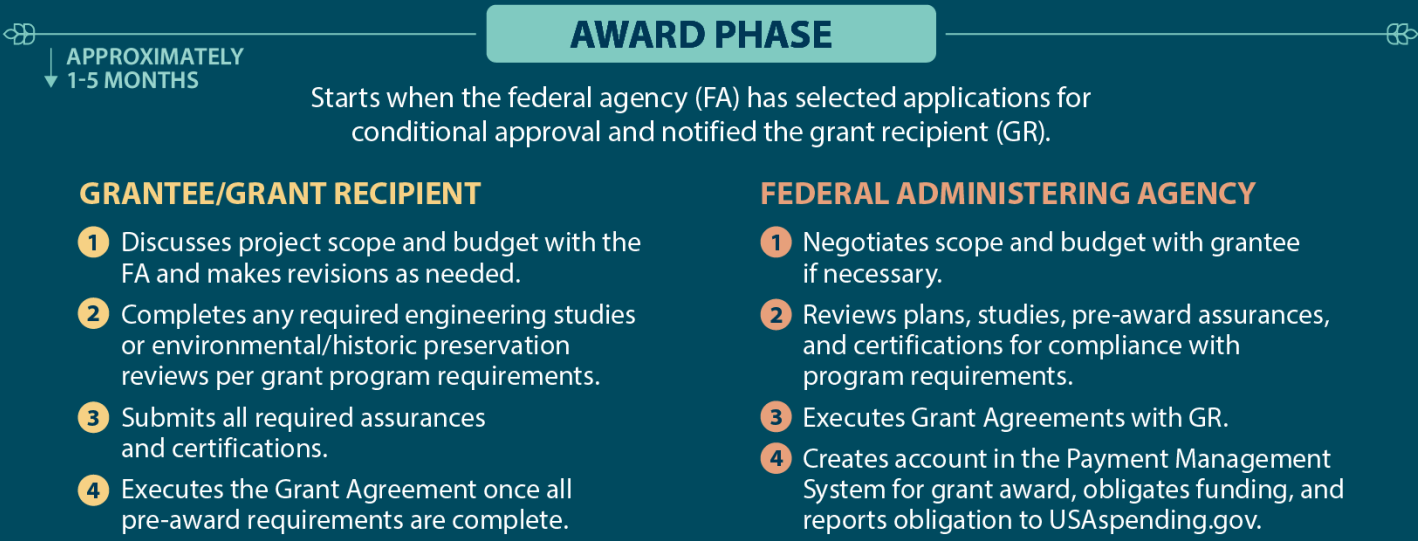
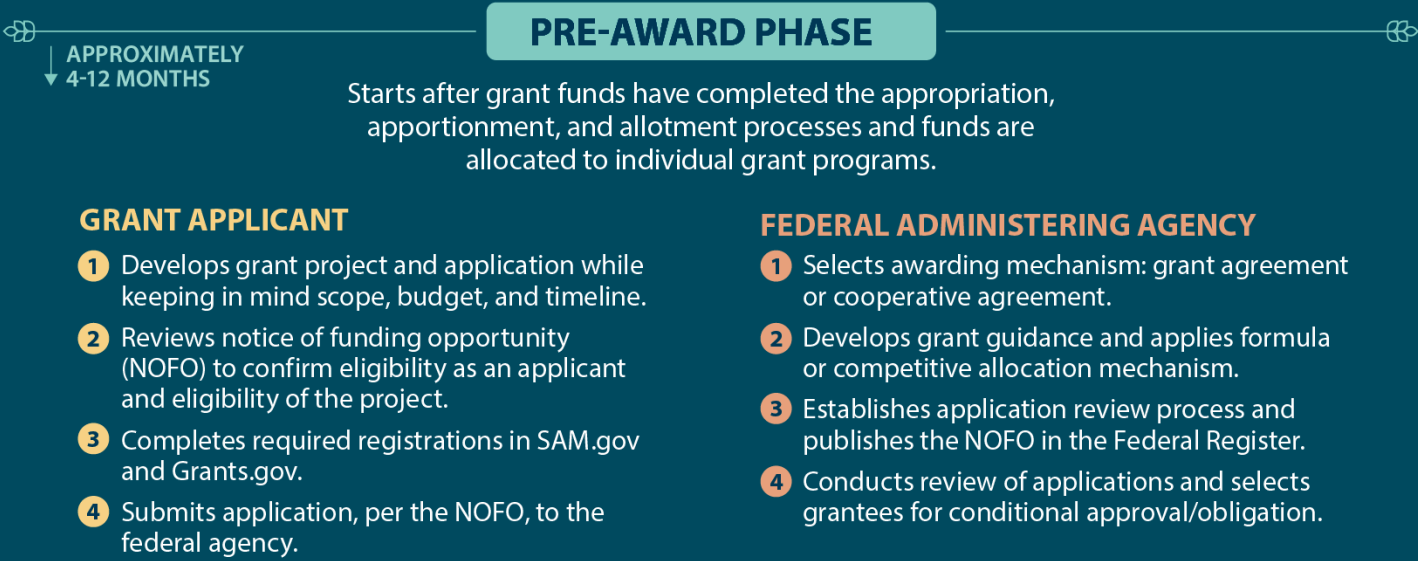


How Federal Grant Funds Flow

There are three phases in the life cycle of a federal grant: Pre-Award Phase, Award Phase, and Project Administration/Post-Award Phase.

START:
Congress appropriates funding that will be administered by federal agencies through federal grant programs.



END:
Unexpended grant funding remaining in the expired or closed cash management account for the grant award is either reprogrammed or returned to the U.S. Treasury.

For additional information on grant terminology, see <https://grants.gov/learn-grants/grant-terminology>.

Information as of April 8, 2025. This infographic was originally authored by Natalie Paris, Analyst in American Federalism and Emergency Management Policy, and Amber Wilhelm, Visual Information Specialist.



Author Information

Adam G. Levin
Analyst in Economic Development Policy

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.