

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4887

To modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2018

Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. ISSA, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. KILMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To modernize Federal grant reporting, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Grant Reporting Effi-
5 ciency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2018” or the
6 “GREAT Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

8 The purposes of this Act are to—

9 (1) modernize reporting by recipients of Federal
10 grants and cooperative agreements by creating and

1 imposing data standards for the information that
2 grants and cooperative agreement recipients must
3 report to the Federal Government;

4 (2) implement the recommendation by the Di-
5 rector of the Office of Management and Budget,
6 under section 5(b)(6) of the Federal Funding Ac-
7 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31
8 U.S.C. 6101 note), which includes the development
9 of a “comprehensive taxonomy of standard defini-
10 tions for core data elements required for managing
11 Federal financial assistance awards”;

12 (3) reduce burden and compliance costs of re-
13 cipients of Federal grants and cooperative agree-
14 ments by enabling technology solutions, existing or
15 yet to be developed, by both the public and private
16 sectors, to better manage data recipients already
17 provide to the Federal Government; and

18 (4) to strengthen oversight and management of
19 Federal grants and cooperative agreements by agen-
20 cies through consolidated collection and display of
21 and access to open data that has been standardized,
22 and where appropriate, transparency to the public.

1 **SEC. 3. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.**

2 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle V of title 31, United
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 63 the
4 following new chapter:

5 **“CHAPTER 64—DATA STANDARDS FOR**
6 **GRANT REPORTING**

“Sec.

“6401. Definitions.

“6402. Data standards for grant reporting.

“6403. Guidance applying standard data elements for grant reporting.

“6404. Agency requirements.

7 **“§ 6401. Definitions**

8 “In this chapter:

9 “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the
10 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5.

11 “(2) CORE STANDARD DATA ELEMENTS.—The
12 term ‘core standard data elements’ means data ele-
13 ments that are not program-specific in nature and
14 are required by all or the vast majority of Federal
15 grant and cooperative assistance recipients for pur-
16 poses of reporting.

17 “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
18 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
19 et.

20 “(4) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term ‘Federal
21 award’—

22 “(A) means the transfer of anything of
23 value for a public purpose of support or stimu-

1 lation authorized by a law of the United States,
 2 including financial assistance and Government
 3 facilities, services, and property;

4 “(B) includes grants, subgrants, awards,
 5 and cooperative agreements; and

6 “(C) does not include—

7 “(i) conventional public information
 8 services or procurement of property or
 9 services for the direct benefit or use of the
 10 Government; or

11 “(ii) an agreement that provides
 12 only—

13 “(I) direct Government cash as-
 14 sistance to an individual;

15 “(II) a subsidy;

16 “(III) a loan;

17 “(IV) a loan guarantee; or

18 “(V) insurance.

19 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
 20 the head of the standard-setting agency.

21 “(6) STANDARD-SETTING AGENCY.—The term
 22 ‘standard-setting agency’ means the Executive de-
 23 partment designated under section 6402(a)(1).

24 **“§ 6402. Data standards for grant reporting**

25 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

1 “(1) DESIGNATION OF STANDARD-SETTING
2 AGENCY.—The Director shall designate the Execu-
3 tive department (as defined in section 101 of title 5)
4 that issues the most Federal awards as the stand-
5 ard-setting agency.

6 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—Not
7 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
8 this chapter, the Secretary and the Director shall es-
9 tablish Governmentwide data standards for informa-
10 tion reported by recipients of Federal awards.

11 “(3) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data standards
12 established under paragraph (2) shall include, at a
13 minimum—

14 “(A) a comprehensive taxonomy of stand-
15 ard definitions for data elements required for
16 managing Federal awards; and

17 “(B) unique and nonproprietary identifiers
18 for Federal awards and entities receiving Fed-
19 eral awards that can be consistently applied
20 Governmentwide.

21 “(b) SCOPE.—The data standards established under
22 subsection (a) shall include core standard data elements
23 and may cover any information required to be reported
24 to any agency by recipients of Federal awards, including

1 audit-related information reported under chapter 75 of
2 this title.

