



Current Federal Grants Landscape

DEBBIE PARKS - OZARKS AGA GRANTS
PRESENTATION

4/24/2025

For CPE Credit – Look for Check Point letters on Slides



Email to Teresa Allen (CGFM)
tallencgfm@gmail.com

Email letters to Teresa at end of
presentation

Agenda

Meet the presenter

Key Terms

Background

Be Calm!

Federal Freeze/Suspension

Non-Compliance Prevention

Grant Close Outs

Federal Fund Balances

Grant Policy Improvement

Upcoming Issues

The End

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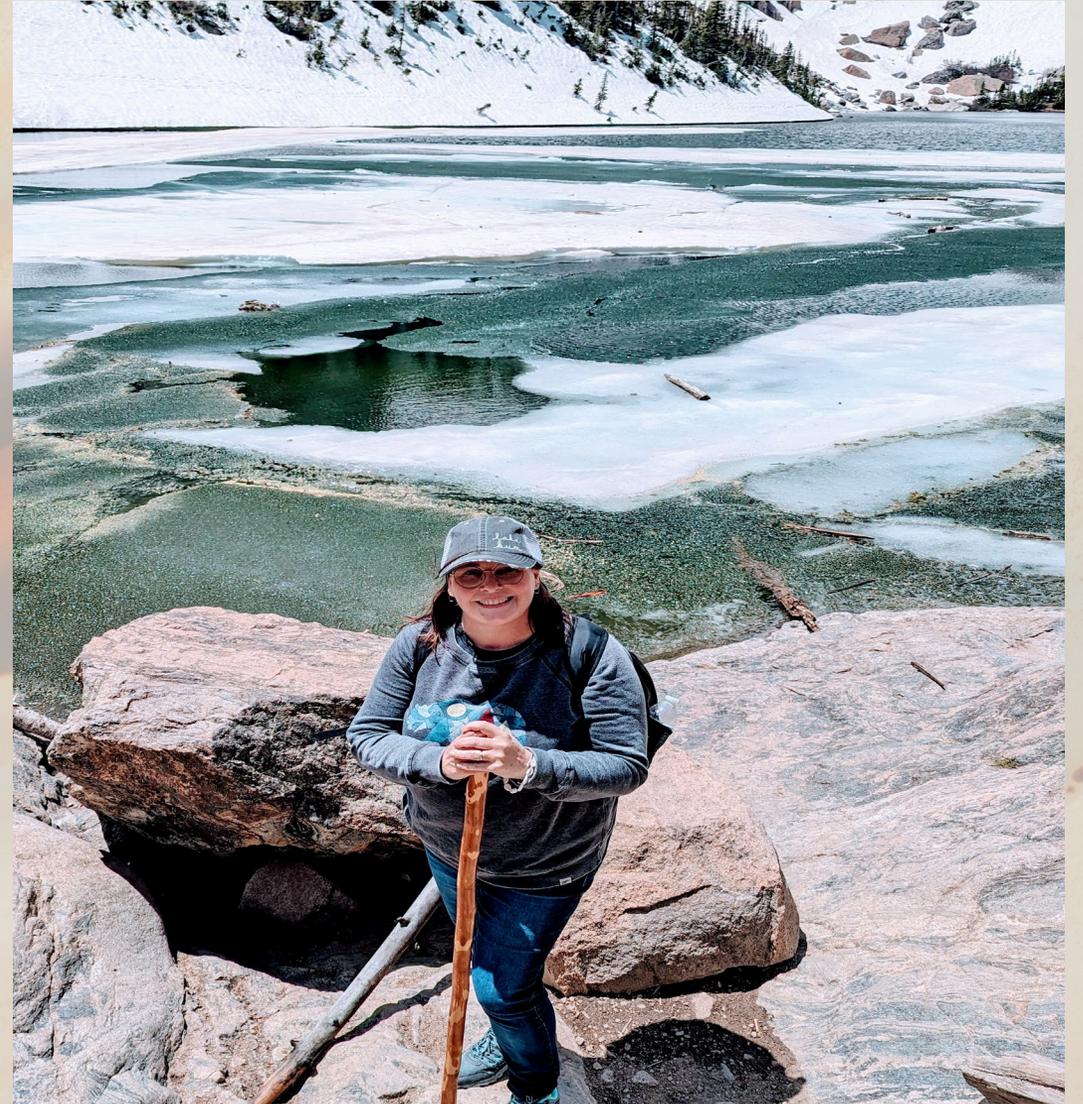
Meet the presenter



