

Calendar No. 271118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 2286****[Report No. 118–126]**

To improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12, 2023

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

DECEMBER 11, 2023

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]**A BILL**

To improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Streamlining Federal
3 Grants Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

5 The purposes of this Act are to—

6 (1) improve the effectiveness and performance
7 of Federal grant and cooperative agreement pro-
8 grams;

9 (2) simplify the application and reporting re-
10 quirements of Federal grant and cooperative agree-
11 ment programs;

12 (3) improve the delivery of services to the pub-
13 lic, particularly services to communities and organi-
14 zations that historically have not received Federal
15 grants or cooperative agreements; and

16 (4) facilitate greater coordination among agen-
17 cies that award Federal grants and non-Federal en-
18 tities responsible for delivering services to the public.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” has the
22 meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5,
23 United States Code.

24 (2) **AGENCY CO-CHAIR.**—The term “agency co-
25 chair” means the agency designated by the Director
26 or the Council under section 5(e)(1).

1 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
5 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

6 (B) the Committee on Oversight and Ac-
7 countability of the House of Representatives.

8 (4) CONSULTATION WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTI-
9 TIES.—The term “consultation with non-Federal en-
10 tities” means regular and ongoing engagement
11 with—

12 (A) recipients and potential recipients of
13 grants or cooperative agreements and entities
14 that represent those recipients and potential re-
15 cipients; and

16 (B) particular attention to the recipients
17 and potential recipients described in subpara-
18 graph (A) that have not historically received
19 grants or cooperative agreements.

20 (5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The term “co-
21 operative agreement” has the meaning given the
22 term in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code.

23 (6) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the
24 Grants Council established under section 5(a).

1 (7) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.
3 et.

4 (8) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
5 term “Federal financial assistance” has the meaning
6 given the term in section 7501 of title 31, United
7 States Code.

8 (9) GRANT.—The term “grant” has the mean-
9 ing given the term “grant agreement” in section
10 6302 of title 31, United States Code.

11 (10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
12 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
13 Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance
14 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

15 (11) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
16 The term “institution of higher education” has the
17 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

19 (12) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local
20 government” means any unit of government within
21 a State, including—

- 22 (A) a county;
- 23 (B) a borough;
- 24 (C) a municipality;
- 25 (D) a city;

1 ~~(E)~~ a town;

2 ~~(F)~~ a township;

3 ~~(G)~~ a parish;

4 ~~(H)~~ a local public authority, including any
5 public housing agency (as defined in section
6 2(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937
7 (42 U.S.C. 1437(b)));

8 ~~(I)~~ a special district;

9 ~~(J)~~ a school district;

10 ~~(K)~~ an intrastate district;

11 ~~(L)~~ a council of governments, whether or
12 not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation
13 under State law; and

14 ~~(M)~~ any other agency or instrumentality of
15 a multi-State, regional, or intra-State or local
16 government.

17 ~~(13)~~ NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—The term “non-
18 Federal entity” means a State, local government, In-
19 dian Tribe, institution of higher education, or non-
20 profit organization.

21 ~~(14)~~ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
22 “nonprofit organization” means any corporation,
23 trust, association, cooperative, or other organization
24 that—

1 (A) is operated primarily for scientific,
2 educational, service, charitable, or similar pur-
3 poses in the public interest;

4 (B) is not organized primarily for profit;

5 (C) uses net proceeds to maintain, im-
6 prove, or expand the operations of the organiza-
7 tion; and

8 (D) is not an institution of higher edu-
9 cation.

10 (15) SENIOR AGENCY OFFICIAL FOR GRANTS.—

11 The term “senior agency official for grants” means
12 an agency official designated under section 4(a).

13 (16) STATE.—The term “State” means any
14 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
15 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin
16 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Common-
17 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust
18 Territory of the Pacific Islands, any instrumentality
19 thereof, and any multi-State, regional, or interstate
20 entity that has governmental functions.

