

E-Grants Vision

The E-Grants project will:

- Produce a simple, unified “storefront” for all customers of Federal grants to electronically find opportunities, apply, and manage grants.
- Facilitate the quality, coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency of operations for grant makers and grant recipients.

This combination of customer-facing vision and Federal internal improvement, as defined by the consensus of the grant-making agencies, provides a solid foundation for the efforts of the E-Grants initiative.

E-Grants Goals

Four goals for the E-Grants initiative were defined by consensus among the grant-making agencies:

1. Eliminate the burden of redundant or disparate electronic and paper-based data collection requirements.
2. Define and implement simplified standard processes and standard data definitions for Federal grant customer interactions.
3. Protect the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of data.
4. Standardize the collection of financial and progress report data in support of audit and performance measurement activities.

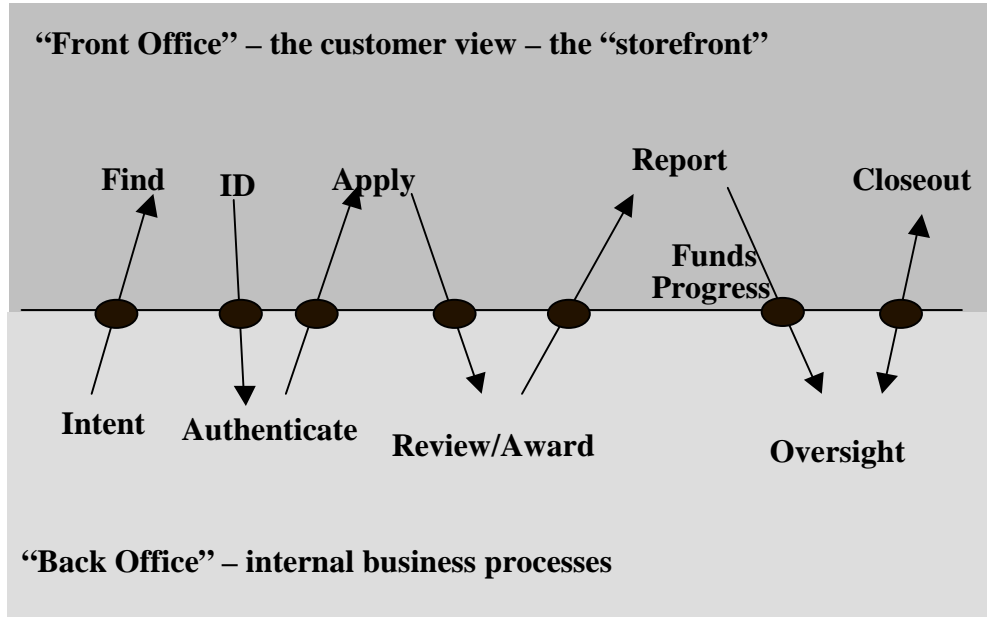
E-Grants Objectives and Timetable

Six major objectives for the E-Grants initiative were defined by consensus among the grant-making agencies, along with the dates for completion of those objectives:

1. Finalize the E-Grants Business Case in support of partner requirements and other participant input (4/15/02).
 - Include defined categories of grants, solution concepts of simplified processes, solution concepts for standardized data, concept for achieving the goals, Program Management plan, organizational structure
2. Pilot a simple, unified way to find Federal grant opportunities via the Web (7/1/02)
 - Include standardized format and data elements
3. Evaluate the use or expansion of interagency and agency specific capabilities for discretionary grant programs (6/1/02)
 - Including COTS packages
4. Work with E-Authentication PMO and privacy groups (ongoing)
5. Define application data standards (10/1/02)
6. Deploy simple, unified application mechanism (10/1/03)

E-Grants Scope: Focus on the “Front Office”

In taking immediate and measurable steps to address the vision, goals, and objectives defined by the consensus of the grant-making agencies, the E-Grants initiative will focus on the “Front Office” – the customer-facing aspects of the grant lifecycle. The following Figure represents a two-sided view of the grant lifecycle that identifies parts of the lifecycle that are customer-facing (“Front Office”) as well as those that are solely internal agency processes (“Back Office”):



By focusing on the “Front Office” aspects of the grants lifecycle, the E-Grants initiative will make a unified, simplified single set of processes available to potential applicants, applicants, and awardees. This will become the one-stop, electronic “storefront” where emerging e-business technologies and best practices are used to give grantees full service grants processing across all functions in the grants life cycle. The E-Grants storefront will be the single point of entry for grantees, offering both full general information exchange and secure e-business transaction processing.