Audit Ready: Prepping for Single Audit Success

Lucy Morgan, CPA, MBA, MyFedTrainer, LLC

Increased focus on accountability and performance in the federal grant regulations known as the Uniform Guidance are driving a more rigorous audit climate for grant recipients. This session walks through the Single Audit from the perspective of the auditee with insights into the auditor's "playbook" for a wide variety of federal grants. In this session, get practical steps you can take to avoid audit findings and strengthen key practices at your organization.

Building a Data Security Program Addressing the Current Threat Landscape

Trevor Krause, Crowe LLP

This session will discuss what the Department of Education has implemented related to data security over student data to receive Title IV funding including the program requirements and related audit procedures. With the scrutiny over data security continuing to increase, protecting your sensitive grant information is critical. This session will focus on how you can establish a documented data security program focused on threat vulnerability and intelligence, incident response, employee awareness and 3rd party management.

Certification for Grant Professionals - All About the CGMS

Cynthia Branch, CGMS, American Medical Association & Shelly Slebrch, NGMA

Come hear an overview of the Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS) certification. The CGMS credential is extremely important in validating the knowledge of grant professionals, especially as it relates to the full lifecycle of grants management. In this session, participants will understand the inception of the credential, the application process, exam registration and testing processes. Attendees will also explore how the Grants Management Body of Knowledge (GMBoK) training and Guide can aid and assist in CGMS exam readiness.

Changes to the Grant Administration System by the Current Administration

Nicole Bacon, Esq. & Edward "Ted" Waters, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

Every Administration makes changes to the system of federal grants administration and the current Administration is no exception. This session will review, from a legal perspective, grant administration initiatives in place by April of 2019 as well as final or proposed changes to specific grant programs such as Title X, appropriation riders, programmatic reviews and other actions that may affect the job of a grant administrator.

Current Enforcement Environment and Pitfalls for Federal Grantees

Kendra Norwood & Brian Walsh, Esq., Wiley Rein

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in scrutiny of federal grants and grantees by agency Offices of Inspectors General and the Department of Justice in an attempt to ensure compliance with grant terms and conditions, as well as combat fraud, waste and abuse. This environment has created increased legal risks for all grantees, including nonprofit organizations. This session will cover the key areas that these enforcement authorities are investigating.

Dial M for Memo

Karen Norris, kanoco

If you work in the grants community, you know to follow the uniform guidance. Most also know to review the program statute that created the grant and the federal agency regulation. These three sets of federal regulations are key resources for requirements. But what about another resource found in Presidential Memoranda? The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) releases these memos on behalf of the President for federal agencies, but these memos can reveal so much more. They serve as a forerunner or precursor to important grant reforms that could soon follow through legislation or updates to the uniform guidance. Sharpen your skills, whether you're with a federal agency or a nonfederal entity, and learn how Presidential memos can forecast what's to come. Knowledge in advance helps us prepare. As the age-old proverb states, forewarned is forearmed.

Disaster Recovery Grants Management Transparency, Efficiency and Accountability

Gloria Boria-Vizcarrondo, Puerto Rico Public-Private Partnerships Authority & Kathy Schwerdtfeger, Deloitte

Insights into the first year of a pass-through entities (Puerto Rico's) journey to establish a comprehensive risk intelligent, disaster recovery grants management organization that is compliant with Federal and Government of Puerto Rico rules and regulations and as Puerto Rico seeks to "Carry out the most transparent, efficient, and accountable disaster recovery process in American history".

Enterprise Grants Management – One State's Journey
Stacie Massey, OMB Ohio

The State of Ohio is currently working on a project to streamline grants administration. The Enterprise Grants Management Project is modernizing the State's grants management processes and systems, strengthening state-wide grants management operations and improving State user experiences through the enablement of an enterprise grants technology. This session will discuss the history of the project, capabilities being built, challenges and lessons learned, and factors that should be considered when entering a project of this magnitude.

Evaluating Your Systems to Support Federal Grant Funding
Glenn Anstead, CPA & Jean Gilbert, CPA, Raffa Tech

There are a host of systems and solutions that are marketed to federally funded nonprofit organizations. They range from basic accounting software to extensive "ERP solutions". New systems with "sexy" features compete with older systems that are well established. The costs of systems vary dramatically. Join this interactive session on the major considerations for evaluating systems and solutions. The focus of the presentation is on how you can compare solutions to each other and to your requirements. Our discussions will be not be focused on any specific software systems. This is not a sales demo! Instead, "an educated consumer is our best customer!"

