



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Memorandum

INFORMATION: Inaccurate Financial Assistance
Subject: Data being submitted to OST's Grants Information System
Date: NOV 6 2009
From: Linda J. Washington 
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Reply to:
Attn. of:
To: Secretarial Offices and Operating Administrators

In 2008 and 2009, the Federal Funding and Accountability Transparency Act, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, were signed into law. These Acts required Federal agencies to submit grant, cooperative agreement, loans and other types of financial assistance reports to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in an accurate and efficient format.

Several data quality assurance issues have been identified with certain financial assistance data being reported to OMB required reporting sites, e.g., USASpending.gov and the Federal Assistance Award Database System. The Office of the Secretary (OST) staff has worked diligently with the Operating Administrations (OAs) to assist them in data quality and data integrity process improvements, so that the U.S. Department of Transportation meets external reporting and verification guidelines.

Staff within each OA is being asked to correct specific inaccuracies with their financial assistance data. This data is being sent separately, along with instructions on how to correct the data to each affected OA. These inaccuracies will need to be corrected and sent back to OST by Friday, November 13, 2009. Effective Monday, November 16, 2009, OST will transition the old Grants Information System (GIS) to a newly deployed GIS. This will be the only system available to accept assistance data submitted from the modes.

Ultimately we all will be asked to account for inaccuracies of the data. OST staff has provided the tools to address this data quality issue, but we need your cooperation to make this effort successful.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact ellen.shields@dot.gov.