21 **SEC. 4. SENIOR AGENCY OFFICIALS FOR GRANTS.**

22 (a) SENIOR AGENCY OFFICIAL FOR GRANTS.—Not
23 later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
24 the head of each agency shall—

1 (1) designate a senior official of the agency to
2 be responsible for—

3 (A) agency-wide grant and cooperative
4 agreement policy, management, strategic plan-
5 ning, and implementation; and

6 (B) the responsibilities of the agency under
7 this Act; and

8 (2) notify the Director of the designation under
9 paragraph (1).

10 (b) LIST.—The Director shall—

11 (1) maintain a list of senior agency officials for
12 grants; and

13 (2) not later than 90 days after the date of en-
14 actment of this Act, make the list maintained under
15 paragraph (1) available to the public on the website
16 of the Office of Management and Budget.

17 **SEC. 5. GRANTS COUNCIL.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish
20 a council to be known as the Grants Council.

21 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed
22 of—

23 (1) the Controller of the Office of Federal Fi-
24 nancial Management of the Office of Management

1 and Budget, who shall act as the Chair of the Council;
2

3 ~~(2)~~ with respect to each agency that distributes
4 grants or enters into cooperative agreements; the
5 senior agency official for grants of the agency; and

6 ~~(3)~~ other relevant agency officials, as deter-
7 mined necessary by the Chair.

8 ~~(c)~~ ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator
9 of General Services shall provide administrative support
10 for the Council.

11 ~~(d)~~ SOLICITATION OF FEEDBACK.—The Director
12 shall—

13 ~~(1)~~ consistently and regularly solicit input and
14 collect feedback and user experience information
15 with respect to the application, administration, and
16 reporting of grants and cooperative agreements, in-
17 cluding from non-Federal entities; and

18 ~~(2)~~ incorporate the information collected under
19 paragraph ~~(1)~~ into the work of the Council.

20 ~~(e)~~ IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE.—

21 ~~(1)~~ AGENCY CO-CHAIR.—

22 ~~(A)~~ IN GENERAL.—The Director shall des-
23 ignate an agency with representation on the
24 Council to serve as the agency co-chair to assist

1 the Director in carrying out the responsibilities
2 under this section.

3 (B) TERM.—The term of service of the
4 agency co-chair shall be 2 years.

5 (C) RENEWAL.—At the discretion of the
6 Council, an agency may serve as the agency co-
7 chair for not more than 2 consecutive terms.

8 (D) SUCCESSOR.—Upon the expiration of
9 a term of service of an agency co-chair, the
10 members of the Council shall designate a suc-
11 cessor agency co-chair.

12 (2) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUPS.—The Di-
13 rector may use interagency working groups to assist
14 in carrying out the responsibilities under this sec-
15 tion.

16 (f) INTERAGENCY DUTIES.—The Director, in con-
17 sultation with the Council, shall direct, coordinate, and as-
18 sist agencies in—

19 (1) designing and implementing common data
20 standards under chapter 64 of title 31, United
21 States Code;

22 (2) creating guidelines for simplified notice of
23 funding opportunities that improve the user experi-
24 ence for grants and cooperative agreements;

1 (3) improving interagency and intergovern-
2 mental coordination of information collection and
3 data sharing relating to grant and cooperative agree-
4 ment programs, including for the purpose of per-
5 formance management and program evaluation;

6 (4) improving the timeliness, completeness, and
7 quality of information received by agencies from re-
8 cipients of grants and cooperative agreements;

9 (5) ensuring the consistent application and in-
10 terpretation of governmentwide Federal financial as-
11 sistance policy, oversight, and management;

12 (6) supporting the development of the Federal
13 financial assistance workforce; and

14 (7) identifying and improving other procedures
15 and policies relating to the application, administra-
16 tion, and reporting of grants and cooperative agree-
17 ments, as identified by the Council.

18 (g) REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than 1
19 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every
20 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in con-
22 sultation with the Council, shall submit to the appropriate
23 congressional committees a report relating to the imple-
24 mentation of this Act.

