**November 2023: Business Processes - Putting It All Together**

Edition # 5: November 14, 2023

 **eCivis will help improve grants management across the entire grants life cycle.**

The grants life cycle has five stages, each reflected by the project stages in eCivis and each possessing its own action items, opportunities, and pitfalls.

* Under consideration
* Application preparation
* Application submission
* Grant awarded/amendment(s)
* Grant implementation and closeout

The five stages above mirror what’s in eCivis Grants Network.

Process determines product. If your process is bad, your product will be bad, too. In the world of grants management, that means engaging the right team at the right time and asking the right questions.

Now that both grantee pre-award and grantee post-award are live in eCivis, it’s a good time to think about how grants management decisions are made and how eCivis can support a business process that leads to good results.

 **Simple tasks** and **advanced tasks** are a great way for agencies to use eCivis to ensure their grants management business process results in good decisions.

For more information about creating tasks in eCivis, see Appendices C and D of the [Grant Awarded through Grant Implementation](https://www.in.gov/sba/grants/resources-for-state-agencies/grantee/#tab-706468-Training_Materials) User Guide.

**How you make decisions matters!**

**NextLevel Grants Management is an OMB/SBA-driven initiative to improve**

**federal grants management in Indiana.**

What problem are we trying to solve in each lifecycle phase? These include:

* **Inter-Agency Communication.** Good decisions require coordination among an agency’s program, finance, and grants teams.
* **Role Clarity.** Effective process dictates that each team member knows their role.
* **Intra-Agency Coordination.** Frequent, timely coordination with State Budget Agency will facilitate efficient approval of agency grants, especially new grants.
* **Grant Evaluation.** Some grants are distractions not opportunities. Agencies should evaluate grants to confirm alignment with agency policy objectives and budget priorities.
* **Timely Approval Request.** Agencies are required to submit grants to State Budget Agency for approval at least 10 days before the grant application due date.
* **State Match Funding Source Request.** Agencies should request their state match and funding source at the same time.

These are a few examples of the kinds of process challenges eCivis can help manage to ensure good results.

**Please take a moment to complete a brief** [**survey**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ur-ZIQmkE0-wxBi0WTPYjRe_-jepGI5LoWRdcw6MsKZUQzIzWkJaTkFER0lGNjRRVUVUVVNPWkg1Ny4u) **about NextLevel Grants Management!**

**Preparation for Active Award Upload Cycle 3 is Underway!** Here is what agencies need to know:

* An active award is a grant, a state match, or a substate transfer that has a federal funding source and a project period ending after October 1, 2023.
* State Budget Agency will work with agencies to collect active award information and then upload the information to eCivis.

For more information, please see the [eCivis Implementation Information](https://www.in.gov/sba/grants/ecivis-implementation-information/#tab-718581-Events_Timeline) section of the SBA website.

**Questions? Need help?** [Contact Grants Management Team](https://www.in.gov/sba/grants/contact-grants-management-team/)