financial report.

RECOMMENDED ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

For many subgrantees, it may be sufficient to maintain journals showing cash receipts broken down by source, date, and amount and cash disbursements journals showing the date of expenditure, payee, check number, amount of check, and allocation of the disbursement to the proper category.

For large and more complex grant awards, a double entry set of books should be maintained. The accounting system should be as simple as possible and still provide the necessary information for reporting and management purposes. Keep in mind that cash match comprising the appropriate percentage of the total project cost, must be identifiable as a specific budget appropriation.

It is suggested that invoice totals be circled or initialed to indicate that the amount to be paid has been verified. The fiscal officer should set up some control to ensure that duplicate payments are not made. Payments should not be made unless there is evidence that goods or services have been received.

RECORD ORGANIZATION

Record maintenance is an important part of the management of a grant. Subgrantees are encouraged to keep **all** fiscal and programmatic records organized in one accessible file. Some subgrantees choose to use a 3-ring binder, while others use a folder or expandable folder system. However the records are kept, it is important to create an organized system so that records can be easily located. The Programs Specialist developed the following system which may be of assistance in establishing the grant files.

SECTION: Award Documents

- TABS:** Original Application
Award Notice
Special Conditions
A-1 Form - Authorization to Sign Project Documents
A-2 Budget Revisions and Budget Extension Requests
A-4 Form - Certificate of Equal Employment Opportunity Plan
A-10 Form - Statement of Audit Arrangements
A-12 Form - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
W-9 Form
A-13 Form – Project Income Certification

SECTION: Financial Documents

TABS: Accounting Spreadsheet
A-3 Forms - Monthly Request for Funds
A-7 Forms - Quarterly Reports (Reporting of Subgrant Expenditures and Financial Status Form)
Copies of Checks
A-8 Form - Quarterly Status Report for Project Income
Copies of Invoices
Purchase Orders and Receipts

SECTION: Correspondence & Close-out Documents

TABS: Letters and E-mails to and from DAC
Fax Confirmation Sheets for Documents Faxed to DAC
A-5 Form - Statement of Equipment Purchases
A-6 Form - Equipment Inventory
A-9 Form – Change in Project Director/Fiscal Officer
A-14 Form – Backfill Verification Form
Progress Reports
Final Annual Report
Any other documents relating to the grant

Subgrantees are required to maintain all programmatic and financial records, supporting documents, statistical and other records and reports for a period of five years after the project has ended and until all audit findings have been resolved. When records are stored away from the subgrantee's principal office, a written index of the location of records stored should be on hand and ready access should be assured.

The DAC, the Office of Justice Programs, and the State Auditor have the right of access to subgrantee records pertaining to the grant award. This access extends to any books, documents, papers and other records of the subgrantee that are necessary for audits, examinations, excerpts and transcripts. The subgrantee has the same right of access to pertinent records of subcontractors for similar purposes.

NON-SUPPLANTING OF FUNDS

Federal funds must be used to supplement, or add to, existing funds for the program. Supplanting occurs when appropriated funds are replaced with federal funds. This occurs most commonly with personnel but supplanting can occur with other allowable budget categories.

COMMINGLING OF FUNDS

A physical segregation of funds is not required. However, the accounting systems of all subgrantees must ensure that funds are not commingled with funds from other sources. Each award must be accounted for separately, including any interest earned.

Funds specifically budgeted and/or received for one project may not be used to support another. Where a subgrantee's accounting system cannot comply with this requirement, the subgrantee shall establish a system to provide adequate fund accountability for each project that it has awarded.

FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Subgrantees must comply with the following financial reporting requirements. These requirements include program record keeping, programmatic reporting and financial reporting. The reports can be obtained via the website. Go to www.ok.gov/dac. Click on the Federal Grants Division, click on Subgrantee Toolbox, scroll down to Project Forms. The following is a list of the required reporting requirements:

FORM	DATE DUE
A-3 REQUEST FOR FUNDS FORM	See Request for Funds Section in this guide for specific information on the due date of the Request for Funds Form.
FORM A-5 STATEMENT OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	Due November 1, 2008 – 60 days after the end date of the award.
FORM A-6 EQUIPMENT INVENTORY	Due November 1, 2008 – 60 days after the end date of the award.
PERSONNEL VERIFICATION	Due April 30, 2008. The Programs Specialist will mail a reminder memo or the subgrantee can forward the form on the due date. The memo can be found in the Appendix.
FORM A-7 QUARTERLY REPORTS	
Quarter ending December 31	January 15, 2008
Quarter ending March 31	April 15, 2008
Quarter ending June 30	July 15, 2008
Quarter ending September 30	October 15, 2008
Final Financial Status Report	December 1, 2008

COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Subgrantees must submit all fiscal reports by the deadlines as set by the Federal Grants Division within the DAC. The Programs Specialist for the grant program will maintain a checklist and routinely review compliance of the subgrantee in submitting the fiscal reports. **If these deadlines are not met, subsequent monthly draws will be held until the reports are submitted.**

Should the dates for any financial report change, the subgrantee will be notified in writing of the new due dates.

STANDARD ASSURANCES

The authorized certifying official of the applicant agency is required to accept the Certification Regarding Lobbying, Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug Free Workplace Requirements. The applicant agrees to comply with the following requirements:

Lobbying

The Anti-Lobbying Act (18 U.S.C. § 1913) was recently amended to significantly expand the restriction on use of appropriated funding for lobbying. The subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors may not use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, to support the enactment, repeal, modification, or adoption of any law, regulation, or policy, at any level of government without the express approval of OJP. Any violation of this prohibition is subject to a minimum \$10,000 fine for each occurrence.

Debarment

The subgrantees have not been debarred or suspended from federal benefits and/or no such proceedings have been initiated against them; have not been convicted of, indicted for, or criminally or civilly charged by a government entity for fraud, violation of antitrust statutes, embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false Statements, or receiving stolen property; and have not had a public transaction terminated for cause or default.

Drug Free Workplace

Each subgrantee shall implement and post within the agency a Drug Free Workplace Policy.

Information Technology Compliance

As appropriate, all equipment and software developed under this grant program must be compliant with U.S. Department of Justice information technology interface standards, including the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan, the Global Justice XML Data Model, and the Law Enforcement Sharing Plan.

National Environmental Policy Act

All actions significantly affecting the quality of the environment are subject to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other related federal environmental laws. Most projects will not be affected by NEPA. If however, a project involves minor renovation, construction, or any other activity that may have an impact on the environment or change the use or function of a facility, the subgrantee must provide a full description of the proposed project to DAC prior to project implementation. A determination regarding whether any further action is necessary will be made to and by BJA.

