



Governor's Grants Office
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
(410) 697-9689

**MEGA Council Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, April 8, 2021**

➤ **Greeting & Roll Call:** *Jennifer Colton*

➤ **Enterprise Grants Management Solution (EGMS) Project Update,** *Grants Office*

Procurement: Jennifer provided an update on the current status of the Procurement of a vendor and solution for implementation of a statewide grants management solution. Questions arose regarding the potential engagement by the nonprofit community in the procurement activities. The RFP and functional requirement was requested by the group.

Action Taken: on April 9, 2021, Jennifer Colton, Robert (Bob) Gleason (Chief Procurement Officer) and Jamie Tomaszewski (Chief Administrative Officer) discussed the options for external engagement at this phase in the procurement process. It was determined that we would be unable to pause the procurement process or include external stakeholders at this stage. An effort to create opportunities for engagement from this point forward is in the works through the scheduling of forums, webinars and / open meetings once the vendor is selected and prior to implementing a solution. During the meeting, Jamie pointed the Council to the eMMA website to access the RFP for the EGMS. [on the eMMA website, if you search the status of “closed” solicitations, item BPM021358 can be located, as well as all of the documents publicly available regarding this procurement].

Data Collection / Business Process Analysis: There was discussion around the opportunity for the nonprofit community to engage and contribute in the data collection and business analysis process efforts underway with the project; clarity was requested around the expectations and contributions by the nonprofit community and how they will be incorporated into the project scope, development, and implementation.

Action Taken: Through a series of workgroups, we will capture information from stakeholders regarding recommendations for improvements which could reduce the burden to recipients on grants management, understand “pain points”, and increase engagement, transparency, and accessibility.



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➤ **Grants Lifecycle Working Groups**

Volunteers / Team Leads: John Brothers (Speaker of the House designee / nonprofit representative) volunteered to help facilitate the first work group which will focus on improving and standardizing the application process for grants in Maryland. Kathryn Dilly (nonprofit rep.), Mary Abraham (state agency), Lesley MacDonald (nonprofit rep) and Jenn Gallicchio (state agency) all volunteered to participate and engage in this effort. A meeting will be arranged in the next few weeks to kick off this discussion / engagement. Documents will be provided to help facilitate this process and provide a starting point for the discussion.

➤ **Federal Government Initiatives:** *Grants Office*

Updates: The Federal Government is in the process of streamlining and updating grants management processes, systems, and activities, as well. This is an ongoing effort that will surely have a continued impact on state grants management practices in the future.

Action Taken: Jennifer spoke with a contact at the US Department of Health and Human Services, the largest federal grant making entity. They are willing to present at a future meeting regarding the activities taking place in the federal government and how it aligns with the current state efforts.

***** This meeting was recorded in agreement with attendees and has been posted on the GGO Website for complete meeting details. *****

Next Meetings: July 8th & October 7th at 9:30 am