1 (h) ~~REPORT ON RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN~~
 2 ~~LAW.~~—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment
 3 of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Council,
 4 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
 5 a report containing recommendations for changes in law
 6 to improve the effectiveness, performance, and coordina-
 7 tion of grant and cooperative agreement programs.

8 **SEC. 6. AGENCY GRANT IMPROVEMENT PLANS.**

9 (a) ~~AGENCY GUIDANCE.~~—Not later than 270 days
 10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in
 11 consultation with the Council, shall issue guidance for the
 12 development of agency plans to—

13 (1) streamline and simplify the application, ad-
 14 ministrative, and reporting procedures for each
 15 grant and cooperative agreement program adminis-
 16 tered by the agency;

17 (2) simplify and improve user experience with
 18 respect to notices of funding opportunity, including
 19 by implementing—

20 (A) the use of plain language;

21 (B) the listing of the availability of, and
 22 contact information for, training and assistance
 23 relating to applying for, administering, and re-
 24 porting on grants and cooperative agreements;
 25 and

1 (C) the inclusion of a summary of the
2 funding opportunity of not more than 500
3 words;

4 (3) demonstrate active participation by the
5 agency in the Council;

6 (4) demonstrate appropriate coordination with
7 the Grants Quality Service Management Office, or
8 any successor organization, with respect to the adop-
9 tion by the agency, or plans for adoption by the
10 agency, of grant management solutions or services
11 that meet usability and modernization standards es-
12 tablished by the Director;

13 (5) ensure potential applicants for grant and
14 cooperative agreement programs have opportunities
15 to receive training and assistance;

16 (6) improve the abilities of recipients of grants
17 and cooperative agreements to provide timely, com-
18 plete, and high-quality information in response to
19 Federal reporting requirements; and

20 (7) establish specific annual goals and objec-
21 tives to further the purposes of this Act and meas-
22 ure annual performance in achieving those goals and
23 objectives.

24 (b) REVIEW OF PLANS AND REPORTS.—Upon re-
25 quest by the Director, the head of each agency shall sub-

1 mit to the Director information and reporting relating to
 2 the implementation of this Act by the agency.

3 (c) EXEMPTIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may exempt an
 5 agency, a component of an agency, or a particular
 6 grant or cooperative agreement program of an agen-
 7 cy from the requirements of this Act if the Director
 8 determines that the agency does not administer a
 9 significant number of grant and cooperative agree-
 10 ment programs.

11 (2) LIST OF EXEMPTED AGENCIES.—The Direc-
 12 tor shall—

13 (A) maintain a list of agencies, components
 14 of agencies, and grant and cooperative agree-
 15 ment programs exempted under paragraph (1);
 16 and

17 (B) make the list maintained under sub-
 18 paragraph (A) available to the public on the
 19 website of the Office of Management and Budg-
 20 et.

21 (d) AGENCY PLANS.—Subject to subsection (c), not
 22 later than the earlier of 1 year after the date on which
 23 the Director issues guidance under subsection (a) and 635
 24 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of
 25 each agency shall develop, implement, and submit to the

1 Director and the appropriate congressional committees a
2 plan in response to the guidance.

3 (e) ~~EXTENSION.~~—If the head of an agency is unable
4 to comply with the deadline established under subsection
5 (d) to develop and implement a plan, the Director may
6 extend the period during which the agency may develop
7 and implement the plan by not more than 1 year.

8 (f) ~~COMMENT AND CONSULTATION ON AGENCY~~
9 ~~PLANS.~~—

10 (1) ~~COMMENT.~~—

11 (A) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The head of each agen-
12 cy shall publish the plan developed in accord-
13 ance with the guidance issued under subsection
14 (a) in the Federal Register.

15 (B) ~~PUBLIC COMMENT.~~—With respect to a
16 plan published in the Federal Register by the
17 head of an agency in accordance with subpara-
18 graph (A)—

19 (i) the head of the agency shall review
20 public comments on the plan submitted
21 through the Federal Register and by other
22 means; and

23 (ii) to the maximum extent prae-
24 ticable, the head of the agency shall hold
25 a public forum on the plan.