Seat Belt Use

Recipients of federal funds shall encourage the adoption and enforcement of on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for its employees when operating company owned, rented, or personally owned vehicles.

Limited English Persons

Recipients are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that limited English persons (LEP) persons have meaningful access to services provided by the grant. Meaningful access may entail providing language assistance services, including oral and written translation when necessary.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE CLAUSE

Compliance with the provisions of Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Section 1407 of the Victims of Crime Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 is required. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability as it relates to funded programs or activities. National origin discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of limited English proficiency (LEP).

To ensure compliance with the Title VI and the Safe Streets Act, subgrantees are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to their programs. Meaningful access may entail providing language assistance services, including oral and written translation, where necessary. Reasonable costs associated with providing meaningful access for LEP individuals are considered allowable program costs. The U.S. Department of Justice has issued guidance for subgrantees to assist them in complying with Title VI requirements. The guidance document can be accessed on the Internet at www.lep.gov.

ALLOWABLE and NON-ALLOWABLE COSTS

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs are those costs identified in the grant program's authorizing legislation. In addition, costs must be reasonable, allocable, necessary to the project, and comply with the grant's funding statute requirements. Allowable costs include:

- Personnel
- Personnel Benefits
- Equipment
- Travel
- Supplies and Operating Expenses
- Contractor and Consultants
- Facilities and Equipment Rental
- Confidential Funds
- Other Allowable Costs

If non-allowable costs are incurred, these expenditures will be disallowed and funds will be required to be returned to the Office of Justice Programs. Refer to the section on unallowable costs related to the NFSIA Program.

Expenditures Requiring Prior Approval

Some expenditures require prior approval from the Federal Grants Division Director. Refer to the specific allowable expense for more information. Expenditures requiring pre-approval include:

1. Equipment and Other Capital Expenditures not specifically listed in the approved budget
2. Consultant Rates and Other Contractual Agreements
3. Criminal Justice Information and Communication Systems
4. Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Equipment and Software

Procedures for Requesting Prior Approval

Requests for any of the above expenditures must be submitted on Form A-2 Budget Revision and Grant Extension Request Form. The request must be adequately justified with an explanation to permit review of allowability. Requests must be submitted to the **Federal Grants Division Director**.

Non-Allowable Costs

The following expenditures are not allowed under the NFSIA Program:

Land Acquisition

The funding legislation specifies that no Federal award involving renting, leasing, or construction of buildings or other physical facilities shall be used for land acquisition.

Compensation of Federal Employees

Salary payments, consulting fees, or other remuneration of full-time Federal employees are unallowable costs.

Travel of Federal Employees

Costs of transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related travel expenses of awarding agency employees are unallowable charges. Travel expenses of other Federal employees for advisory committees or other program or project duties or assistance are allowable if they have been:

1. Approved by the Federal employee's Department or Agency; and
2. Included as an identifiable item in the funds budgeted for the project or subsequently submitted for approval.

Bonuses or Commissions

The subgrantee is prohibited from paying any bonus or commission to any individual or organization for the purpose of obtaining approval of an application for award assistance. Bonuses to officers or board members of profit or non-profit organizations are determined to be a profit or fee and are unallowable.

Military-Type Equipment

Costs for such items as armored vehicles, explosive devices, and other items typically associated with the military arsenal, excluding automatic weapons, are unallowable. Exceptions MAY be made by the awarding agency upon a written request and justification from the subgrantee.

Lobbying

All subgrantees must comply with the provisions of the government-wide Common Rule on Restrictions on Lobbying, as appropriate. In addition, the lobbying cost prohibition applicable to all subgrantees of funding includes the following.

No funds may be used for purposes of:

1. Attempting to influence the outcome of any Federal, State, or local election, referendum, initiative, or similar procedure, through in-kind or cash contributions, endorsements, publicity, or similar activity;
2. Establishing, administering, contributing to, or paying for the expenses of a political party, campaign, political action committee, or other organization established for the purpose of influencing the outcome of elections.
3. Attempting to influence: (a) the introduction of Federal or State legislation; or (b) the enactment or modification of any pending Federal or State legislation through communication with any member or employee of the Congress or State legislature (including efforts to influence State or local officials to engage in similar lobbying activity), or with any government official or employee in connection with a decision to sign or veto enrolled legislation;
4. Publicity or propaganda purposes designed to support or defeat legislation pending before legislative bodies;
5. Paying, directly or indirectly, for any personal service, advertisement, telegram, telephone, letter, printed or written matter, or other device, intended or designed to influence in any manner a member of Congress or of a State legislature, to favor or

- oppose, by vote or otherwise, any legislation or appropriation by either Congress or a State legislature, whether before or after the introduction of any bill or resolution proposing such legislation or appropriation;
6. Engaging in legislative liaison activities, including attendance at legislative sessions or committee hearings, gathering information regarding legislation, and analyzing the effect of legislation, when such activities are carried out in support of or in knowing preparation for an effort to engage in unallowable lobbying; or
 7. Paying a publicity expert.
 8. The Anti-Lobbying Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1913, was recently amended to expand significantly the restriction on use of appropriate funding for lobbying. This expansion also makes the anti-lobbying restrictions enforceable via large civil penalties, with civil fines between \$10,000 and \$100,000 per each individual occurrence of lobbying activity. These restrictions are in addition to the anti-lobbying and lobbying disclosure restrictions imposed by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. No federally appropriated funding made available may be used, either directly or indirectly, to support the enactment, repeal, modification, or adoption of any law, regulation, or policy, at any level of government, without the express approval of OJP.

Exemptions to Lobbying

Activities that are exempt from the above coverage include:

1. Providing a technical and factual presentation of information on a topic directly related to the performance of an award, through hearing testimony, statements, or letters to the Congress or a State legislature, or subdivision, member, or cognizant staff member thereof, in response to a documented request (including a *Congressional Record* notice requesting testimony or Statements for the record at a regularly scheduled hearing) made by the subgrantee member, legislative body, or subdivision, or a cognizant staff member thereof, provided such information is readily obtainable and may be readily put in deliverable form, and further provided that costs under this section for travel, lodging, or meals are unallowable unless incurred to offer testimony at a regularly scheduled Congressional hearing pursuant to a written request for such presentation made by the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee conducting such hearing.
2. Any lobbying made unallowable by the above paragraph 3 to influence State legislation in order to directly reduce the cost or to avoid material impairment of the organization's authority to perform under the award.
3. Any activity specifically authorized by statute to be undertaken with funds from an award.
4. Providing testimony to introduce and support general statutory reform, such as criminal or juvenile code revisions before State legislative bodies.
5. Providing testimony before the State legislature on legislative issues or pending legislation.

