

Coalition in Support of Innovative Grants Reform

- Association of American Universities ·
 - Association of Independent Research Institutes ·
 - Association of Public and Land-grant Universities ·
 - Council on Governmental Relations ·
 - Maryland Governor's Grants Office ·
 - National Association of College and University Business Officers ·
 - National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers ·
 - National Council of Nonprofits ·
 - National Grants Management Association ·
 - Native American Finance Officers Association ·
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August 28, 2013

Mr. Norman Dong
Acting Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20025

Ms. Ellen Murray
Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources and Chief Financial Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 514-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Subject: Meeting Request with OMB and the COFAR to Review OMB-2013-0001

Dear Mr. Dong and Ms. Murray:

We appreciate the time you have taken to engage with a diverse range of grantees and recipients of Federal awards. As you work towards a final version of OMB guidance, we recognize the challenges you face to meet the needs of all stakeholders. However, we believe some of that challenge can be minimized by assuring you that the broad community of grant recipients – State, Local, and Tribal Governments, Nonprofits, Nonprofit Research Organizations, Commercial Organizations, and Institutions of Higher Education – are united in support for meaningful and substantive grants reform.

As a follow up to a July 31st letter from COGR, the Coalition in Support of Innovative (CSI) Grants Reform is poised to support OMB and the COFAR in a final version of OMB guidance that provides our community with a reduction in administrative and regulatory burden. However, as the COGR letter highlights, we are concerned that an outlying perspective could jeopardize those reform opportunities that could provide regulatory relief. We have a number of ideas for genuine grants reform and would like the opportunity to provide our perspective of the systemic issues associated with federal grants management and the true reforms we seek.

Consequently, we request a meeting with OMB and the COFAR to review our issues and concerns. While we remain cautiously optimistic that the President’s mandate will prevail, a meeting between CSI Grants Reform and the COFAR will help us to understand any dynamics that may detract from meaningful and substantive grants reform. We are committed to our advocacy for a final version of OMB guidance that supports increases in productivity and efficiency, and ultimately, allows our community to deliver the most effective outcomes on federal programs.

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Thank you again for your consideration and we will follow up with a phone call after the Labor Day weekend to set a meeting date. Our points of contact are:

Merril Oliver, 410.974.5090, Maryland Governor’s Grants Office
Stacia Le Blanc, 202.600.7687, National Association of Grants Management, and
David Kennedy, 202.289.6655, Council on Governmental Relations

We look forward to meeting with you to address these issues in more detail.

Sincerely,

Coalition in Support of Innovative
Grants Reform

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Association of American Universities



Hunter R. Rawlings, President

*Association of Public and
Land-grant Universities*



M. Peter McPherson, President

Maryland Governor's Grants Office

Merril Oliver, Deputy Director

*National Association State Auditors,
Comptrollers and Treasurers*



Cornelia Chebinou, Washington Director

National Grants Management Association



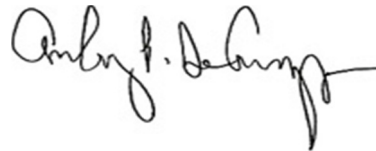
Stacia Le Blanc, President

*Association of Independent
Research Institutes*



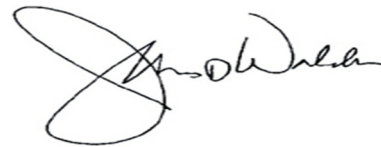
Larry A. Keinath, President

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Anthony P. DeCrappeo, President

*National Association of College and
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John D. Walda, President and CEO

National Council of Nonprofits



David L. Thompson, Vice President

*Native American Finance
Officers Association*

Dante Desiderio, Executive Director