Virtual Research Administration:

Grants.gov, UIeRA and More

Presenters: Michael Anderson and Cennetta Walker

AGENDA

- Electronic Research Administration

- The Reality of ERA

- Federal ERA Initiative

- Grants.gov

- ORS's Progress

What is ERA?

- **Electronic Research Administration** (**ERA**), is the administration of research activities by electronic means.

- It encompasses everything from using an interface to submit grant proposals, to creating a word template to print a funding agency's form.

Examples of ERA

- Websites

- Agency Specific Grants Management Systems

- Centralized Grant Management Applications

- Commercial Software Programs

Why ERA Now?

- Many funding agencies are implementing electronic processes

- October 1998 - Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), Public Law 105-277, requires Federal agencies, by October, 2003, to allow individuals or entities that deal with the agencies the option to submit information or transact with the agency electronically, when practicable, and to maintain records electronically

Federal ERA Initiative

– Importance of P.L. 106-107

- In 1999 Congress passed the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act, which is the key driving force behind ERA at the federal level today. The purposes of the P.L. 106-107 are to:
  - Improved the effectiveness and performance of federal financial assistance programs
  - Simplify federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements
  - Improve the delivery of services to the public
  - Facilitate greater coordination among those responsible for delivering services

- The 26 federal agencies that award grants and cooperative agreements are actively implementing P.L. 106-107 through a series of interagency work groups

Federal ERA Initiative cont.

- # President's Management Agenda
  - "Agencies to allow applicants for Federal Grants to apply for, and ultimately manage, grant funds online through a common web site, simplifying grants management and eliminating redundancies.…"

Federal ERA Initiative cont.
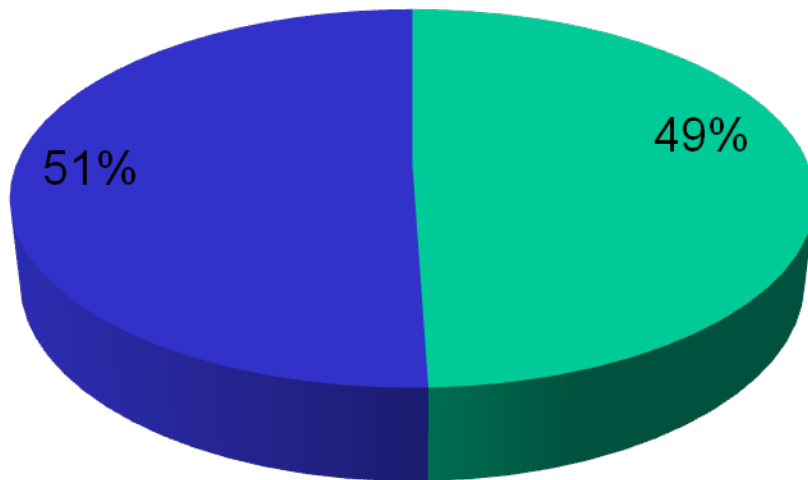
Who are the 26 Federal Grant Making Agencies?

- Agency for International Development
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Defense
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Education
- Institute for Museum and Library Services
- Department of Energy
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- Department of Health and Human Services (i.e NIH, HRSA)
- National Archives and Records Administration
- Department of Homeland Security
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Department of the Interior
- National Science Foundation
- Department of Justice
- Small Business Administration
- Department of Labor
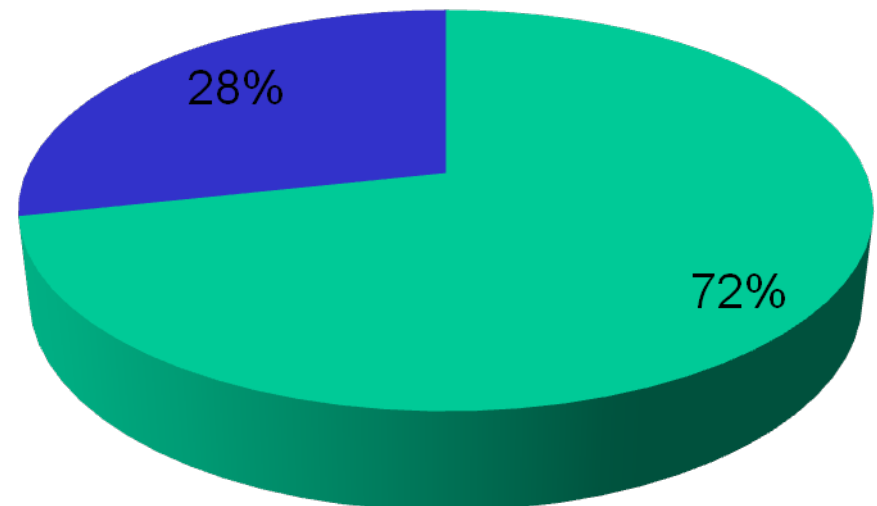- Social Security Administration

Why is ERA Important to UIC?