Fund Raising

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions, may not be charged either as direct or indirect costs against the award. Neither the salary of persons engaged in such activities nor indirect costs associated with those salaries may be charged to the award, except insofar as such persons perform other funding-related activities.

An organization may accept donations (i.e., goods, space, services) as long as the value of the donations is not charged as a direct or indirect cost to the award. A subgrantee may also expend funds, in accordance with approved award terms, to seek future funding sources to "institutionalize" the project, but not for the purpose of raising funds to finance related or complementary project activities. Nothing in this section should be read to prohibit a subgrantee from engaging in fund raising activities as long as such activities are not financed by Federal or non-Federal award funds.

Corporate Formation

The cost for corporate formation may not be charged either as direct or indirect costs against the award.

State and Local Sales Taxes

These are unallowable when the government assesses taxes upon itself or, disproportionately, to Federal Grants Division. An example of an unallowable tax would be if the government levied taxes as a result of Federal funding. An example of an allowable tax would be user taxes, such as gasoline tax. These provisions became effective as of the government's fiscal year beginning on or after January 1, 1998.

Other Unallowable Costs

Other unallowable costs include:

- Entertainment;
- Sporting events;
- Visa fees;
- Passport charges;
- Tips;
- Bar charges/Alcoholic beverages; and
- Laundry charges.
- Lodging costs in excess of Federal per diem. For events of 30 or more participants that are funded with an OJP award, if lodging costs exceed the Federal per diem, none of the lodging costs are allowable, effective January 1, 2001.
- Membership fees to organizations whose primary activity is lobbying is unallowable;
- Interest Expense;
- Costs for the preparation of proposals and,
- Foreign Travel.

Costs Incurred Outside the Project Period

Any costs that are incurred either before the start of the project period or after the expiration of the project period are not allowable.

Unapproved Requests of Equipment Purchases

All equipment that is to be purchased must be identified in the approved budget. The subgrantee must obtain prior approval from the Federal Grants Division Director for any additional equipment that the subgrantee desires to purchase. If this approval is not obtained, the unapproved equipment will be designated as unallowable.

Repayment of Unallowable Costs

If unallowable expenditures are incurred, the expenditures will be disallowed and funds must be returned to the Office of Justice Programs.

PERSONNEL and BENEFITS

If personnel costs are an approved component of the project, only actual salaries/wages and actual fringe benefits paid to the program personnel may be claimed. Personnel and benefits expenses are only for employees working for the applicant agency. Costs for personnel who are not employed by the applicant agency must be listed under Contractor/Consultants.

The time and attendance records should contain the following information and should be maintained by the agency:

1. Date (day, month, and year)
2. Employee's name
3. Position title
4. Total daily hours charged to the project
5. Employee's signature
6. Project director or supervisor's signature
7. Project (subgrant) number

It is strongly recommended that the subgrantee have written personnel policies and procedures pertaining to:

1. Work hours
2. Holidays, vacations, sick leave
3. Overtime pay and compensatory time - payment of these premiums will be for work performed by employees in excess of the established work week (usually 40 hours).
4. Termination
5. Qualifications
6. Written job descriptions

Project officials must ensure that employees working on the project are not receiving dual compensation, i.e., being paid with the grant funds while receiving salary from another source.

If existing personnel assume a position paid with grant funds, additional personnel must be hired to fill the positions vacated as a result of the transfer.

Personnel Changes

If during the course of the award period, there is a change in the Project Director or Fiscal Officer, two forms must be completed. The first form is the A-9 Form - Change of Project Director or Fiscal Officer and the second is the A-1 Form, Authorization to Sign Project Documents. These forms should be completed immediately and forwarded to the Federal Grants Division. The documents can be found on the website.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment Definition

Equipment is tangible non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and/or an acquisition cost of \$500 or more per unit. A subgrantee may use its own definition of equipment provided that such definition would at least include all equipment defined above.

Purchase of Equipment

The purchase of equipment, including repairs which materially increase their useful life, are an allowable expenditure of funds in an approved budget. Subgrantees are required to be prudent in the acquisition and management of property purchased with federal funds. Equipment purchased with federal funds must be used for the criminal justice purposes as stated in the application.

Expenditure of funds for the acquisition of new property, when suitable property required for the successful execution of a project is already available within the subgrantee's organization, will be considered an unnecessary expenditure. Equipment purchased using federal funds shall be year 2000 compliant and shall be able to process all time/date data after December 31, 1999.

Prior Approval of Equipment Purchases

All equipment purchases require prior approval by the Federal Grants Division Director, unless the item was specifically listed in the approved application. In considering proposals for equipment purchases, the following principles should be adhered to:

- (1) No other equipment owned by the subgrantee is suitable for the effort.
- (2) No requests for purchase of vehicles will be approved.
- (3) Federal funds are not used to provide reimbursement for the purchase of equipment already owned by the subgrantee.
- (4) Equipment purchased and used commonly for two or more programs has been appropriately prorated to each activity.

Deviations from Approved Equipment Purchases in Budget

If a subgrantee wants to purchase different equipment from the equipment that was approved in the budget, the Project Director must request permission from the Federal Grants Division Director. Approval must be obtained prior to the purchase or it will be disallowed.

Maintenance of Records

Subgrantees must maintain an effective system for property management. Subgrantees are hereby informed that if DAC or the Department of Justice is made aware that the subgrantee does not employ an adequate property management system, project costs associated with the acquisition of the property may be disallowed.

Invoices must be maintained. When paid, invoices should be marked and include the date, check number and contract number.

Records for equipment shall be retained for a period of five years from the date of the disposition or replacement or transfer at the discretion of Department of Justice. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the five-year period, the records shall be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved.

Equipment Inventory

Equipment inventory records should be maintained and contain, at a minimum, the information required to complete the A-6 Equipment Inventory Form, found on the website. The deadline to turn in this form may be found in the Fiscal Responsibilities and Guidelines section on Financial Reports. The following information must be maintained:

1. Item Description
2. Property Inventory Number and Serial Number
3. Date of Purchase
4. Identification of New or Used Equipment
5. Voucher number
6. Cost
7. Location of the Equipment
8. Present Use
9. Condition
10. Disposition
11. Subgrant Project Number

Loss, Damage, or Theft of Equipment

Subgrantees are responsible for replacing or repairing property that is willfully or negligently lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed. Any loss, damage, or theft of the property must be investigated and fully documented and made part of the official project records.

