




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

ENCLOSURE 4

DATE: July 12, 2016

TO: Recipients of grants and cooperative agreements

FROM: Tim Soltis 
Delegated the Authority to perform the Duties and Functions of the Chief
Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Department of Education Cash Management Policies for Grants and Cooperative
Agreements

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind the Department of Education's (the Department's) grant and cooperative agreement recipients (grantees) of existing cash management requirements regarding payments. The Department expects that grantees will ensure that their subgrantees are also aware of these policies by providing relevant information to them.

There are three categories of payment requirements that apply to the draw of funds from grant accounts at the Department. The first two types of payments are subject to the requirements in the Treasury Department regulations implementing the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) of 1990, 31 U.S.C.6513, and the third is subject to the requirements in the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) at 2 CFR part 200,¹ as follows:

- (1) Payments to a State under programs that are covered by a State's Treasury State Agreement (TSA);
- (2) Payments to States under programs that are not covered by a TSA; and
- (3) Payments to other non-Federal entities, including nonprofit organizations and local governments.

CMIA Requirements Applicable to Programs included in a TSA

Generally, under the Treasury Department regulations implementing the CMIA, only major assistance programs (large-dollar programs) are included in a State's written TSA. See 31 CFR part 205, subpart A. Programs included in a TSA must use approved funding techniques and both States and the Federal government are subject to interest liabilities for late payments. State interest liabilities accrue from the day federal funds are credited to a State account to the day the State pays out the federal funds for federal assistance program purposes. 31 CFR 205.15. If a

¹ The Department adopted the Uniform Guidance as regulations of the Department at 2 CFR part 3474.

State makes a payment under a Federal assistance program before funds for that payment have been transferred to the State, Federal Government interest liabilities accrue from the date of the State payment until the Federal funds for that payment have been deposited to the State account. 31 CFR 205.14.

CMIA Requirements Applicable to Programs Not Included in a TSA

Payments to States under programs not covered by a State's TSA are subject to subpart B of Treasury's regulations in 31 CFR part 205. These regulations provide that a State must minimize the time between the drawdown of funds from the federal government and their disbursement for approved program activities. The timing and amount of funds transfers must be kept to a minimum and be as close as is administratively feasible to a State's actual cash outlay for direct program costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs. 31 CFR 205.33(a). States should exercise sound cash management in funds transfers to subgrantees.

Under subpart B, neither the States nor the Department owe interest to the other for late payments. 31 CFR 205.33(b). However, if a State or a Federal agency is consistently late in making payments, Treasury can require the program to be included in the State's TSA. 31 CFR 205.35.

Fund transfer requirements for grantees other than State governments and subgrantees

The transfer of Federal program funds to grantees other than States and to subgrantees are subject to the payment and interest accrual requirements in the Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200.305(b). These requirements are similar to those in subpart B of the Treasury Department regulations in 31 CFR part 205, requiring that "payments methods must minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the United States Treasury or the pass-through entity and the disbursement by the non-Federal entity." 2 CFR 200.305(b) introduction.

The Federal Government and pass-through entities must make payments in advance of expenditures by grantees and subgrantees if these non-Federal entities maintain, or demonstrates the willingness to maintain, written procedures "that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the non-Federal entity, and financial management systems that meet the standards for fund control and accountability as established in" 2 CFR 200.305(b). If a grantee or subgrantee cannot meet the criteria for advance payments, a Federal agency or pass-through entity can pay that entity through reimbursement. See 2 CFR 200.305(b)(1) and (4) for more detailed description of the payment requirements and the standards for requiring that payments be made by reimbursement.

Non-Federal entities other than States must maintain advance payments in interest bearing accounts unless certain conditions exist. See 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8) for those conditions. The requirements regarding interest accrual and remittance follow:

- Grantees other than States and subgrantees must annually remit interest earned on federal advance payments except that the non-Federal entity may retain up to \$500 of interest earned on the account each year to pay for the costs of maintaining the account.
- Grantees other than States and subgrantees must remit interest earned on Federal advance payments to the Department of Health and Human Services, Payment Management

System (PMS), through either Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) network or Fedwire. Detailed information about electronic remittance of funds via ACH or Fedwire are specified in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(9)(i) and (ii). For non-Federal entities that do not have electronic remittance capability, checks must be made payable to HHS and addressed to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Program Support Services
P.O. Box 530231
Atlanta, GA 3035-0231

The remittance should be accompanied by a letter stating that the remittance is for “interest earned on Federal funds” and should include the DUNS number of the non-Federal entity making the payment.

Grantees, including grantees that act as pass-through entities and subgrantees have other responsibilities regarding the use of Federal funds. For example, all grantees and subgrantees must have procedures for determining the allowability of costs for their awards. We highlight the following practices related to the oversight of subgrantee compliance with the financial management requirements in the Uniform Guidance that will assist State grantees (pass-through entities) in meeting their monitoring responsibilities. Under 2 CFR 200.331, pass-through entities must –

- Establish monitoring priorities based on the risks posed by each subgrantee, including risks associated with the drawdown of grant funds and remittance of interest to the Federal Government;
- Monitor the fiscal activity of subgrantees as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

A small number of ED grant programs have program-specific cash management and payment requirements based on the authorizing legislation or program regulations. These program-specific requirements may supplement or override general cash management or payment requirements. If you have any questions about your specific grant, please contact the program officer, whose contact information is on Block 3 of your Grant Award Notification (GAN).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Blanca Rodriguez at (202) 245-8153 or blanca.rodriguez@ed.gov

Attachment