1 (2) ~~CONSULTATION.~~—The senior agency official
2 for grants of each agency shall participate in con-
3 sultation with non-Federal entities during the devel-
4 opment and implementation of the plan developed in
5 accordance with the guidance issued under sub-
6 section (a).

7 (8) ~~ANNUAL REPORT.~~—

8 (1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of the submission of the plan of an agency
10 under subsection (d), and annually thereafter, the
11 senior agency official for grants of the agency or the
12 head of the agency, as applicable, shall submit to the
13 Director and the appropriate congressional commit-
14 tees a report on—

15 (A) the implementation of the plan; and

16 (B) the performance of the agency in
17 meeting the goals and objectives described in
18 subsection (a)(7).

19 (2) ~~INCLUSION IN OTHER REPORTS.~~—Effective
20 on the date on which the head of an agency submits
21 a plan under subsection (d), the head of the agency
22 shall update and include the goals and objectives de-
23 scribed in subsection (a)(7) in each performance
24 plan of the agency required under section 1115 of
25 title 31, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 7. GRANTS.GOV.**

2 (a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date
3 of enactment of this Act, the Director, in coordination
4 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall
5 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
6 port that—

7 (1) contains findings from a study on the acces-
8 sibility and user experience of Grants.gov, or any
9 successor website; and

10 (2) provides recommendations based on the
11 findings described in paragraph (1) to improve the
12 access to the function of Grants.gov, or any suc-
13 cessor website.

14 (b) **IMPROVEMENTS.**—Not later than 3 years after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in coordi-
16 nation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
17 shall implement the recommendations described in sub-
18 section (a)(2).

19 **SEC. 8. EVALUATION.**

20 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
22 of the United States, in consultation with non-Federal en-
23 tities, shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
24 mittees an evaluation of the effectiveness of this Act.

25 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The evaluation under subsection (a)
26 shall—

1 (1) assess the implementation of this Act and
2 the extent to which the implementation meets the
3 purposes of this Act;

4 (2) make specific recommendations to further
5 the implementation of this Act;

6 (3) evaluate the actual performance of each
7 agency in achieving the goals and objectives stated
8 in the plan of the agency developed in accordance
9 with the guidance issued under section 6(a); and

10 (4) assess the level of coordination among the
11 Director and non-Federal entities in implementing
12 this Act.

13 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

14 *This Act may be cited as the “Streamlining Federal*
15 *Grants Act of 2023”.*

16 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

17 *The purposes of this Act are to—*

18 (1) *improve the effectiveness and performance of*
19 *Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs;*

20 (2) *simplify the application and reporting re-*
21 *quirements of Federal grant and cooperative agree-*
22 *ment programs;*

23 (3) *improve the delivery of services to the public,*
24 *particularly services to communities and organiza-*

1 *tions that historically have not received Federal*
 2 *grants or cooperative agreements; and*

3 *(4) facilitate greater coordination among agen-*
 4 *cies that award Federal grants and non-Federal enti-*
 5 *ties responsible for delivering services to the public.*

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 *(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the mean-*
 9 *ing given the term in section 551 of title 5, United*
 10 *States Code.*

11 *(2) AGENCY CO-CHAIR.—The term “agency co-*
 12 *chair” means the agency designated by the Director*
 13 *or the Council under section 5(e)(1).*

14 *(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
 15 *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
 16 *tees” means—*

17 *(A) the Committee on Homeland Security*
 18 *and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and*

19 *(B) the Committee on Oversight and Ac-*
 20 *countability of the House of Representatives.*

21 *(4) CONSULTATION WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTI-*
 22 *TIES.—The term “consultation with non-Federal enti-*
 23 *ties” means regular and ongoing engagement with—*

24 *(A) recipients and potential recipients of*
 25 *grants or cooperative agreements and entities*

1 that represent those recipients and potential re-
2 cipients; and

3 (B) particular attention to the recipients
4 and potential recipients described in subpara-
5 graph (A) that have not historically received
6 grants or cooperative agreements.

7 (5) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.*—The term “co-
8 operative agreement” has the meaning given the term
9 in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code.

