

# Financial Assistance DOT Dash 2011-01

**Date:** November 23, 2010

**To:** Financial Assistance Management Division  
Agency Points of Contact

**From:** Office of the Senior Procurement Executive (OSPE)  
Financial Assistance Management Division

**Subject:** USAspending.gov Sub-Award Reporting Data Quality Plan

**Summary:** The purpose of this DOT Dash is to inform the Operating Administrations (OAs) of USAspending.gov Sub-Award Reporting Data Quality Plan, dated November 16, 2010. This information is intended to be a first step in making improvements to the quality of Federal spending reports.

**Background:** One of the key requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (“FFATA” or the “Transparency Act”) was the creation of a single, searchable website that provides the public with greater access to information on Federal spending. USAspending.gov is that website responsible for displaying data for prime award information that includes contracts, grants, loans, awards, cooperative agreements, and other forms of Federal financial assistance reported by agencies. The Government is committed to making good on the original vision and promise of the Transparency Act. The memorandum issued by OMB on April 6, 2010, Open Government Directive – Federal spending Transparency, established an October 1, 2010 deadline for Federal agencies to initiate sub-award reporting pursuant to P.L.109-282 of the Transparency Act. In addition, there is a goal to move towards 100% of awards data being reported on time, complete, and accurate (free of error) by the end of the fourth quarter FY 2011, with interim milestones.<sup>1</sup> While significant progress has been made in displaying Federal spending on USAspending.gov as accurately possible, there is still room for improvement. The Sub-Award Data Quality plan document is intended to be a first step in making improvements to the quality of Federal spending reports.

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<sup>1</sup> Open Government Directive – Framework for the Quality of Federal Spending Information. OMB memorandum issued February 8, 2010.

The attached USAspending.gov Sub-Award Data Quality plan describes:

- How prime financial assistance data flows through USAspending.gov for sub-award reporting,
- Validation checks with Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) to ensure accurate (DUNS #'s) and with GSA to ensure accurate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers, and;
- The process for reporting and resolving data quality issues.

The Department's financial assistance personnel should become familiar with this information and share it with all recipients that may be stakeholders in the reporting process.

Updated guidance for future reporting and transparency requirements will be provided as it becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ellen Shields at 202-366-4268 or [Ellen.Shields@dot.gov](mailto:Ellen.Shields@dot.gov).



Ellen Shields  
Associate Director  
Financial Assistance Management Division

**Attachment**