Ownership of Equipment

The purchased equipment becomes the property of the agency or non-profit organization when the subgrantee provides certification to the DAC that the property will be used for the stated purpose. Certification is accomplished by completing the Statement of Equipment Purchases - Form A-5. A copy of this form is located on the website. If such certification is not submitted, the property becomes that of the DAC. The DAC shall seek to have the equipment used for criminal justice purposes elsewhere in the State prior to using it or disposing of it in any other manner.

Disposal of Equipment

If the subgrantee plans to dispose of equipment purchased with federal funds, either through disposal, replacement through trade-in or sale and then subsequently purchase new property, please contact the Federal Grants Division for approval and instructions.

TRAVEL AND PER DIEM

General Travel and Per Diem Information

Travel is an allowable expenditure of funds in an approved budget. This may include interjurisdictional travel, out-of-state travel, per diem, lodging, and registration. Some approved budgets may include the implementation of conferences and/or workshops. All approved travel for an award must be in compliance with the Oklahoma Travel Reimbursement Act. **All out-of-state travel must be clearly defined and receive prior approval from the Federal Grants Division Director before the expenditure of the funds.**

Documentation of Travel

All travel expenditures should be substantiated through a travel claim or voucher that contains the following information:

1. Name of employee
2. Travel to and from
3. Private car mileage
4. Date and time of departure and return
5. Signature of employee
6. Signature of project director or supervisor
7. Subgrant number

In-state travel and out-of-state travel expenditures must be properly documented. The following information should be attached to the travel voucher:

1. A paid receipt, showing a zero balance, from a hotel/motel with the name, city, and state, number of people in the room is required to be maintained in the fiscal files. If the room is shared, this should show on the invoice and the amount charged should be the rate for one individual.
2. Paid car rental bill and justification for renting rather than using public transportation
3. Airfare or other commercial transportation ticket
4. Justification if first class accommodations are paid

Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The maximum allowable rate for mileage reimbursement for travel using a personal vehicle is \$.485 per mile.

For purposes of computing mileage eligible for reimbursement, the person's office is the starting point, except when the person is leaving from their residence and where the residence is closer to their destination than their office. If leaving from their residence and their residence is closer to their destination than is the home office, the employee's residence shall be considered the starting point.

Standards for Overnight Travel

Per diem and lodging rates for travel both within the State of Oklahoma and outside the State of Oklahoma are based upon the amounts authorized by the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

However, reimbursement rates for travel will vary depending on the location of travel as identified in the Government Services Administration (GSA) continental United States (CONUS) rates, for domestic locations. A complete listing of the CONUS locations and rates can be obtained from the GSA per diem web site: www.gsa.gov. Then select Per Diem Rates. Oklahoma has three rates for travel within the state:

- Oklahoma City Per Diem Rate: \$49.00 (\$12.25 per quarter)
 Lodging Rate: \$73.00 per night (maximum)
- Tulsa Per Diem Rate: \$44.00 (\$11.00 per quarter)
 Lodging Rate: \$68.00 per night (maximum)
- All Other Locations Per Diem Rate: \$39.00 (\$9.75 per quarter)
 Lodging Rate: \$60.00 per night (maximum)

Travel and per diem rates will follow GSA's definition of "per diem localities with county definitions". Per diem localities with county definitions shall include "all locations within, or entirely surrounded by, the corporate limits of the key city as well as the boundaries listed of the listed counties including independent entities located within the boundaries of the key city and listed counties (unless listed separately)".

For example, if an employee is in overnight travel status and obtains lodging in Edmond, Oklahoma, reimbursement rates for Oklahoma City locality (\$49/\$73) will apply, rather than the standard rates of \$39/\$60, as Edmond is within the same county as the "Oklahoma City locality".

Lodging

For those employees attending meetings that have been approved for travel, which are conducted at a designated public lodging place where lodging has been arranged by the blocking of rooms or rate reductions for the participants by the sponsoring agency as evidenced in the notice of the meeting, will be reimbursed the actual lodging expense not to exceed the single occupancy room rate charged. Designated hotel information from a conference brochure or a letter from the sponsoring organization is acceptable documentation.

Per Diem Rates for Overnight Travel

An employee, who is in overnight travel status, may claim the following per diem rates, not to exceed the amount allowable under the State of Oklahoma Travel Reimbursement Act. Travel status is defined as an absence from the office or place of employment, home area, and/or official station area, while performing assigned official duties. Reimbursement for per diem for out-of-state travel shall not begin more than 24 hours before or continue more than 24 hours after the objective of the trip, such as a meeting, workshop, conference, etc. ends. In computing per diem, a day shall be a period of 24 hours. No per diem is allowed for periods less than overnight travel status.

Hours	In-State	Oklahoma County	Tulsa County	Out of State
Less than 18 hours	See Note*	See Note*	See Note*	See Note*
18-21	29.25	36.75	33.00	*
21-27	39.00	49.00	44.00	*
27-33	48.75	61.25	55.00	*
33-39	58.50	73.50	66.00	*

***Only if overnight travel status with lodging occurred as required for official business.**

When meals are provided and included as a part of the registration fee, the travel claim should be treated as follows:

1. One-fourth (1/4) of one day's per diem shall be deducted from the reimbursement limit for each meal provided and included in the registration fee (Continental breakfasts and refreshments such as coffee, tea, and soft drinks provided during meeting breaks are not considered meals for the purpose of this procedure).
2. Exceptions may apply where special circumstances prevented the traveler from participating in the function at which the meal was provided. For auditing purposes, a signed statement by the traveler of his/her non-participation in the meal function must be included with the claim form.
3. If an outside entity provides lunch for conference participants and it is not connected with the conference, the employee does not have to deduct for the meal.

Per Diem Allowance in Lieu of Subsistence

When an employee who is in travel status chooses to stay with friends or relatives and lodging reimbursement is not being claimed, the traveler may claim an additional \$10.00 "subsistence" payment above the per diem reimbursement rate.

Transportation – In-State Travel

In-state travel in privately owned vehicles may be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed .485 cents per mile, based on the distance set forth in the latest Transportation Commission Road Map. All state, county, and city vehicles may be reimbursed for actual expenses only. Travel by railroad, bus, or other such public conveyance will be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed the normal charge of such conveyance, and in no instance shall the rate exceed coach airplane fare.

Reimbursement for necessary parking and turnpike fees incurred in the use of a privately owned automobile for official project business must be itemized.

Transportation – Out-of-State Travel

Prior approval for travel out-of-state must be obtained from the Federal Grants Division Director, unless it was specifically listed in the approved budget. Subgrantees may follow their own established travel rates. However, if the subgrantee does not have a written policy, the subgrantee must abide by the Federal travel policy.