10 (6) *COUNCIL.*—The term “Council” means the
11 Grants Council established under section 5(a).

12 (7) *DIRECTOR.*—The term “Director” means the
13 Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

14 (8) *FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.*—The term
15 “Federal financial assistance” has the meaning given
16 the term in section 7501 of title 31, United States
17 Code.

18 (9) *GRANT.*—The term “grant” has the meaning
19 given the term “grant agreement” in section 6302 of
20 title 31, United States Code.

21 (10) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—The term “Indian Tribe”
22 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-
23 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
24 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

1 (11) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—*The*
2 *term “institution of higher education” has the mean-*
3 *ing given the term in section 101 of the Higher Edu-*
4 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).*

5 (12) *LOCAL GOVERNMENT.*—*The term “local gov-*
6 *ernment” means any unit of government within a*
7 *State, including—*

8 *(A) a county;*

9 *(B) a borough;*

10 *(C) a municipality;*

11 *(D) a city;*

12 *(E) a town;*

13 *(F) a township;*

14 *(G) a parish;*

15 *(H) a local public authority, including any*
16 *public housing agency (as defined in section 3(b)*
17 *of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42*
18 *U.S.C. 1437(b));*

19 *(I) a special district;*

20 *(J) a school district;*

21 *(K) an intrastate district;*

22 *(L) a council of governments, whether or*
23 *not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation*
24 *under State law; and*

1 (M) any other agency or instrumentality of
 2 a multi-State, regional, or intra-State or local
 3 government.

4 (13) *NON-FEDERAL ENTITY*.—The term “non-
 5 Federal entity” means a State, local government, In-
 6 dian Tribe, institution of higher education, or non-
 7 profit organization.

8 (14) *NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION*.—The term
 9 “nonprofit organization”—

10 (A) means any corporation, trust, associa-
 11 tion, cooperative, or other organization that—

12 (i) is operated primarily for scientific,
 13 educational, service, charitable, or similar
 14 purposes in the public interest;

15 (ii) is not organized primarily for
 16 profit;

17 (iii) uses net proceeds to maintain, im-
 18 prove, or expand the operations of the orga-
 19 nization; and

20 (iv) is not an institution of higher edu-
 21 cation; and

22 (B) includes faith-based and community-
 23 based organizations.

1 (15) *SENIOR AGENCY OFFICIAL FOR GRANTS.*—
 2 *The term “senior agency official for grants” means an*
 3 *agency official designated under section 4(a).*

4 (16) *STATE.*—*The term “State” means any*
 5 *State of the United States, the District of Columbia,*
 6 *the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Is-*
 7 *lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of*
 8 *the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of*
 9 *the Pacific Islands, any instrumentality thereof, and*
 10 *any multi-State, regional, or interstate entity that*
 11 *has governmental functions.*

12 **SEC. 4. SENIOR AGENCY OFFICIALS FOR GRANTS.**

13 (a) *SENIOR AGENCY OFFICIAL FOR GRANTS.*—*Not*
 14 *later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,*
 15 *the head of each agency shall—*

16 (1) *designate a senior official of the agency to be*
 17 *responsible for—*

18 (A) *agency-wide grant and cooperative*
 19 *agreement policy, management, strategic plan-*
 20 *ning, and implementation; and*

21 (B) *the responsibilities of the agency under*
 22 *this Act; and*

23 (2) *notify the Director of the designation under*
 24 *paragraph (1).*

25 (b) *LIST.*—*The Director shall—*

1 (1) *maintain a list of senior agency officials for*
2 *grants; and*

3 (2) *not later than 90 days after the date of en-*
4 *actment of this Act, make the list maintained under*
5 *paragraph (1) available to the public on the website*
6 *of the Office of Management and Budget.*

7 **SEC. 5. GRANTS COUNCIL.**

8 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 80 days after the*
9 *date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish*
10 *a council to be known as the Grants Council.*