From Buzzwords to Reality: How New Technologies Will Shape the Future of Grants Management
Mike Atassi, Deloitte Consulting & Mike Peckham, HHS

In this session, we will take the audience on a tour of new technologies that most hear about, but are not sure if and how they apply. Technologies such as Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Design Thinking, Human-Centered Design, Social Media Integration, Cloud Computing, etc. hold several promises. We will explore if any of them present a "game-changer" for grants management. We will also explore applying approaches that minimize risks and maximize returns on investment.

Get Ready for GREAT Grant Reporting!
Jenata Spencer, REI Systems & TBD President, Data Foundation

Goals: Build support for the replacement of document-based reporting with data-centric; Build awareness of pending federal policy changes which will replace document-based reports with standardized data; Help grant managers and administrators prepare for pending policy changes to avoid needless expense once the changes are imposed. Outline: Introduction to data in government; History and impact of the DATA Act; How the DATA Act led to the GREAT Act; What the DATA Act and the Great Act mean for grant reporting; How State/Municipal governments can prepare and benefit.

Grant Fraud Update
Ken Dieffenbach, US Department of Justice OIG

This session will provide an update on current issues related to grant fraud including trends, recent False Claims Act settlements and criminal convictions, and fraud prevention strategies.

Grant Funded Challenges: Mastering the Obstacle Course
Rochelle McLaurin, MBA & Kimberly Morones, MPH, CHES, Heluna Health

For many of us managing grants today, our once smooth, effective process has become an obstacle course of challenges. Acquiring the grant is only the first step in an increasingly complex process. For many organizations, preparing to manage multiple grants has turned into a bottleneck of redundant tasks and red flags. This interactive workshop will share how to fine tune your grant management processes to avoid common pitfalls and disasters.

Grant Management for Superheroes (How to Keep Track of Everything and Make it Look Easy!)
Ethan Baker, Bay Area UASI, and Kimberly House, Division Manager, City of Houston, Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Being a grant manager is not for the faint of heart- explaining grant requirements to applicants and treading carefully around political mine fields is difficult! After competing priorities are resolved and funds awarded, subrecipient management involves both program and fiscal staff to track all expenses, submit timely claims and reports, and meet deadlines. So, what is the best way to work collaboratively and complete the process? Is it spreadsheets, online or both? The cities of Houston, NY and San Francisco will share their experiences.

Grant-Ready: Grants Management 101 - Uniform Guidance Style
Lucy Morgan, CPA, MBA, MyFedTrainer LLC

The Uniform Guidance created a radically different grant management landscape for federal grant recipients. This easy-to-understand session walks through the basics of successfully managing your federal grant post-award. Walk through a simple roadmap for grant management that clears the path through the confusing jungle of federal regulations. Hear real-life examples to demonstrate how good grants can go bad when key practices are missing.

Grants Risk Management: The Nexus of ERM and Grants Accountability
Suzanne Auerbach, Office of Federal Assistance Management, HRSA, DHHS & Echo Wang, DSFederal, Inc.

Today, buzz words like "enterprise risk management" (ERM) and "accountability" abound in the public and private sectors. But how do they really work operationally? Faced with an $11 billion budget for grant programs but finite internal resources to manage them, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) sought a way to use risk management to improve accountability and oversight of grants. Seeking a risk-based, data driven approach to strategic decisions, HRSA embarked on a one-of-a-kind assessment of current risks and related risk management practices, and the development of risk tools for decision makers. This session will provide a case study for operationalizing risk management in the grants world. Those seeking to integrate risk management into their operations will hear about project challenges and successes, key risk findings and recommendations, and considerations when taking on such a project.

How Do I Get Started in Managing My Federal Award?
Rachel Werner and Alexandra Rosenblatt, RBW Strategy, LLC

Organizations that receive an influx of funding or are grateful to receive their first government grant can be overwhelmed by the reporting and administrative requirements (including adherence to 2 CFR 200). In this session, attendees will get a step by step framework that covers: What should be contained in your electronic file; the differences between government vs. non-government award requirements; policies and procedures to have in place; and preparing for future funding.