Debbie Parks

Debbie Parks is a Certified Grants Management Specialist with the National Grants Management Association (NGMA). Worked as Grants Administrator Ozarks Transportation Organization for 4.5 years and the City of Republic as Finance Director for 4.5 years. 7 Years as the Operations Manager of the OTO dealing with grant compliance.

None of this presentation is meant to be legal advice - always consult with your legal advisors.



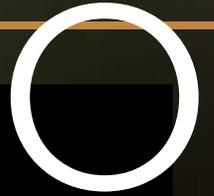
- Obligation – legal commitment by federal government
- Cognizant Agency – lead federal agency
- Formula funds – allocation of federal funding distributed by federal formula in the authorizing legislation

Background



President Trump issued Executive Orders January 20 and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issues a pause to federal funding on January 27. This was rescinded on January 29. Since then, there has been confusion in the grant realm.





Executive Orders In Place Effecting Grants

- Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, terminating all DEIA-funded grant programs and contracts;
- Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid, foreign assistance funding;
- Protecting the American People Against Invasion, freezes Department of Justice and Homeland Security programs and contracts pending immigration enforcement programs;
- Unleashing American Energy, freezing all programmatic funding for “green new deal” programs;
- Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation, Federal research or education grants aimed to end the practice.; and
- Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling, terminates funding for discriminatory treatment in K-12 Schools.

Be Calm!

- Rumors and Lobbying Information
 - Stay Informed
 - Keep your reimbursement invoices up to date - no lag time
 - Enhance your grant internal controls
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Grant Suspension or Cancellation

- No notice may be given
 - If direct recipient periodically log in to check if able to still draw down
 - If suspended or terminated must immediately notify subs and consultants
 - Communicate with your cognizant agency
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Changes Coming

- Push for Formula Funds - less Discretionary Grants
 - New Federal Budget will change the grants - will continue forward some grant funds, will eliminate other funding sources
 - Continuing Resolution
 - Unspent COVID funds may be taken back
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Federal Entities – Guide Grantees



Check if your grant is suspended/terminated	Stay Informed
Stay in Compliance - Check all the Boxes	Follow the updated Uniform Guidance or State Law (which every is more restrictive)