11 (b) *MEMBERSHIP.*—*The Council shall be composed*
12 *of—*

13 (1) *the Controller of the Office of Federal Finan-*
14 *cial Management of the Office of Management and*
15 *Budget, who shall act as the Chair of the Council;*

16 (2) *with respect to each agency that distributes*
17 *grants or enters into cooperative agreements, the sen-*
18 *ior agency official for grants of the agency; and*

19 (3) *other relevant agency officials, as determined*
20 *necessary by the Chair.*

21 (c) *ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.*—*The Administrator of*
22 *General Services shall provide administrative support for*
23 *the Council.*

24 (d) *SOLICITATION OF FEEDBACK.*—*The Director*
25 *shall—*

1 (1) *consistently and regularly solicit input and*
2 *collect feedback and user experience information with*
3 *respect to the application, administration, and re-*
4 *porting of grants and cooperative agreements, includ-*
5 *ing from non-Federal entities; and*

6 (2) *incorporate the information collected under*
7 *paragraph (1) into the work of the Council.*

8 (e) *IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE.—*

9 (1) *AGENCY CO-CHAIR.—*

10 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The Director shall des-*
11 *ignate an agency with representation on the*
12 *Council to serve as the agency co-chair to assist*
13 *the Director in carrying out the responsibilities*
14 *under this section.*

15 (B) *TERM.—The term of service of the agen-*
16 *cy co-chair shall be 2 years.*

17 (C) *RENEWAL.—At the discretion of the*
18 *Council, an agency may serve as the agency co-*
19 *chair for not more than 2 consecutive terms.*

20 (D) *SUCCESSOR.—Upon the expiration of a*
21 *term of service of an agency co-chair, the mem-*
22 *bers of the Council shall designate a successor*
23 *agency co-chair.*

1 (2) *INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUPS.*—*The Di-*
2 *rector may use interagency working groups to assist*
3 *in carrying out the responsibilities under this section.*

4 (f) *INTERAGENCY DUTIES.*—*The Director, in consulta-*
5 *tion with the Council, shall direct, coordinate, and assist*
6 *agencies in—*

7 (1) *designing and implementing common data*
8 *standards under chapter 64 of title 31, United States*
9 *Code;*

10 (2) *creating guidelines for simplified notice of*
11 *funding opportunities that improve the user experi-*
12 *ence for grants and cooperative agreements;*

13 (3) *improving interagency and intergovern-*
14 *mental coordination of information collection and*
15 *data sharing relating to grant and cooperative agree-*
16 *ment programs, including for the purpose of perform-*
17 *ance management and program evaluation;*

18 (4) *improving the timeliness, completeness, and*
19 *quality of information received by agencies from re-*
20 *cipients of grants and cooperative agreements;*

21 (5) *improving the performance of grants and co-*
22 *operative agreements;*

23 (6) *ensuring the consistent application and in-*
24 *terpretation of Governmentwide Federal financial as-*
25 *sistance policy, oversight, and management;*

1 (7) *supporting the development of the Federal fi-*
2 *nancial assistance workforce;*

3 (8) *establishing policies and guidelines to pro-*
4 *hibit conflicts of interest by officials involved in deter-*
5 *mining grant awards and grant recipients; and*

6 (9) *identifying and improving other procedures*
7 *and policies relating to the application, administra-*
8 *tion, and reporting of grants and cooperative agree-*
9 *ments, as identified by the Council.*

10 (g) *REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than 1*
11 *year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2*
12 *years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the*
13 *date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation*
14 *with the Council, shall submit to the appropriate congres-*
15 *sional committees a report relating to the implementation*
16 *of this Act.*

17 (h) *REPORT ON RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN LAW AND*
18 *REGULATIONS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of en-*
19 *actment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the*
20 *Council, shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-*
21 *mittees a report containing recommendations for changes*
22 *in law and regulations to improve the effectiveness, per-*
23 *formance, and coordination of grant and cooperative agree-*
24 *ment programs.*

1 **SEC. 6. AGENCY GRANT IMPROVEMENT PLANS.**

2 (a) *AGENCY GUIDANCE.*—Not later than 270 days after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consulta-
4 tion with the Council, shall issue guidance for the develop-
5 ment of agency plans to—