The subgrantee should refer to the website, www.gsa.gov for specific information for the maximum lodging and per diem rates. Once at the website select Per Diem Rates to obtain the correct information.

Regardless of the mode of travel (including privately owned vehicle) reimbursement for out-of-state transportation costs shall not exceed that of coach airplane fare.

The actual cost of leasing or renting an automobile outside of this state to be used on official business for the state shall be reimbursed if the expense was approved in the budget or via a written justification approved by the Federal Grants Division Director in advance of rental.

Conferences and Workshops

Allowable costs for conferences and workshops provided by the subgrantee may include:

- Conference or meeting arrangements;
- Publicity;
- Registration;
- Salaries of personnel;
- Rental of staff offices;
- Conference space;
- Recording or translation services;
- Postage;
- Telephone charges;
- Travel expenses (this includes transportation and subsistence for speakers or participants); and
- Lodging.

Effective January 1, 2001, all federally funded projects for events that include 30 or more participants (both Federal and non-Federal) lodging costs for any number of attendees requiring lodging must not exceed the Federal per diem rate for lodging. In the event the lodging rate is not the Federal per diem rate or less, none of the lodging costs associated with the event would be allowable costs to the award. As a result, the recipient would be required to pay for all lodging costs for the event, not just the amount in excess of the Federal per diem. For example, if the Federal per diem for lodging is \$78 per night, and the event lodging rate is \$100 per night, the recipient must pay the full \$100 per night with non-grant funds, not just the difference of \$22 per night.

Food and Beverages

Food or beverages are considered in the context of formal meals and in the context of refreshments served at short, intermittent breaks during an activity. Beverages do not include alcoholic drinks. Food and/or beverage expenses provided by recipients are allowable subject to conditions stated below:

- Food and/or beverages are provided to participants at training sessions, meetings, or conferences that are allowable activities under the particular OJP program guidelines.
- Expenses incurred for food and/or beverages and provided at training sessions, meetings, or conferences must satisfy the following three tests:

Test 1: The cost of the food and/or beverages provided is considered to be reasonable.

Test 2: The food and/or beverages provided are subject of a work-related event.

Test 3: The food and/or beverages provided are not related directly to amusement and/or social events. (Any event where alcohol is being served is considered a social event; and, therefore, costs associated with that event are not allowable).

Subgrantees that desire to purchase food and/or beverages under the project must follow the food and beverage policy guidelines. Guidance should be applied within the context of each individual situation. While food and/or beverages are allowable, recipients are not required to provide them at training sessions, meetings, or conferences.

NOTE: The presence of Federal employees does not prevent the recipient from providing food and beverages under its three tests.

To determine whether costs associated with food and/or beverages are allowable, the recipient or sub-recipient providing the food and/or beverages must consider:

1. To whom the food and/or beverages will be provided;
2. Under what conditions the food and/or beverages will be provided; and
3. That the appropriate three tests have been satisfied.

For example:

Example A. A subgrantee-sponsored event is held at a hotel to discuss policy topics. The event includes a working lunch with a speaker and breaks at which food and beverages are offered. Federal agency employees, as well as employees of the recipient and non-agency persons, are invited.

This scenario meets all components of the three tests; therefore, food and beverages may be provided with grant funds.

Example B. A recipient offers a "hospitality suite" the night before its conference at a hotel. Federal agency employees, as well as employees of the recipient and non-agency persons, are invited.

This scenario fails the three tests because food and beverages must not be directly related to amusement or social events. Although the conference is work-related, the hospitality suite is purely a "social event." Therefore, food and beverages **may not** be provided with grant funds.

NOTE: Food and beverage costs for events within events may be unallowable. For example:

Unallowable--Event A includes 200 participants. Food and beverages are requested for event B, which directly **relates** to event A, but includes only a small percentage of the 200 participants from event A. Thus, food and beverage costs at event B are unallowable since attendance at the event is not mandatory for all participants from events A and B.

Allowable--If the purpose of event B is to discuss or work on topics **unrelated** to event A, food and beverage costs may be allowable for event B.

Federal funds are governed by the "cost principles" of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Cost principles are the Federal rules that determine the extent of reimbursement of grant expenses. Generally, allowable costs include costs that are reasonable and necessary for the successful completion of the project. **Unallowable costs include, but are not limited to, costs directly related to entertainment or to the purchase of alcohol.**

NOTE: Anyone under per diem allowances or reimbursements who attends any of these events at which food and beverages are provided must deduct the allowance for any meals (i.e. lunch, dinner) provided from his/her per diem allowance.

The top ten tips for provisions of food and beverages under the Office of Justice Programs grants are as follows:

1. Provide a speaker at a lunch or dinner.
2. Support the event with a formal agenda.
3. The event must be mandatory for all participants.
4. Do not pay for bar charges using registration fees (i.e. program income).
5. Do not make alcohol available at the event.
6. Provide appropriate break foods. (Refer to the Glossary for definition of break foods).
7. Surrounding events must provide several hours of substantive information.
8. Do not end events with a meal and/or break.
9. Costs must be reasonable.
10. As a participant, reduce per diem appropriately.

NOTE: Exhibits are not deemed substantive information.

SUPPLIES AND OPERATING EXPENSES

Supplies and Operating Expenses

Supplies and operating expenses are an allowable expenditure of funds in an approved budget. Supplies are materials, expendable or non-expendable that are needed in the operation of the project. Non-expendable supplies must have a cost of less than \$500 per unit and are not immediately consumed when placed in use. The following are examples of expendable and non-expendable supplies:

Examples of expendable supplies:

- Office supplies, such as paper, pens, pencils, file folders, data processing supplies, etc.

Examples of non-expendable supplies:

- Letter trays, wastebaskets, staplers, or inexpensive office equipment or furniture type items costing less than the above limit.

Operating expenses are costs necessary to maintain the project. Operating expenses may include:

- Postage
- Printing
- Telephone Costs
- Rental Expenses
- Pager or Mobile Phone Rental

Ownership of Supplies

The purchased supplies become the property of the agency or non-profit organization upon acquisition. If there is a residual inventory of unused supplies exceeding \$5,000 in total aggregate fair market value upon termination or completion of the funding support and the supplies are not needed for any other Federally-sponsored programs or projects, the subgrantee shall compensate the awarding agency for the share. The amount of compensation shall be computed in the same manner as for non-expendable personal property or equipment.

CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

Contractors and Consultant Expenses

Compensation for contractors and/or consultants is an allowable expenditure of funds in an approved budget. **Specific guidelines for the payment for consultants in the following categories exist:**

- Consultants Associated with Educational Institutions
- Consultants Employed by State and Local Government
- Consultants Employed by Commercial Not-For-Profit Organizations
- Independent Consultants

Contractors and Consultant Rates

Compensation for individual consultant services is to be reasonable and consistent with that paid for similar services in the market place. Consideration will be given to compensation including fringe benefits for those individuals whose employers do not provide the same. In addition, when the rate exceeds \$450 (excluding travel and subsistence costs) for an eight-hour day, prior approval is required from the Federal Grants Division Director.

Requests for approval of a consultant require additional justification. An eight-hour day may include preparation, evaluation, and travel time in addition to the time required for actual performance. Please note, however, that this does not mean that the rate can or should be \$450 for all consultants. Rates should be developed and reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be reasonable and allowable in accordance with OMB cost principles. Approval of consultant rates in excess of \$450 a day that is part of the original application with appropriate justification and supporting data will be approved on a case-by-case basis. The following is the policy in regard to compensation of various classifications of consultants who perform like-type services. If consultants are hired through a competitive bidding process but not sole source, the \$450 threshold does not apply:

- a. *Consultants Associated with Educational Institutions.* The maximum rate of compensation that will be allowed is the consultant's academic salary projected for 12 months, divided by 260. These individuals normally receive fringe benefits which include sick leave for a full 12-month period even though they normally only work nine months per year in their academic positions.
- b. *Consultants Employed by State and Local Government.* Compensation for these consultants will only be allowed when the unit of government will not provide these services without cost. If a state or local government employee is providing services under a federal grant and is representing their agency without pay from their respective unit of government, the rate of compensation is not to exceed the daily salary rate for the employee paid by the unit of government. If the state or local government employee is providing services under a federal grant and is not representing their agency, the rate of compensation is based on the necessary and reasonable cost principles.

- c. *Consultants Employed by Commercial and Not-For-Profit Organizations.* These organizations are subject to competitive bidding procedures. Thus, they are not subject to the \$450 per day maximum compensation threshold before requesting prior approval. In those cases where an individual has authority to consult without employer involvement, the rate of compensation should not exceed the individual's daily salary rate paid by his/her employer, subject to the \$450 limitation.
- d. *Independent Consultants.* The rate of compensation for these individuals must be reasonable and consistent with that paid for similar services in the marketplace. Compensation may include fringe benefits. In summary, consultants obtained through competitive bidding do not require prior approval, including individual consultants.

The customary fixed fee or profit allowance for Professional Services in cost-type contracts may not exceed 10% of the total estimated costs.

NOTE: Current and former state employees may not be compensated for contractual services with a state agency until one year after the termination of state employment.

Record Maintenance

Adequate records for the expenditures of professional, or contractual, services should be maintained to ensure that the contractor has in fact performed the services. Records should contain the following information:

1. Signed Agreement or Contract
2. Dates the contractor provided the services
3. Number of hours the contractor worked
4. Services performed

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL

The cost for the rental of facilities and/or equipment is an allowable expenditure of funds in an approved budget.

Space

The cost of space in privately or publicly owned buildings used for the benefit of the program is allowable subject to the conditions below:

- The total cost of space may not exceed the rental cost of comparable space and facilities in a privately owned building in the same locality.
- The cost of space procured for program usage may not be charged to the program for periods of non-occupancy, without authorization of the awarding agency.

Rental Cost

The rental cost of space in a privately-owned building is an allowable expenditure. Rent cannot be paid if the building is owned by the subgrantee or if the subgrantee has a substantial financial interest in the property. Similar costs for a publicly-owned building is allowable where "rental rate" systems, or equivalent systems that adequately reflect actual costs, are employed.

Such charges must be determined on the basis of actual cost (including depreciation based on the useful life of the building, operation and maintenance, and other allowable costs). Where these costs are included in rental charges, they may not be charged elsewhere. No costs will be included for purchases or construction that was originally financed by the Federal government.

The amount of rent charged to the grant program must be related and proportional to the personnel funded through the grant program. The rental cost of space in a privately owned building is allowable. Rent cannot be paid if the building is owned by the subgrantee or if the subgrantee has a financial interest in the property. However, the costs of ownership are an allowable expense.

BUDGET REVISION REQUESTS

Prior to requesting a budget revision, the subgrantee is encouraged to review the section on Non-Supplanting of Funds in this manual to determine whether the request for a budget revision is supplanting. If there is any question, consultation can be obtained by contacting the Federal Grants Division.

If the subgrantee determines that a budget revision is needed, the following information should be used as a guide in determining whether a request must be made *in writing* using the Form A-2 Budget Revision and Grant Extension Request Form. If an A-2 Form is required, the form must contain a written explanation regarding the reason for the budget revision and why money needs to be shifted (increased or decreased) among budget categories.

If the amount being revised is **less than 10%** of the total project award amount and within **approved** budget categories, there is no need to complete an A-2 Budget Revision Form. For example, if a subgrantee's approved budget already has operating expenses as an approved budget category and wants to decrease travel expenses by 8% and increase operating expenses by 8%, an A-2 Budget Revision Form would NOT be necessary. **In this instance, do not change the approved budget!** Continue to use the same budget and record expenses in the appropriate categories. Assuming that less money than granted is spent and the amount of deficit or surplus is **less than 10%** of the total project amount, the subgrantee will be in compliance with federal regulations.

However, if a subgrantee's approved budget does NOT include any funds in the operating expenses category and the subgrantee wants to change money into this initially unapproved category, an A-2 Budget Revision IS required to be submitted.

If more than one budget revision occurs during the award period, including a revision that is less than 10%, an A-2 Budget Revision IS required to be submitted.

ALL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED IN THE APPROVED BUDGET REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE FEDERAL GRANTS DIVISION DIRECTOR.

A Budget Revision that **changes the scope of the project** requires additional steps. If the scope of the project changes, refer to the section in the Financial and Administrative Guide, on Change in the Scope of the Project and follow these procedures.

If there is a question, whether the subgrantee needs to submit a Form A-2 Budget Revision Form and Grant Extension Request, consultation can be obtained by contacting the Federal Grants Division.

Revisions are NOT effective until the Federal Grants Division Director has signed the form. Subgrantees cannot act upon the request until it has been approved. If a request for a budget revision is approved, a copy of the approved form will be faxed or mailed to the subgrantee. If

a request for a budget revision is denied, the Programs Specialist or the Federal Grants Division Director will contact the subgrantee to discuss the matter. **Requests for budget revisions will not be approved after September 1st.** Budgets should be reviewed quarterly to determine maximum usage.

NOTE: It is NOT necessary to submit a final budget revision to make the actual expenditures match the budget if the total amount needing revision is less than 10% of the total federal grant amount.