How to Conduct a Control Self-Assessment
Tiffany Kesslar, Esq. & Steven Spillan, Esq., Brustein & Manasevit, PLLC

This session will discuss effective ways for non-federal entities to test their own internal controls for ensuring compliance with federal rules and regulations for administering federal programs. Rather than relying on outside auditors or program monitors, whose findings often come with monetary liabilities, this session will discuss strategies for assessing your own entities' risk of noncompliance, giving you and your staff time to put corrective actions in place before specific costs are questioned.

Improper Payments Report Act
Leigh Manasevit, Esq., Brustein & Manasevit, PLLC

Federal agencies must assure compliant use of grant funds including consequences when nonfederal entities are non-compliant. Policies and procedures that are non-compliant risk consequences, including the loss of awards. This session will review the legal and regulatory background of improper payments requirements; what improper payments are; review their treatment under the UGG and provide examples of improper payments. Also covered, auditor responsibilities to determine and review improper payments, including examples of Inspector General reports on agency compliance.

Improving the Monitoring of Large, Complex Federally Funded Grants and Contracts
Phil Maestri, US Dept. of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Lucy Mungle, US Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, & Lori Pilcher, US Department of Health Human Services, Office of the Inspector General

Increased scrutiny of large, complex grants and contracts require that agencies better assess their project risks, develop mitigation strategies and monitor outcomes. The Uniform Guidance also requires the assessment of risks related to subrecipients. This session will present proven techniques used to determine the risks of recipients of federal funds and to monitor and report on subrecipients and contractors.

Make a Procurement Path: Roadmap to Updated Procurement Levels, Documentation, and Contracts
Wendi Gephart, ETR

Keep all your procurement costs allowable by learning, using, and developing organizational policies and procedures designed to document and comply with Uniform Guidance regulations. Attendees will leave with a solid understanding of federal procurement, and sample contracts, policies and procedures to adapt to their specific needs. Bring your current procurement policies and procedures, as well as sample contracts to share with your table mates for feedback.

My Boss is Going to Hell or Jail: An Everyday Survival Guide for Grant Professionals
Johna Rodgers, GPC, Johna Rodgers Consulting, LLC

The boss has done it again. He made a questionable decision likely to lead to tons of questions by the auditor—or the Inspector General. What to do, what to do?! Tell someone? Keep quiet? Ask the boss? The CFO? Bury your head in the sand or start a new career at McDonalds? We'll use a bit of humor to address issues of everyday ethics and job security we all face when decision-making turns ugly.

Negotiating an Indirect Cost Rate – Making Dollars & Sense of It All
Mark Stout, MBA, Dept. of Interior – Interior Business Center – Office of Indirect Cost Services

I am applying for grant award, and there is a line item for indirect costs. What is an indirect cost? How do I know how much to claim? Once I prepare a proposal, to whom do I submit it? Just as importantly, when is it due? This presentation seeks to de-mystify indirect costs and provide some basic information about the process of preparing and submitting an indirect cost proposal and negotiating an indirect cost rate.

Now the Next Act: What the New Legislation and Laws Mean to Grant Management Professionals
Andrea Brandon, US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants and Acquisition Policy and Accountability, Bert Nuehring, Crowe LLP, & TBD

There is more to managing grants than understanding the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. The DATA Act, Gone Act, GREAT Act, Grant Act, and the President's Management Agenda have all introduced new requirements for grant managers. This session will provide information about implementing these new laws and learning about potential changes due to upcoming legislation and initiatives.

Present & Future of Grants.gov – Learn About Useful Features and Get a Preview of Future Enhancements
Ed Calimag, Grants.gov

Learn about the latest updates to Grants.gov! You will receive training on the existing system and learn about key, time-saving features. You will also hear about what's next for Grants.gov—the leader in the federal grants space—as the organization's leaders discuss how recent improvements and your feedback are preparing for the next-generation system of a transformed Grants.gov.

Recent Legal Cases Affecting Grants Administration
Phillip Escoriaza & Edward "Ted" Waters, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

Each year there are numerous important judicial, legislative, and administrative decisions that address all aspects of federal grant law. These decisions shape the way the law is interpreted and ultimately applied by federal grantees. This session, led by experienced federal grants attorneys, will discuss the important rulings that have occurred over the last year and their impact on federal grantees.