6 (1) *streamline and simplify the application, ad-*
7 *ministrative, and reporting procedures for each grant*
8 *and cooperative agreement program administered by*
9 *the agency;*

10 (2) *simplify and improve user experience with*
11 *respect to notices of funding opportunity, including*
12 *by implementing—*

13 (A) *the use of plain language;*

14 (B) *the listing of the availability of, and*
15 *contact information for, training and assistance*
16 *relating to applying for, administering, and re-*
17 *porting on grants and cooperative agreements;*
18 *and*

19 (C) *the inclusion of a summary of the fund-*
20 *ing opportunity of not more than 500 words;*

21 (3) *demonstrate active participation by the agen-*
22 *cy in the Council;*

23 (4) *demonstrate appropriate coordination with*
24 *the Grants Quality Service Management Office, or*
25 *any successor organization, with respect to the adop-*
26 *tion by the agency, or plans for adoption by the agen-*

1 *cy, of grant management solutions or services that*
2 *meet usability and modernization standards estab-*
3 *lished by the Director;*

4 *(5) ensure potential applicants for grant and co-*
5 *operative agreement programs have opportunities to*
6 *receive training and assistance;*

7 *(6) improve the abilities of recipients of grants*
8 *and cooperative agreements to provide timely, com-*
9 *plete, and high-quality information in response to*
10 *Federal reporting requirements;*

11 *(7) ensure that individuals with limited English*
12 *proficiency can meaningfully access information re-*
13 *lating to grants and cooperative agreements consistent*
14 *with, and without unduly burdening, the mission of*
15 *the agency;*

16 *(8) improve the abilities of recipients of grants*
17 *and cooperative agreements to provide meaningful ac-*
18 *cess to applicants and beneficiaries of the grants and*
19 *cooperative agreements who are individuals with lim-*
20 *ited English proficiency; and*

21 *(9) establish specific annual goals and objectives*
22 *to further the purposes of this Act and measure an-*
23 *ual performance in achieving those goals and objec-*
24 *tives.*

1 (b) *REVIEW OF PLANS AND REPORTS.*—Upon request
2 by the Director, the head of each agency shall submit to
3 the Director information and reporting relating to the im-
4 plementation of this Act by the agency.

5 (c) *EXEMPTIONS.*—

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director may exempt an
7 agency, a component of an agency, or a particular
8 grant or cooperative agreement program of an agency
9 from the requirements of this Act if the Director de-
10 termines that the agency does not administer a sig-
11 nificant number of grant and cooperative agreement
12 programs.

13 (2) *LIST OF EXEMPTED AGENCIES.*—The Direc-
14 tor shall—

15 (A) maintain a list of agencies, components
16 of agencies, and grant and cooperative agreement
17 programs exempted under paragraph (1); and

18 (B) make the list maintained under sub-
19 paragraph (A) available to the public on the
20 website of the Office of Management and Budget.

21 (d) *AGENCY PLANS.*—Subject to subsection (e), not
22 later than the earlier of 1 year after the date on which the
23 Director issues guidance under subsection (a) and 635 days
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each
25 agency shall develop, implement, and submit to the Director

1 *and the appropriate congressional committees a plan in re-*
 2 *sponse to the guidance.*

3 (e) *EXTENSION.*—*If the head of an agency is unable*
 4 *to comply with the deadline established under subsection (d)*
 5 *to develop and implement a plan, the Director may extend*
 6 *the period during which the agency may develop and imple-*
 7 *ment the plan by not more than 1 year.*

8 (f) *COMMENT AND CONSULTATION ON AGENCY*
 9 *PLANS.*—

10 (1) *COMMENT.*—

11 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The head of each agency*
 12 *shall publish the plan developed in accordance*
 13 *with the guidance issued under subsection (a) in*
 14 *the Federal Register.*

15 (B) *PUBLIC COMMENT.*—*With respect to a*
 16 *plan published in the Federal Register by the*
 17 *head of an agency in accordance with subpara-*
 18 *graph (A)—*