EXTENSION REQUESTS

Extension Requests

If a project cannot be completed within the 12-month award period, a request for a grant period extension must be made in writing using Form A-2 Budget Revision and Grant Extension Request Form. An explanation for the need for the grant extension is required.

Request for extensions are NOT effective until the Federal Grants Division Director has signed the form. Subgrantees cannot act upon the request until it has been approved. If a request for a grant extension is approved, a copy of the approved form will be faxed or mailed to the subgrantee within 15 workdays of receipt of the request. If a request for a grant extension is denied, the Programs Specialist or the Federal Grants Division Director will contact the subgrantee to discuss the matter. **Requests for grant extensions will not be approved after September 1st.**

Only one Request for a Grant Extension per award will be permitted. An approved Grant Extension Request may not exceed 12 months. Retroactive extensions will NOT be considered. If such a grant extension request is not submitted prior to the end date of the project, unspent funds will be forfeited and returned to DAC. Without appropriate notice and approval, the original award stands.

PROCUREMENT OF GOODS OR SERVICES

Adequate Competition

All procurement transactions, whether negotiated or competitively bid and without regard to dollar value, shall be conducted in a manner so as to provide maximum open and free competition.

The subgrantee shall be alert to organizational conflicts of interest or non-competitive practices among contractors that may restrict or eliminate competition or otherwise restrain trade.

State Agencies and Local Governmental Agencies

State agencies and local governmental agencies, such as police and sheriff's departments, shall follow the same policies and procedures it uses for the procurement from any non-federal funds. The State shall ensure that every purchase order or other contract includes any clauses required by federal statute and executive orders and their implementing regulations. State agencies and local governmental agencies should follow State Purchasing Procedures when procuring goods and services.

For purchases under \$2500, the subgrantee may follow their own procurement procedures and regulations, provided that the procurement conforms to applicable State law or regulation.

If the item to be purchased, costs between \$2500 and \$10,000, price quotes and delivery dates must be recorded from 3 vendors. The chosen vendor must complete a non-collusion affidavit.

If the amount is \$10,000 to \$25,000, an invitation to bid must be completed and all vendors must complete a non-collusion affidavit with their bid. For further details on how to prepare an Invitation for Bid or a Request for Proposal, please contact the DAC. Usually, an Invitation for Bid would be used for equipment purchases.

Sole source procurements in excess of \$100,000 must receive prior approval from the DAC and federal awarding agency.

Non-Profit Organizations

Non-profit organizations should follow OMB Circular A-110 when procuring goods and services.

Federal Surplus Property Program

Subgrantees may be eligible to participate in the Federal Surplus Property Program. This program provides for purchase of property for federal grant projects at 25% of the original acquisition cost. If you would like information, contact the Federal Grants Division Director at the DAC.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS

The subgrantee must use the A-3 Request for Funds Form to request grant funds. Funds may only be requested on a monthly basis. The request is an estimate of needs, not just a figure derived by dividing the award amount by 12.

The A-3 Request for Funds Form must be completed in full, signed, and received by DAC on the 15th of each month. If the A-3 Request for Funds Form is not received by the 15th of the month, the request will be processed the following month. **No exceptions will be granted regarding this deadline.** Forms may be faxed to DAC at 405-264-5095.

If the 15th of the month falls on a Saturday, then the form should be received in the DAC office on the Friday before. If the 15th of the month falls on a Sunday, the form should be received the following Monday.

Warrants will be mailed from DAC within fifteen (15) days following the 15th of the month.

The A-3 Request for Funds Form must be submitted even if the request is zero. Failure to do so may cause a delay in funding future requests and a possible grant cancellation.

PAYMENT OF GRANT FUNDS

Payments to Subgrantees

DAC receives Federal funds by utilizing the "Phone Activated Paperless Request System" procedures. This funding method is a cash management process prescribed by the U.S. Treasury for all major grant-in-aid recipients. Funds are made through a warrant system pursuant to rules and procedures available to subgrantees issued by DAC.

If a subgrantee who is receiving cash advances demonstrates an unwillingness or inability to establish procedures that minimize the time elapsing between cash advances and disbursement, DAC may terminate advance financing and require the subgrantee to finance its operations with its own working capital.

Payments to the subgrantee will then be made to reimburse the subgrantee for actual cash disbursements. **It is essential that the subgrantee maintains a minimal amount of cash on hand and drawdowns of cash are made only when necessary for disbursement.**

Payments Withheld

The Programs Specialist will maintain a checklist for fiscal and programmatic reports for the program under their purview. When a fiscal or programmatic report is received, the Administrative Assistant in the Federal Grants Division will forward the document to the Programs Specialist. The Programs Specialist will review the document for accuracy and/or thoroughness, update the checklist, and then forward to the appropriate person for disposition.

If a subgrantee does not return the report by the deadline, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The Programs Specialist will phone or email all subgrantees that are delinquent to notify them of the past due report. The Programs Specialist will allow the subgrantee one additional week to forward the report and notify them that the current or next draw will be held until a report is received. The notification will be documented in the subgrantee's contract file.
2. If the report is not received by the deadline, the Programs Specialist will submit a Draw Hold Form to withhold the next monthly draw of the subgrantee. The Programs Specialist will forward a copy of the Draw Hold Form to the subgrantee.
3. Once the report is received, the Draw Hold Form will be withdrawn and the subgrantee may begin requesting the monthly draws.

OBLIGATION AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS

Any grant funds not properly obligated by a subgrantee prior to the end date of the grant award period will lapse and revert to the awarding agency. All obligations must be paid within 45 days after the end of the grant award period.

Obligated funds are those funds that have been legally committed under a grant for goods and services **within the grant period dates**. These obligations and payments include both federal dollars and matching contributions. The only time unpaid obligations should be reported is on the last quarterly report for the grant period. The final report must reflect zero unpaid obligations as all funds must have been paid within 45 days of the grant period end date.

SUSPENSION and TERMINATION OF FUNDING

A subgrant award may be terminated if a subgrantee fails to conform to the programmatic or fiscal requirements of the grant program as set forth in the Financial Guide of the Office of Justice Programs, the Administrative and Financial Guide for the Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant, and/or the special conditions of the award.

