October 2013 COGR Meeting Thursday Morning Presentation - Evon

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NSF ACM$ Conversion and Implementation
Michigan State University

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MSU Participation in Pilot Program

- MSU 1 of 36 early implementers of the new ACM$ System.
- MSU currently has about 500 active NSF accounts across approximately 380 awards.
- MSU draws funds for NSF accounts twice a month for an average of $5.5 million per month.
- MSU was drawing funds on a lump sum basis but changed to an account-by-account basis with new ACM$ System.
9/24/12 – First webinar for grantees interested in new ACM$
10/26/12 – Software for ACM$ completed
11/19/12 – Functionality testing of ACM$ by NSF
12/3/12 – Testing of ACM$ by NSF
12/6/12 – Testing complete
12/14/12 – Testing complete
1/30/13 – Last day to submit Final FFR to convert to ACM$
6/30/13 – Full implementation of ACM$ to all NSF grantees
MSU Conversion to ACM$

- Used cut-off of expenses as of 12/26/12 for final draw in Research.gov and for Quarterly Report as of 12/31/12.
  - MSU’s goal was to have zero cash on hand for conversion to ACM$ System.
  - By using 12/26/12 as cut-off date, we ensured that expenses reported on Final FFR equaled revenue.

- While preparing Final FFR, we did encounter some reconciliation issues.
  - Most issues caused by old accounts that needed adjustments but were no longer active in NSF’s system.
MSU Conversion to ACM$ (cont.)

- MSU submitted Final Quarterly Report on 1/17/13, converted to ACM$ on 1/22/13, and completed first draw in ACM$ on 1/29/13.
- MSU had problems getting the XML upload to work in ACM$ but have had no problems with the excel upload option.
- With ACM$ System, Quarterly Reports no longer required.
  - However, we are basically doing the same amount of work as a quarterly report took for each individual draw.
  - ACM$ demands more time for the draw process but also allows MSU to be more accurate and identify reconciling issues in a timely manner.