

Iowa Department of Management

Technology Reinvestment Fund Appropriations Status Report

December 2013

Project:

Iowa Grants Management Implementation Project – IowaGrants.gov (Appropriation DA8)

Background

Iowa's state agencies award in excess of 15,000 grants each year using varying methods for awarding and managing the grants. Most approaches involve massive paper shuffling, redundancy and complex spreadsheets.

IowaGrants.gov electronically manages the

- grant posting (through the Grant Notification Portal),
- application,
- selection,
- award/contracting,
- monitoring,
- communications,
- modification,
- reporting,
- close-out,
- financial management processes
- **Configurable** - to accommodate the unique requirements involved in managing each grant program.

Budget constraints in all sectors of government are influencing the need to streamline processes and move toward better transparency regarding how tax dollars are spent.

In addition to this.....The federal Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act), which has bi-partisan congressional support, will

- require recipient and sub-recipient reporting of grants dollars received and how they were spent.
- Full implementation of IowaGrants.gov will provide the mechanism necessary for the state to report centrally

Several agencies are in various stages of implementing IowaGrants.gov:

- Department of Commerce, Professional Licensing
- Department of Cultural Affairs
- Department of Economic Development
- Department of Education

- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Defense
 - Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
 - Mitigation
- Department of Public Safety
- Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service
- Office of Drug Control Policy
 - To Date:
 - Submitted applications: 1,854
 - Awards: 1,634 actual applications, 1,791 awards managed – total 3,425
 - Total Amount Awarded: \$192,616,407

Benefits to State Government and its sub-grantees

IowaGrants.gov

- significantly reduces the amount of time agencies spend on the process of awarding and managing grants.
- State also has a responsibility to serve 15,000+ sub-grantee customers in a consistent, customer-focused manner.
- Imperative that all state government funding opportunities be easily identifiable and applications accessible and straightforward.

Additional benefits for both the state and its sub-grantees:

- 24-hour, on-line access to information.
- Reduced costs associated with procuring and administering grants and processing applications;
- Simplified grant application and administration;
- Reduction of application errors;
- Improved communication between applicant and grantors;
- Improved accessibility to grant information ensuring accountability to boards, commissions, stakeholders and citizens;
- Transparency of Iowa's grant making process and resource allocation;
- Access to a rich source of project and financial information for strategic planning, benchmarking, and performance-based budgeting;

New Features

- connecting IowaGrants.gov with the **I3 Financial System**, to provide a seamless process for payment of claims to subgrantees
- Grant Tracking Module which will allow agencies to report and track the grants they are applying for and receive.
 - Will include funds available to administer the grants and federal staffing information for each grant received.