Subrecipient Monitoring: Strategies, Best Practices, and Techniques
L'Kel Little, Esq. & Scott Sheffler, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

This session will provide a background on subrecipient monitoring requirements under the Uniform Guidance, then proceed to a discussion of operationalizing those requirements. Join these attorneys are they focus on practical implementation, cost-effective strategies, and key aspects of oversight necessary to proper grant management. Discussion will include both important subrecipient agreement terms and practical implementation of resulting monitoring activities.

Supporting A Risk-Based Management Approach with the 3Ps
B. John Masters, Grant Governance Inc.

Grants professionals are constrained by the realities of time and limited resources. It is not possible to monitor every project. By adopting a risk-based approach, PTEs can allocate resources for the greatest impact. One way to evaluate the risk of a specific award is 3P Risk-based management. It's a way to consolidate 3 primary areas of risk into a consolidated view of risk for a specific award: Project/Program Risk, Past Performance, Policy/Management Systems

Surviving an OIG Audit Your First Day on the Job (True Story)
Amanda Day, GPC, Consultant

My first day on the job as a local government's first grants administrator I was tasked with cleaning up a recently completed OIG Audit of a COPS grant. Learn firsthand experience about the fallout from a mismanaged program, how to prove supplanting did not take place, and what to expect throughout the process. With assistance from an involved finance department, each finding was closed and the local government continued to receive federal funding without further restrictions.

Technical Assistance Is a Two-Way Street
Nancy Eyl & Julie Lawhorn, Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission has developed a proactive and collaborative program to provide technical assistance to grant applicants and recipients, and partners from federal, state, and local agencies. In this panel, a grants manager and attorney will discuss how multidisciplinary collaboration increases capacity, enhances compliance and oversight, and improves outcomes. Panelists will discuss their experiences using social media platforms, video snapshots, "strategic labs," and legal updates. They also will discuss designing an electronic grants management system in-house and implementing a new competitive grants program from scratch. The panel will involve audience participation.

The Complexity of Grants
Heather Pullen, Langton Consulting

In this presentation we will explore the step-by-step process of developing a Federal, State and Private Foundation grant application from solicitation to submission. In addition, this presentation will provide an overview of the next steps you can expect to take when your grant application is awarded or not awarded.

The End of the Road - Understanding Grant Closeout
Glenn McCormick, CGMS, Broward County Administration

After all the work that has gone into researching, applying for, accepting and implementing a grant program, properly closing out a grant is an equally critical fourth leg of the grant cycle. The course will address options as closeout approaches like no-cost extensions and deobligation, the Uniform Guidance's Post Award requirements for closeout, the final performance and financial reports and how to avoid common mistakes, and continuing responsibilities once an award has been closed out.

The Good Auditors: Partnering with Internal Audit to Enhance Grants Management
Eric Russell, CGMS, CIA, CGAP, MPA, Crowe LLP & Vanita King CPA, CIA, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Oh no, the auditors are coming! Quite often, the concept of being audited triggers a negative reaction for grants managers. However, through a strategic partnership with your internal audit departments, grants and contracts managers in your organization have an opportunity to identify and mitigate risks of fraud, waste, abuse, and noncompliance. In addition, collaborating with internal audit to incorporate grants-related activities into the annual audit plan and enterprise risk management process may allow your organization to efficiently and effectively monitor subrecipients, maximize revenue, and meet the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200.303, Internal Controls, without requiring additional external resources or operating funding. During this session, we will discuss how internal audit departments have assisted grants managers throughout the country, strategize around approaches to maximize the benefit received during internal audits, and discuss methods of incorporating federal awards into the audit plan without requiring additional unplanned effort and resources.

The New Procurement Standards: Compliance and Best Practices for the Beginner
Dan Durst & Sean O'Connor, Capital Edge Consulting

The Compliance Supplement has been updated, audit teams are preparing, but are organizations complying with the Procurement Standards? The Uniform Guidance contains certain standards with which all organizations are required to comply when acquiring property or services with federal funds. If your organization has not implemented the new Procurement Standards this is a can't-miss session. We will discuss the purpose and applicability of the standards, required procurement methods, and the audit criteria that will be applied.

