**Subrecipient Risk Assessment and Monitoring: Best Practices**

Managing subrecipients has proven a particular area of focus under the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (“Uniform Guidance”). Grant awarding agencies have increased their expectations, looking specifically for proof of risk assessments and subsequent monitoring steps. This presentation will discuss requirements, provide practical strategies that grantees can use to mitigate risk in subrecipient relationships, and illustrate how grantees can significantly increase their controls without creating undue administrative burden.

***Presenters****: Scott Sheffler and Edward Waters, Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP*

**Successful Coordination of Grantor Pre-Award Tasks**

The pre-award phase of grant program administration and management can be high volume and high stress. Come learn and share best practices and innovative ideas for working smarter, not harder each step of the way. We’ll dive deep into the pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle – from the initial planning meeting and application compliance reviews to reviewer solicitation, panel management, and decision notifications – and discussing strategies to streamline workflows, reduce administrative burden, and drive efficiencies.

***Presenter****: Rebecca Pitkow, Guardians of Honor*

**Grants Financial and Program Management Best Practices**

According to US grants.org, the federal government and Maryland's Office of Finance have set aside approximately $12 million and $10 million, respectively, in government financial aid for Marylanders. Grant managers and recipients should implement sound fiscal and program management controls and deliver efficient and effective mission-critical services while ensuring compliance with laws and regulations. Attendees will hear lessons learned from grants audits and the best practices for managing grants from fiscal and program management perspectives.

***Presenters****: Justice Sakyi and John Yakaitis, HPBS, LLC*

**Grant Writing**

Grants can provide resources for your projects, but there are always strings attached. Grant

writing requires knowledge and skill. Understanding the criteria and how grants are reviewed

and scored can inform the development of a more competitive proposal. In this session we will discuss 1) Raising awareness of federal requirements, priorities, and selection criteria, 2) how to recognize the difference between merit and risk reviews, 3) Identify differences between federal and private grants, 4) Locate sources for grant opportunities. ***Presenter****: Karen Norris*

**Preparedness and Disaster Assistance**

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management oversees the grants that Maryland receives to assist with preparedness, mitigation, and recovery efforts. The Department works with state and local agencies in ensuring funds are being used appropriately and are increasing preparedness and resilience levels in Maryland. Discussion today will focus on preparedness and disaster assistance.

***Presenters****: Danielle Whitestone, Cait Whiteleather, Nora Lagola, Jessica Nusbaum, Maryland Department of Emergency Management*

**Grants Quality Services Management Office: Program Overview**

The Grants Management Quality Service Management Office (QSMO) was formally designated in January 2021 to transform government-wide grants management end-to-end. Presentation will focus on the Grants QSMO current initiatives, their path ahead, and gather insights from Maryland State recipients on how the Grants QSMO can best improve federal grants management for recipients and applicants.

***Presenters****: Andrea Sampanis and Mary Beth Foley, Grants Management Quality Service Management Office*

**Understanding the Performance Playbook: how you can use performance management best practices to tell your grant program’s story**

The Performance Management Playbook (“Playbook”) enables federal agencies to effectively tell the STORY of a grant by incorporating evidence-based practices and performance measurement. This session will identify the key concepts of this important resource most applicable grant-making entities, highlight universal best practices in performance management, and guide participants through a hands-on “performance outcome mapping” activity based on a DOJ grant.

***Presenter****: Lydia Kidder, Summit LLC*

**Fraud and Federal Grants: Enforcement Update**

From financial conflicts of interest to foreign

disclosure requirements, enforcement authorities have ramped up grant compliance investigations, and grant recipients must understand the risks of criminal, civil and administrative actions relating to fraud or other violations of law. This session will cover the tools available to the government when investigating suspected allegations of fraud, examples of recent enforcement actions and OIG areas of focus, and best practices for avoiding such allegations altogether.

***Presenter****: Kathy S. Ghiladi and Mindy B. Pava*, *Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP*

**Indirect Cost Rate Issues between Pass-Through Entities and Nonprofits**

This session will explore the following topics: Negotiating indirect rates with Pass-Through Entities (PTE) and alternative indirect cost recovery methods; Applying the PPP Loan Forgiveness credit; sub-awards and the MTDC allocation base; DC and MD State rules for PTEs; Uniform Guidance FAQs regarding indirect rates for States and Municipalities; Recently issued FAQs that impact indirect rates and cost recovery, and other related indirect rate matters for nonprofits.