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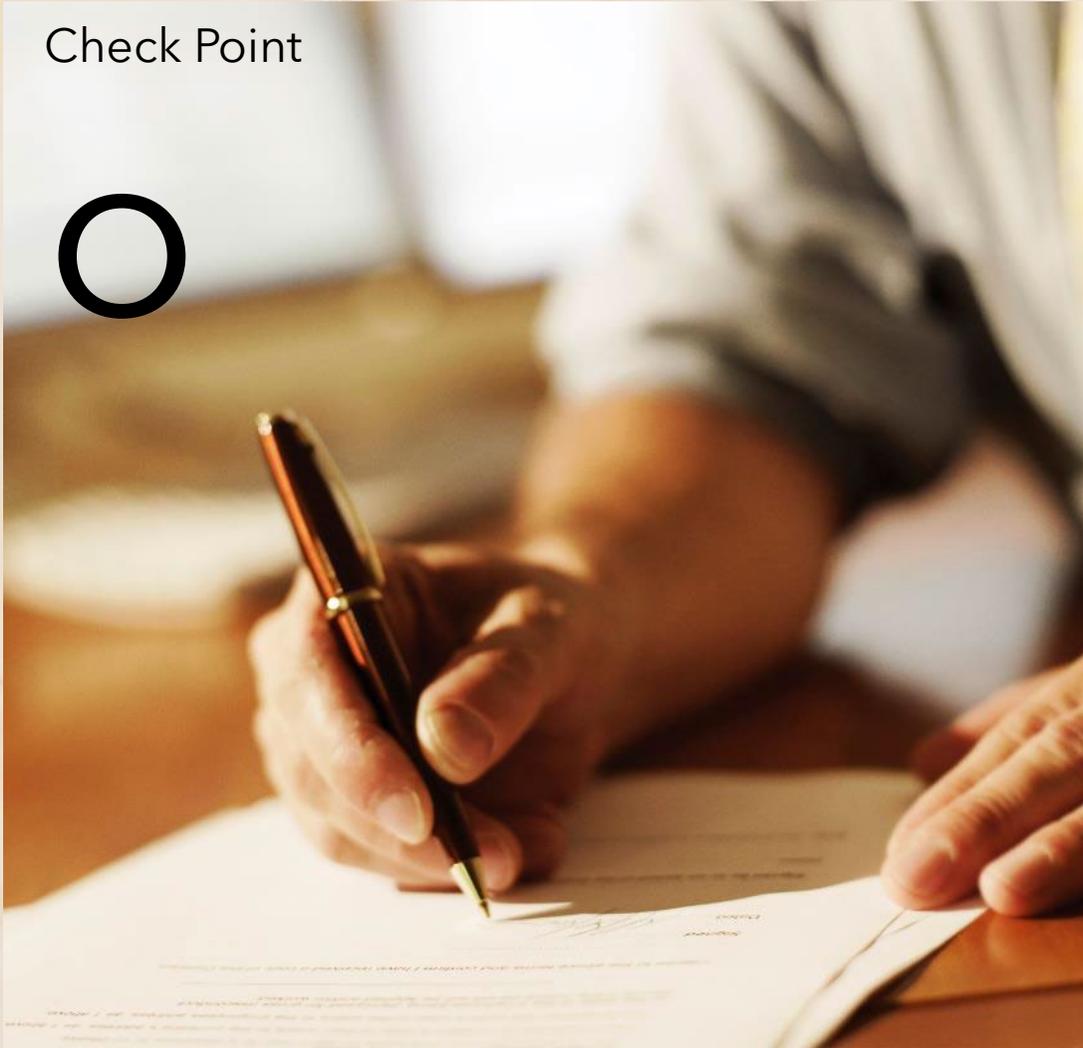
Non-Compliance Prevention



