

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Participation in the Government-wide Streamlining and Grants.gov Efforts

Although a small agency, IMLS has been involved in many of the P.L. 106-107 initiatives.

- ◆ IMLS has reviewed and commented on notices and proposed rules of the 106-107 workgroups, including, for example, commenting on the proposed core data elements and requirement of DUNS number.
- ◆ IMLS is quite involved in the Grants.gov initiative, particularly the FIND and APPLY activities. IMLS participated in the FIND pilot and will publish future notices through that source. An IMLS representative participated in the grants.gov interface focus groups.
- ◆ IMLS plans to participate in the APPLY portal to receive applications for FY 04.

Internal Efforts to Create an Environment Conducive to Grants Streamlining and Simplification

General Approach

IMLS is working internally to meet P. L. 106-107 requirements in the following ways:

- ◆ *Senior program managers are regularly briefed on the activities of the various grants streamlining workgroups and the potential impact on program management. Executives support streamlining initiatives.*
- ◆ *An internal grants management team meets regularly to identify how the agency can streamline grant management activities across agency programs and to conform as closely as possible with government-wide initiatives.*
- ◆ *IMLS has alerted its grantee community of changing requirements (specifically regarding the DUNS number requirement) and plans to continue this practice as other requirements are in place. As an example, IMLS included notice of the DUNS number requirement in its May 2003 electronic newsletter to members of the museum and library communities. The notification is also prominently highlighted on the IMLS Web site page that provides information about grant applications. Program staff include the requirement in updates at professional association meetings.*

- ◆ *IMLS is working with its IT staff to prepare for participation in the first year of Grants.gov and the integration of applications submitted through that system into the agency's internal automated grants management system.*

Preparing for the Recent and Coming Changes Affecting the Pre-Award Process

Electronic Synopsis

- ◆ *IMLS participated in the FIND pilot and has already posted 90% of the FY 2003 funding opportunities synopses, and will post 100% for FY 2004 and out years.*

Announcement Template

- ◆ *IMLS has a single point of contact for managing announcements responsible for posting announcements when they become available so that potential applicants can find IMLS guidance for applying for IMLS funds through the timely and consistent presentation of information.*
- ◆ *IMLS anticipates no problems implementing the announcement template.*

The Grants.gov Portal and Electronic Applications

- ◆ *IMLS has begun an internal review of currently OMB-approved data elements to identify non-core data elements and determine their continued need.*
- ◆ *An IMLS representative participated in a focus group for the Grants.gov web interface.*
- ◆ *IMLS has begun the analysis of potential adaptation of agency systems to allow electronic receipt of applications and interface with the Grants.gov portal*