The New Procurement Standards: Compliance and Best Practices for the Advanced
Dan Durst & Sean O'Connor, Capital Edge Consulting

As a follow up to the biginner session, let's take a deeper dive into the practical application of the Procurement Standards and cover Elements of Full and Open Competition; Required Procurement Policies; Pre-Procurement Review Process; Roles and Responsibilities of Key Individuals; Operational Workflow for Each Method of Procurement; How to Conduct Cost or Price Analysis; Adequately Documenting Procurements; and Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them.

The Odyssey - Developing a Grant Policy and Guide
Patrick Ballinger, Pasco County, Board of County Commissioners

Much like Odysseus from Homer's Odyssey, it may feel like you have undertaken a ten-year journey developing a robust grant policy for your entity to meet the demands of 2 CFR 200. This session is designed to provide the framework and guidance for achieving your own grants compliance in an entertaining and interactive experience where you can share your own heroic tales and challenges in taking on this herculean quest.

The Similarities and Differences Between Grants and Acquisitions
Andrea Brandon, US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants and Acquisition Policy and Accountability

To Increase or Not to Increase: Considerations in Implementing the 2018 MPT and SAT Thresholds for Your Procurements
Nicole Bacon, Esq. & Scott Sheffler, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

This session will provide background on contract value thresholds applicable under the Uniform Guidance Procurement Standards, discuss calculation of contract values, and explain recent statutory increases to the thresholds, culminating with OMB Memo M-18-18, which raised the micro-purchase threshold to $10,000 and simplified acquisition threshold to $250,000 for all grantees. Attorneys will then moderate a grantee-focused discussion of whether, and how much, to increase the thresholds set forth in internal grantee policies.

True Cost for Sustainability and Impact - Knowing Your Indirect Cost and How to Calculate
Nicolie Lettini, eCivis

Uniform Guidance is in effect, knowing and understanding your true cost is important. What's the difference of indirect cost and direct cost? How do you calculate your indirect cost to assure your maximum reimbursement? Does it really matter now with the 10% de-minimum? We will work a case study on Indirect Costs, different methods of calculating it, what it means to grants and how it can affect the sustainability of your organization and impact you can achieve.

Understanding How Cost Allocation Can Work in Your Favor - Part I – Overview
Carol Kraus, Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget & Chris Mower, Crowe LLP

Understanding how to allocate and track your costs is a key element in recovering as much as possible from your grants and awards. In this two-part session, this session will cover an overview of Uniform Guidance requirements and the methodologies utilized to allocate costs. Part II will concentrate on providing examples and interactive case studies using different approaches to allocating costs and how the different methodologies impact the costs you recover.

Understanding How Cost Allocation Can Work in Your Favor - Part II - Detailed Examples
Carol Kraus, Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget & Chris Mower, Crowe LLP

Understanding how to allocate and track your costs is a key element in recovering as much as possible from your grants and awards. In this two-part session, Part I covered an overview of Uniform Guidance requirements and the methodologies utilized to allocate costs. This session will concentrate on providing examples and interactive case studies using different approaches to allocating costs and how the different methodologies impact the costs you recover.

What Should be Included in Your Procurement Policy to be Compliant with the Uniform Guidance
Paul Calabrese, Rubino & Company

In developing your procurement policy, have you considered the following items? Defining a contract; Difference between contracts and sub-awards; Acquisition of equipment and supplies; Prescribed levels of purchasing and statutory thresholds; Micro-purchase; Small purchase procedures; Procurement by competitive proposals; Pre-Award Evaluation; Competitive bids; Sole source; Post-award monitoring; What kind of forms are required.

What's new with the Payment Management System

Nicole Dunning, Chief, University and Non-Profit Payment Section, HHS/PSC/Payment Management Services & Mausami Kothari, Supervisory Financial Management Specialist, Program Support Center

Did you know that the Payment Management System has APEX reports that can be downloaded into Excel? Did you know that you can request a payment using the bulk file upload process? Did you know about the improvements to the Federal Financial Report? This session will discuss the changes that have been made, what changes are coming and what has been available.

Where's My Money

E. Davis Barth & Poupée Kim, Grant Thornton LLP

This session will cover the mysteries behind the FEMA reimbursement process within the Public Assistance Program.
The session will cover the common mistakes that can delay subrecipient payments. It will provide the grant specialist with an understanding of what gets paid and what gets delayed and an insiders view of the reimbursement process, cost validation and compliance monitoring.