2941 Proposals Submitted in FY06

Federal ■ All Other

49%

51%

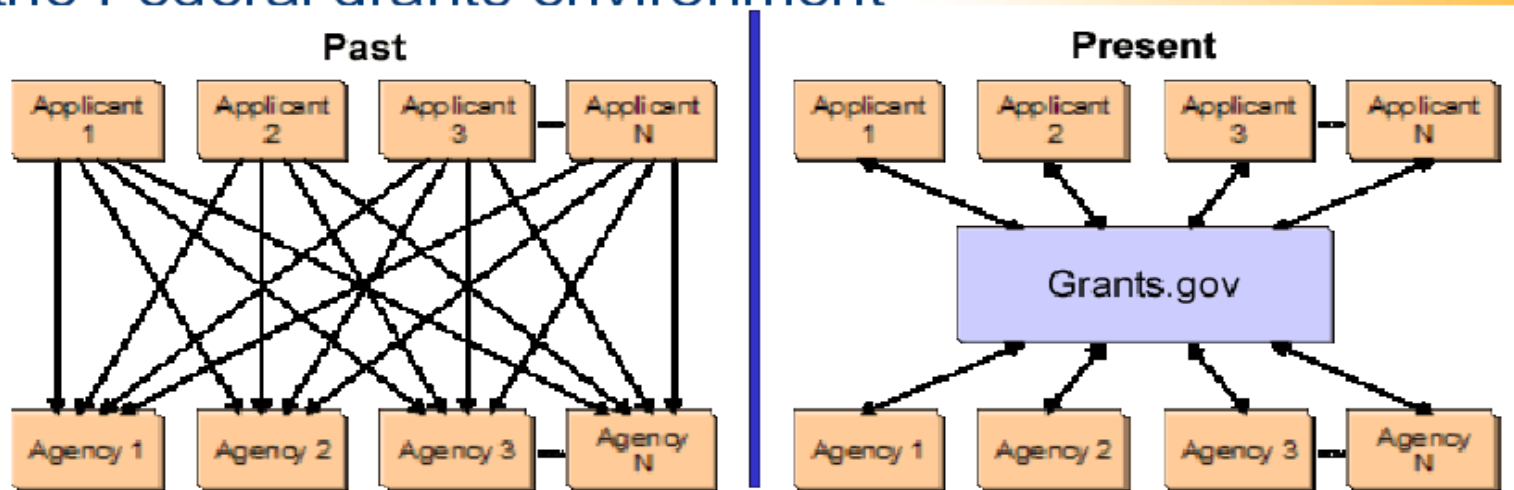### 611 Million in Total Dollars Requested in FY06

Federal ■ All Other

28%

72%

What is Grants.gov?

- A simplified, unified portal that functions as a clearinghouse for all customers of Federal Grants to electronically:
  - Find Grant Opportunities
  - Apply for Grants
- A cross-agency initiative spanning approximately 1000 grant programs from the 26 federal grant-making agencies that award over $400 billion in grant funds annually

Grants Environment – Past & Present

- The Grants.gov solution streamlines and simplifies the "many to many" lines of communication that complicated the Federal grants environment

- Like a post office, Grants.gov serves as the "trusted" broker between Federal agencies and the grants community

GRANTS.GOV℠

What Grants.gov Is Not…

- A Grant Making Agency

- Involved with the review or award processes of grant making agencies

- Replacing existing federal sponsor's electronic systems (i.e NSF Fastlane, NIH eRA Commons)

Grants.gov Submissions at UIC

- From December 2005 to Present we have submitted 500+ applications through Grants.gov
  - 350 to NIH
  - In Current calendar year almost 200 applications were submitted through Grants.gov
- Submitted 8 NIH R01 applications via System to System (S2S) utilizing UIeRA-Grants Management System

ORS Progress to Date:

- Implementation of a university-wide Grants Management System, namely UIeRA to manage and eventually submit applications

- Improving and updating ORS office policies and procedures in response to a very fluid environment to most efficiently support UIC's research community while ensuring prompt service and support

ORS Progress to Date:

- Increased Staff
- Scanning all documents - electronic storage - global access
- Electronic transmission of all UIC contract documents to subcontractors & consultants (immediate receipt & minimize processing timeline)
- Electronic transmission of award documents, correspondence courtesy copies and PAFs to PIs and Business Managers
- IT personnel actively involved with FDP group and other universities
- Creating internal databases
- Vice Chancellor for Research policy regarding Grants.gov submissions

What now?

- ERA is here to stay - It is the present and will continue to be the future

Contact Information

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UI eRA
electronic Research Administration

Project Co-Sponsored by:
UIC, UIS & UIUC Grants & Contracts
UIC & UIUC OVCR

UI eRA Modules & Services

- **Proposal Tracking**
- **Proposal Development**
- **Instructional Services**
- **Data Services**
- **SPIN/SMARTS**

Proposal Tracking (PT)

- **Centrally tracks proposal submission and award details, including:**
  - Budgets
  - Sub-awards
  - Associated agreements & comments

Proposal Tracking (cont.)

- Tool integrates with other InfoEd modules

- No re-keying

- Budget and administrative details are populated from Proposal Development (PD)

- Monitors progress from start to finish

Proposal Development (PD)

- **Proposal Development**
  - Used by PIs, business managers, departmental proposal processors, and administrators
  - Create, submit, review, track, route, and manage proposal/award details
  - A front-end to and integrated with PT
  - Auto-populate and auto-calculate

Proposal Development (cont.)

- Create detailed budgets in a single format
- Automated budget rules
- Integrated forms
- Consistent report results
- Centralized data
- System-to-system with grants.gov

Instructional Services

Blended Learning Experience: Mandatory & Role Based

- **On-Line Courses**
  - Virtual course management provided via Learning Management System (LMS)
  - Materials include but not limited to job aids, demonstrations, simulations, audio clips & video streaming
  - Communication facilitated through on-line discussion board
  - Provide space for case-by-case training
- **Face-to-Face Instruction**
  - Unit-Led training by Business Managers (or delegates)
  - Learning labs facilitated by Business Managers (or delegates)

Data Services

- **Three platforms for extracting pre-award data**
  - UI eRA Reporting Tool (vendor supplied)
  - EDDIE Portal (Decision Support)
  - EDW (Decision Support)
- **Support**
  - Assist Units in extracting pre-award data for their reporting and analysis needs
  - Training materials will be available for accessing and extracting data for reporting purposes

SPIN and SMARTS

- **SPIN**
  - Database of funding opportunities
  - Federal, non-Federal, & private sponsors
- **SMARTS**
  - Automated Alerts System
- **No charge to units**

Progress to Date

- System stabilized & replicated
- Successful system-to-system submission
- 180+ individual departmental PT users
- Course & training materials developed
- Reports developed
- Web site designed & protected
- PT User manual completed
- Data dictionary completed
- Networking with peer institutions
- Collaboration with vendor
- Post-implementation support

Activity Ahead

- Full implementation strategy
- Post-implementation support finalized
- Centralized logon
- Complete Banner interface
- Establish self-directed user groups
- Communication
- Live demos

Implementation Strategy

- **Strategy will focus on**
  - Implementation to volunteers units.
  - Units with current individual participants will have priority
  - Department Business Manager serves as initial point of contact
  - Business Analysis completed by Department Business Manager and UI eRA Help Team member(s)

Implementation Content

- **Dependent on Business Analysis**
- **May include all or portions of services**
- **Examples:**
  - **SPIN/SMARTS, Data Services, Instructional Services**
  - **PT, SPIN/SMARTS, Data Services, Instructional Services**
  - **PT, PD, SPIN/SMARTS, Data Services, Instructional Services**

Implementation Timeline

- **Participation Timeline**
  - Volunteer Units from current PT (individual) users
    - July 1, 2007
  - Volunteers Units from current PT (individual) users, 2nd round
    - October 1, 2007
  - Volunteers at-large
    - January 1, 2008
  - Volunteers at-large, 2nd round
  - Volunteers at-large, continue until fully implemented

Questions?

FOR MORE INFO...

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