No. 1	Missing Documentation
No. 2	Non-Qualified Costs
No. 3	Unmet Program Goals

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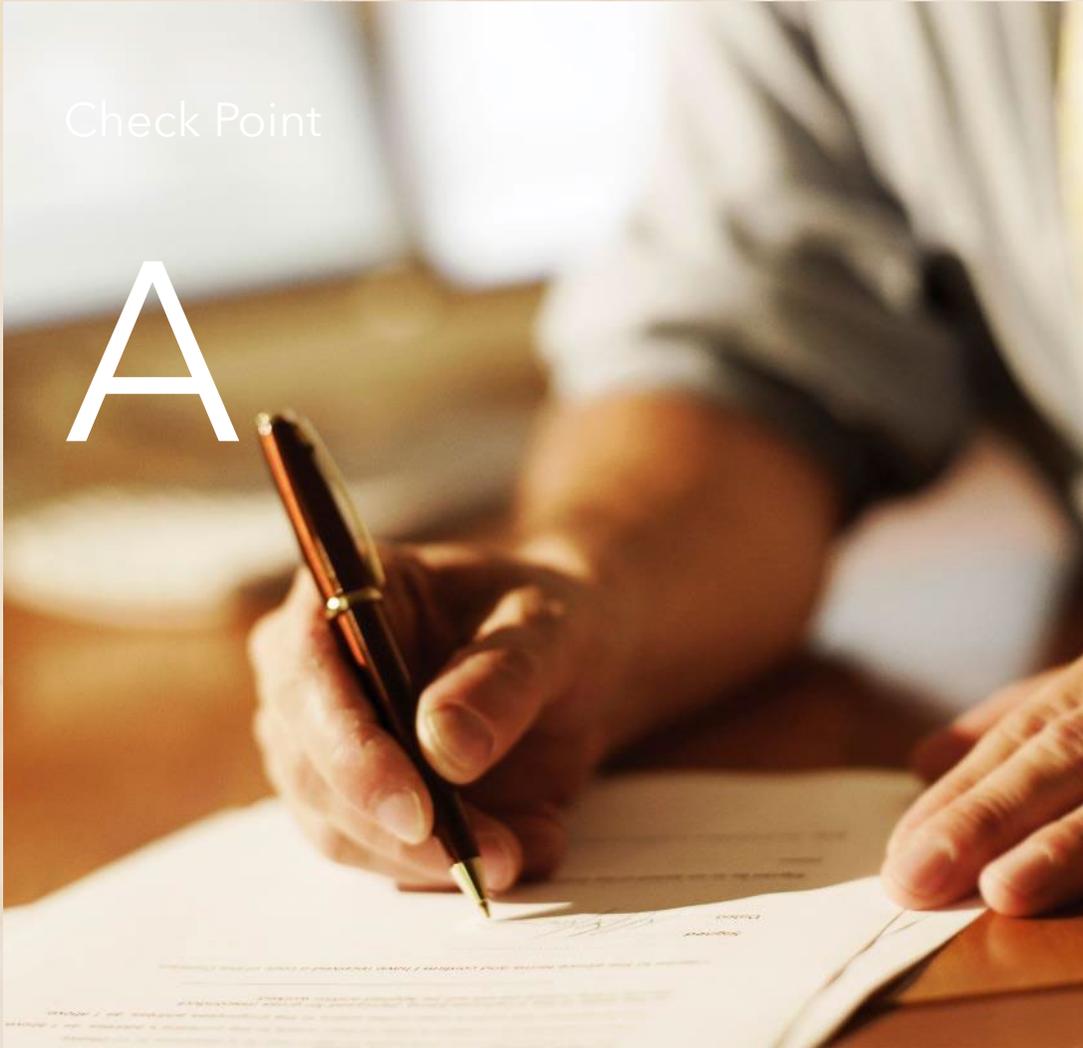
Non-Compliance Prevention Cont.



No. 4	Lack of Subrecipient Monitoring
No. 5	Lacking Internal Controls over Grant Programs
No. 6	Grant Reporting

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Non-Compliance Prevention Cont.



No. 7	Cancellation of Grants - Contract Terms on Termination of grant awards
No. 8	Document all decisions to not follow grant agreement if conflicting with Executive Orders
No. 9	Proper Grant Close Outs

Grant Close Out



Refund obligated funds if advanced	Liquidate your financial obligations, all federal adjustments
Keep your records for 3 years or longer if terminated	120 Days - Direct Recipient 60 to 90 Days - Subrecipient





Common Compliance Findings

No. 1	Missing Reports/Invoices
No. 2	Lack of Oversight of grant program and funds
No. 3	Financial annual reports not filed on time

Federal Fund Balances



No more than 1 year balance of federal funds	Funds can be clawed back if not obligated
Unobligated funds are not truly the entities	Once Obligated cannot generally be pulled back except for non-compliance

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Policy Improvements



Resolutions/Ordinances for grant applications	Contracting delays - taking a month or more for legal review
Streamline Finance and Legal processes to expedite	Federal contract language cannot usually be changed





Key Take Aways

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No. 1	Make sure your projects/awards are obligated.
No. 2	Make sure you follow your grant guidance 100%.
No. 3	Keep your expenditure to reimbursement timeline very short.



CURRENT GRANTS

SOME DISCRETIONARY GRANTS ARE BEING ISSUED THAT ARE IN CURRENT FUNDING BILLS. WILL BE SCRUBBED OF PRIOR ADMINISTRATION GOALS AND POLICES, WILL MATCH CURRENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS.



OTO has a grants webpage where transportation related grant information is updated.



Thank you

Ozarks AGA

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