19 (i) *the head of the agency shall review*
 20 *public comments on the plan submitted*
 21 *through the Federal Register and by other*
 22 *means; and*

23 (ii) *to the maximum extent prac-*
 24 *ticable, the head of the agency shall hold a*
 25 *public forum on the plan.*

1 (2) *CONSULTATION.*—*The senior agency official*
2 *for grants of each agency shall participate in con-*
3 *sultation with non-Federal entities during the devel-*
4 *opment and implementation of the plan developed in*
5 *accordance with the guidance issued under subsection*
6 *(a).*

7 (3) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—

8 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
9 *the date of the submission of the plan of an agency*
10 *under subsection (d), and annually thereafter, the sen-*
11 *ior agency official for grants of the agency or the head*
12 *of the agency, as applicable, shall submit to the Direc-*
13 *tor and the appropriate congressional committees a*
14 *report on—*

15 (A) *the implementation of the plan; and*

16 (B) *the performance of the agency in meet-*
17 *ing the goals and objectives described in sub-*
18 *section (a)(9).*

19 (2) *INCLUSION IN OTHER REPORTS.*—*Effective*
20 *on the date on which the head of an agency submits*
21 *a plan under subsection (d), the head of the agency*
22 *shall update and include the goals and objectives de-*
23 *scribed in subsection (a)(9) in each performance plan*
24 *of the agency required under section 1115 of title 31,*
25 *United States Code.*

1 **SEC. 7. GRANTS.GOV.**

2 (a) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of
3 enactment of this Act, the Director, in coordination with
4 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit
5 to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

6 (1) contains findings from a study on the acces-
7 sibility and user experience of Grants.gov, or any suc-
8 cessor website; and

9 (2) provides recommendations based on the find-
10 ings described in paragraph (1) to improve the access
11 to the function of Grants.gov, or any successor
12 website.

13 (b) *IMPROVEMENTS.*—Not later than 3 years after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in coordination
15 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall
16 implement the recommendations described in subsection
17 (a)(2).

18 **SEC. 8. ANALYSIS OF ACCESS TO FEDERAL GRANTS.**

19 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of
20 this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall
21 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
22 that—

23 (1) identifies challenges experienced by non-Fed-
24 eral entities, including by faith-based and commu-
25 nity-based organizations, rural communities, and
26 small communities, in applying for, accessing, ad-

1 *ministering, and reporting on grants and cooperative*
2 *agreements;*

3 (2) *identifies the reasons that the entities de-*
4 *scribed in paragraph (1) elect not to participate in*
5 *grants and cooperative agreements;*

6 (3) *includes options to improve access to grants*
7 *and cooperative agreements for the entities described*
8 *in paragraph (1);*

9 (4) *analyzes the extent to which agencies that*
10 *award grants collect information on the number and*
11 *characteristics, including the geographic distribution,*
12 *of applicants for competitive grants and cooperative*
13 *agreements; and*

14 (5) *if the information described in paragraph (4)*
15 *is available, analyzes the information.*

16 **SEC. 9. EVALUATION.**

17 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 5 years after the*
18 *date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of*
19 *the United States, in consultation with non-Federal enti-*
20 *ties, shall submit to the appropriate congressional commit-*
21 *tees an evaluation of the effectiveness of this Act.*

22 (b) *CONTENTS.*—*The evaluation under subsection (a)*
23 *shall—*

1 (1) *assess the implementation of this Act and the*
2 *extent to which the implementation meets the pur-*
3 *poses of this Act;*

4 (2) *make specific recommendations to further the*
5 *implementation of this Act;*

6 (3) *evaluate the actual performance of each agen-*
7 *cy in achieving the goals and objectives stated in the*
8 *plan of the agency developed in accordance with the*
9 *guidance issued under section 6(a); and*

10 (4) *assess the level of coordination among the Di-*
11 *rector and non-Federal entities in implementing this*
12 *Act.*

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[Report No. 118-126]

A BILL

To improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 11, 2023

Reported with an amendment