

National Science Foundation A New Approach to Award Payments

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NSF made the decision in late FY 2010 to develop a new approach to award payments and associated post award processes.



- Increased focus on transparency and accountability
- Congress, OMB and other stakeholders are requiring information faster
- OMB is developing standardized reporting requirements

- The **Award Cash Management System** (ACM\$) will be based on awardees providing award level detail at the time of the payment request.
 - Enhance access to award financial data
 - Eliminate the need for the quarterly Federal Financial Report

FastLane

(Pooling Payment Request)

- Focus on institution level records
- Payment request which totals all grant fund needs
- Reconciliation on a quarterly basis
- Distribution of payment received may not match records that produced the payment request

ACM\$

(Award Level Detail Payment Request)

- Focus on award level records
- Payment request with detail that matches awardee records
- Reconciliation occurs at time of request
- Payment file detail can be used to eliminate distribution discrepancies

Institution Award Analysis



Number of Grants	Institution Count	Percent
1	680	37.44%
2-3	430	23.68%
4-5	157	8.65%
6-15	229	12.61%
16-30	92	5.07%
31-50	52	2.86%
51-100	53	2.92%
101-200	44	2.42%
201-300	26	1.43%
301-500	29	1.60%
501+	24	1.32%
Grand Total	1816	100.00%

- Retain certain “Current” system benefits
- Add “New” benefits
- Implement multiple input options:
 - Manual Web Entry
appropriate for smaller organizations
 - Excel Spreadsheet Download/Upload Entry
appropriate for medium and large sized organizations
 - Bulk XML Data File Upload
appropriate for those large organizations who desire further automation
- Complete system pilot and reconciliation

- NSF is currently in the design and development phase
- Timeline was selected to minimize interference with grantee fiscal year end tasks
- Goals of the reconciliation process:
 - Insure all awardee balances match NSF award balances
 - Bring grantee FFR Cash on Hand (COH) balances to zero (\$0)

Post Implementation FFR Reconciliation



- Communication Plan
 - Phase I: Targeted Outreach/Collect Feedback
 - Phase II: General Outreach/Mass Communication
 - Phase III: Reconciliation/Getting Started Guides/General Preparation for Transition
- Training Plan
 - Pilot Group: Reconciliation/Pilot Implementation
 - Webinars: Live/Recorded
 - Online Help/Additional Training Documents

- What can you do now to prepare?
 - Reconcile the Cash on Hand (COH) balance reported on your quarterly FFR to the COH balance on your financial records
 - Identify any manual reconciliation items
 - Submit FFR each quarter by the due date
 - Bring operating COH balances as close to zero as possible

Items to Remember Until Implementation



- Single-Sign On technology implemented 06/03/2011
- As of January 2012, all financial functions** are only accessible through Research.gov. In addition to the quarterly FFR, these functions include:
 - Cash Requests
 - EFT Update

***Note: The non-FFR functions will still operate in a FastLane environment accessible via link from Research.gov*

Disclaimer:

The information and screen designs presented in the following use case scenario(s) represent preliminary designs and should not be considered final. This demo is intended for informational purposes only.

- [Use Case Demonstration](#)

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