The subgrantee will be notified in writing of its failure to conform to the programmatic and/or fiscal requirements of the grant program and any corrective action that must be taken, along with a deadline for compliance. If the subgrantee fails to bring the project into compliance with the programmatic and/or fiscal requirements of the grant program within the timeframe reflected on the notice, the staff will place the subgrantee on Draw Hold, not allowing any further draw of subgrant funds. If a subgrantee continues to fail to take appropriate corrective action and bring the project into compliance with the programmatic and/or fiscal requirements of the grant program, the staff will notify the NFSIA and the Justice Assistance Grant Board. The Board will, by written notice to the subgrantee, provide an opportunity for the subgrantee to appear before the Board to show cause why the grant should not be terminated. The Board, at the time set for the subgrantee to appear before the Board, may, after providing an opportunity for the subgrantee to address the Board, determine that the subgrantee is presently in compliance with the programmatic and/or fiscal requirements of the grant program and allow the grant to continue, give the subgrantee additional time to comply with programmatic or fiscal requirements, or terminate the grant award. If an award is terminated, the notice of termination shall be delivered by courier service, certified mail, or registered mail.

Whoever knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by trick, scheme, or device, any material fact in an application for assistance submitted pursuant to the NFSIA Program, or in any records required to be maintained pursuant to this Act, shall be subject to prosecution. Whoever embezzles, willfully misapplies, steals, or obtains by fraud any funds, assets, or property which are the subject of a grant or contract pursuant to this Act, or whoever receives, conceals, or retains such funds, assets, or property with intent to convert such funds, assets, or property to his/her use or personal gain knowing that such funds, assets, or property have been embezzled, willfully misapplied, stolen, or obtained by fraud, shall be subject to prosecution.

The JAG Board may, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing, terminate or suspend funding for a subgrantee that implements programs or projects which fail to conform to the requirements or statutory objectives or that fails to comply substantially with the Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program and the Federal Regulations promulgated there under; including the terms and conditions of the award.

Subgrantees will be given a warning, then suspension, and a set number of days to correct a problem with award compliance. If a subgrantee fails to take appropriate, corrective action, the Board may, by written notice to the subgrantee, terminate the grant agreement upon no less than 24 hours notice. The notice shall be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person with proof of delivery.

GRANT CLOSE-OUT PROCEDURES

At the end of the grant period, the subgrantee should use these procedures to closeout the grant.

1. Expenses encumbered, but not paid prior to the end of the grant period date, should be identified as unpaid obligations on the fourth quarterly report. The encumbered expenses must be paid within 45 days of the end of the grant period. If the encumbered expenses are not paid within 45 days, the expenses will be disallowed.
2. The unpaid obligations that have been paid within the 45-day period should be shown as expenditures this quarter and included in the total project cost on the final report.
3. The federal share of funds drawn down and remaining at the end of the 45-day period that were not obligated at the expiration date and/or were not expended within the 45 days must be returned to DAC.
4. Upon receipt of the final quarterly, DAC will calculate the amount of federal funds to be returned. Notification of the total amount due to DAC will be sent to the Project Director and Fiscal Officer.
5. Make the check payable to the District Attorneys Council. Do NOT send the check with a DAC Check Transmittal Form.
6. List the subgrant number in the memo section and "Return of unexpended grant funds."
7. Mail the check to the District Attorneys Council, Federal Grants Division, 421 N.W. 13th St., Suite 290, Oklahoma City, OK, 73103.

The following procedures should be followed in providing the programmatic reports to successfully close out the grant.

DOCUMENT	DEADLINE
Final Annual Performance Report	Submit the portion of the form that is applicable to your particular grant. Due December 1, 2008.
Statement of Equipment Purchases	If equipment was purchased, this form must be submitted. Due December 1, 2008 , 60 days after the end date of the grant.
Property Inventory List	If equipment was purchased, this form must be submitted. Due December 1, 2008 , 60 days after the end date of the grant.

Quarterly Expenditure Report

The fourth quarterly expenditure report is due **July 15**. If this is not the final report, the final report is due **December 1, 2008**. It should be marked **final** and must reflect that all grant and match expenditures have been expended. This report may not reflect any unpaid obligations.

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Audit Objectives

Awards are subject to conditions of fiscal, program, and general administration to which the subgrantee expressly agrees. Accordingly, the audit objective is to review the subgrantee's administration of funds and required non-federal contributions for the purpose of determining whether the subgrantee has:

1. Established an accounting system integrated with adequate internal fiscal and management controls to provide full accountability for revenues, expenditures, assets, and liabilities. This system should provide reasonable assurance that the organization is managing the federal financial assistance in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
2. Prepared financial statements, which are presented fairly, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
3. Submitted financial reports (which may include Financial Status Reports, Cash Reports, and Claims for Advances and Reimbursements), which contain accurate and reliable financial data, and are presented in accordance with the terms of applicable agreements.
4. Expended federal funds in accordance with the terms, applicable agreements and those provisions of Federal law or regulations that could have a material effect on the financial Statements or on the awards tested.

All audits must be in compliance with OMB Circular A-133, Audit of State and Local Governments and Audits of non-profit organizations. A copy of the A-133 audit report must be submitted to DAC.

Audit Threshold

Non-federal entities that expend \$500,000 or more in federal funds (from all sources including pass-through subawards) in the organization's fiscal year (12-month turnaround reporting period) shall have a single organization-wide audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-133.

Non-federal entities that expend less than \$500,000 a year in federal awards are exempt from federal audit requirements for that year. Records must be available for review or audit by appropriate officials including the federal agency, DAC, and General Accounting Office (GAO).

Due Dates for Audit Reports

Audits are due no later than nine months after the close of each fiscal year during the term of the award.

Mail a copy of the A-133 audit to DAC in addition to the requirements of OMB Circular A-133.

Audit Reporting Requirements

If the auditor becomes aware of illegal acts or other irregularities, the subgrantee must promptly notify DAC. The DAC shall, in turn, notify the appropriate Federal agency of the illegal acts or irregularities and of proposed and actual actions, if any. In addition, the DAC is responsible for informing the OJP's Office of the Comptroller, DOJ's Office of Professional Responsibility, the Office of the Inspector General, and State and local law enforcement agencies or prosecuting authorities, as appropriate, of any known violations of the law within their respective area of jurisdiction.

Audit Costs

Costs for audits not required or performed in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 are unallowable. If the subgrantee did not expend \$500,000 or more in federal funds during the fiscal year, but contracted with a certified public accountant to perform an audit, these costs may NOT be charged to the grant.

Resolution of the Audit Findings

Timely action on recommendations by responsible management officials is an integral part of the effectiveness of an audit. Each subgrantee shall have policies and procedures for responding to audit recommendations by designating officials responsible for:

1. Following up;
2. Maintaining a record of the action taken on recommendations and time schedules for completing corrective action;
3. Implementing audit recommendations; and,
4. Submitting periodic reports to DAC on recommendations and actions taken.

Failure to Comply

Failure to have audits performed as required may result in the withholding of new awards and/or withholding of funds or change in the method of payment on active grants.

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