3 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards required
4 to be established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent
5 reasonable and practicable—

6 “(1) render information reported by recipients
7 of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards
8 fully searchable and machine-readable;

9 “(2) be nonproprietary;

10 “(3) incorporate standards developed and main-
11 tained by voluntary consensus standards bodies;

12 “(4) be consistent with and implement applica-
13 ble accounting and reporting principles; and

14 “(5) incorporate the data standards established
15 under the Federal Funding Accountability and
16 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

17 “(d) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the core
18 standard data elements under subsection (a), the Sec-
19 retary and the Director shall consult with, as appro-
20 priate—

21 “(1) the Secretary of the Treasury, to ensure
22 that the data standards incorporate the data stand-
23 ards created under the Federal Funding Account-
24 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C.
25 6101 note);

1 “(2) the head of each agency that issues Fed-
2 eral awards;

3 “(3) recipients of Federal awards and organiza-
4 tions representing recipients of Federal awards;

5 “(4) software providers seeking to build tools
6 that automatically compile and submit grant-related
7 reports and organizations representing such software
8 providers; and

9 “(5) members of the public, including privacy
10 experts and privacy advocates.

11 **“§ 6403. Guidance applying standard data elements**
12 **for grant reporting**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
14 date of the enactment of this chapter—

15 “(1) the Secretary and the Director shall issue
16 guidance to all agencies directing the agencies to
17 apply the data standards established under section
18 6402 to all applicable reporting by recipients of Fed-
19 eral grant and cooperative agreement awards; and

20 “(2) the Director shall prescribe guidance ap-
21 plying the data standards to audit-related informa-
22 tion reported under chapter 75.

23 “(b) GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued under this
24 section shall—

25 “(1) to the extent reasonable and practicable—

1 “(A) minimize the disruption to existing
 2 reporting practices for agencies and for recipi-
 3 ents of Federal grant and cooperative agree-
 4 ment awards; and

5 “(B) explore opportunities to implement
 6 modern technologies within Federal award re-
 7 porting; and

8 “(2) allow the Director to permit exceptions on
 9 a case-by-case basis.

10 **“§ 6404. Agency requirements**

11 “Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-
 12 ment of this chapter, the head of each agency shall ensure
 13 that all of the agency’s grants and cooperative agreements
 14 use data standards for all future information collection re-
 15 quests and amend existing information collection requests
 16 covered by chapter 35 of title 44 (commonly referred to
 17 as the Paperwork Reduction Act) to comply with the data
 18 standards established under section 6402, consistent with
 19 the guidance issued by the Secretary and the Director
 20 under section 6403.”.

21 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
 22 The table of chapters for subtitle V of title 31, United
 23 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
 24 ing to chapter 63 the following new item:

“64. Data standards for grant reporting 6401”.

1 **SEC. 4. SINGLE AUDIT ACT.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS.—

3 (1) Section 7502(h) of title 31, United States
4 Code, is amended by inserting before “to a Federal
5 clearinghouse” the following “in an electronic form
6 consistent with the data standards established under
7 chapter 64,”.

8 (2) Section 7505 of title 31, United States
9 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following
10 new subsection:

11 “(d) Such guidance shall require audit-related infor-
12 mation reported under this chapter to be reported in an
13 electronic form consistent with the data standards estab-
14 lished under chapter 64.”.

15 (b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue
17 guidance requiring audit-related information reported
18 under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, to be
19 reported in an electronic form consistent with the data
20 standards established under chapter 64 of title 31, United
21 States Code, as added by section 3.

22 **SEC. 5. CONSOLIDATION OF ASSISTANCE-RELATED INFOR-**
23 **MATION; PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMA-**
24 **TION AS OPEN DATA.**

25 (a) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Not later than
26 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

1 Secretary and the Director shall enable the collection, pub-
2 lic display, and maintenance of Federal award information
3 as a Governmentwide data set, using the data standards
4 established under chapter 64 of title 31, United States
5 Code, as added by section 3, subject to reasonable restric-
6 tions established by the Director to ensure protection of
7 personally identifiable and otherwise sensitive information.

8 (b) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary
9 and the Director shall require the publication of recipient-
10 reported data collected from all agencies on a single public
11 website. Information may be published on an existing Gov-
12 ernmentwide website as determined appropriate by the Di-
13 rector.

14 (c) FOIA.—Nothing in this section shall require the
15 disclosure to the public of information that would be ex-
16 empt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United
17 States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Infor-
18 mation Act”).

19 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act, the terms “agency”, “Director”, “Fed-
21 eral award”, and “Secretary” have the meaning given
22 those terms in section 6401 of title 31, United States
23 Code, as added by section 3(a).

1 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2 Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this
3 Act, shall be construed to require the collection of data
4 that is not otherwise required pursuant to any Federal
5 award.

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