***Presenter****: Paul Calabrese, GRF CPA’s and Advisors*

**American Rescue Plan, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Projects in Maryland: An overview on the portfolio, subrecipient reporting, and open data tools**

The State of Maryland was allocated $9.2 billion from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). $3.717 billion of it is for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). As of June 30, 2022, the state has allocated (budgeted) $3.543 billion (95%) for SLFRF on 28 projects including 89 subprojects. And has spent (expenditures) $2.482 billion (67%). This session will provide an overview of the projects, subrecipient reports, and open data tools to make compliance easier. For example, aligning outcomes to outputs, and sourcing demographic data from the state’s open data portal to compare with subrecipient performance data. We will also review the U.S. Treasury compliance and reporting requirements and how the value of subrecipient program evaluations is used to communicate results to state and federal leadership.

***Presenter****: Mike Morello, Recovery Performance Management Consultant*

**The ARPA Post Award Monitoring Challenge**

ARPA awarding brought challenges for states who provided funding to support nonprofits. No matter what stage of the award, monitoring is needed to ensure nonprofits comply with ARPA requirements. During this presentation, we will discuss the case of a Pass-Through Entity that overcame some of these challenges by creating a monitoring and reporting tool that allowed for Desk Review with fewer onsite visits and providing the necessary documentation for a smooth closeout process.

***Presenter****: Carmen A. “Mely” Torres, On Point Strategy, LLC*

**Go or No-Go? A Guide to Deciding Which Federal Grants are right for you**

Federal grants are an excellent source of multi-year funding that can help organizations dramatically grow. But the application process is resource intensive. During this session, you will test-drive a simple, timesaving “Go or No-Go” decision-making framework for federal grant seekers that will help you and your organization’s leadership quickly decide if a grant opportunity is a good fit or a dead-end.

***Presenter****: Dondra Ward, Sidnae Global Research*

**Time and Effort Documentation**

The most common compliance finding for federal grant recipients is a failure to adequately document the time and effort of the grantee’s personnel. Fundamentally a requirement designed to ensure reasonable allocation of personnel costs, time and effort requirements are often misunderstood. This session will focus on the purpose of time and effort, defensible systemic approaches under current standards, and a discussion of common mistakes.

***Presenter****: Edward Waters,* *Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP*

**Earmarking**

Earmarks set funds aside for specific projects, bypassing traditional grant solicitations, and

have been part of the federal budget process since the first Congress in 1789. Because of past

controversies, Congress passed a temporary moratorium on earmarks in 2011, later re-instated

in 2021. Earmarks may be an alternative for your projects. In this session we will discuss 1) Raising awareness of earmarks, 2) Identifying steps in the earmark process, 3) Determining if earmarks are applicable for your organization.

*Presenter: Karen Norris*

**Maryland’s Response: Using Grant Funding to Address the Opioid Crisis**

This session will describe how the Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) uses grant funding at the state and local level to promote comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address the opioid crisis. Since 2017, the OOCC has used block and competitive grants to help state, local agencies, and private-sector partners bolster their efforts to reduce overdose mortality. This session will also address Maryland’s plan for using settlement funds from prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors.

***Presenter****: Robin Rickard, Opioid Operational Command Center*

**Trends in Federal Grant Funding**

During this session participants will learn about recent trends in federal grant funding and how to prepare their organization for what comes next. We will also discuss how the daily news cycle and politics shape funding opportunities and decisions, and ways an organization can respond to these changes without mission creep.

***Presenter****: Dondra Ward, Sidnae Global Research*

**Introduction to the EPA Office of Inspector General**

This presentation will be a brief overview of the EPA OIG and the type of work we do to combat fraud, waste and abuse as it pertains to EPA funds and programs. In addition to the overview, we will provide specific fraud indicators to be on the lookout for as well as case examples.

***Presenters****: Natalie Vowell and Jeremy Wier, Environmental Protection Agency – Office of Inspector General*

**How the Future of Data Standardization will Impact the State of Maryland**

The GREAT Act was designed to create efficiency and oversight in Federal grant spending by improving reporting practices and data collection, including adopting data standards. The Federal government is increasingly interested in using the Federal Integrated Business Framework (FIBF) as the core of data elements. This presentation focuses on how the State of Maryland can prepare for this change by standardizing data and processes for reporting to provide full visibility into compliance and outcomes.

***Presenters****: Adam Roth and Jason Yu, Amplifund*