



FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

Redefining the Government & University Research Partnership

Joint Application Design Team (JAD) and Federal Demonstration Partnership



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Joint Application Design Team (JAD) Inception

“What I would like to propose is a Joint Application Design team – an informal working group of FDP members – to provide Grants.gov with feedback, guidance, and counsel on applicant issues for Grants.gov”

Eben Trevino November 2008 Email to FDP



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Team Makeup

The JAD team includes a combination of:

- ✓ Faculty representatives
- ✓ Administrative representatives
- ✓ Technical representatives
- ✓ Federal Agency representatives (NIH, NSF, DoD)
- ✓ Grants.gov representatives



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Mission

- To be a strong voice for the **applicants**.
- Help Grants.gov meet the expectations of the **users** and understand their perspective.



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Grants.gov/JAD Team meetings

- Face-to-face meetings held 3 times a year in conjunction with FDP
- Monthly virtual meetings



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Activities & Accomplishments

- Provide feedback, guidance and council on upcoming changes, as well as on the Transformation Project
- Participate in beta testing (e.g., S2S transition to Header 2.0; Shared Workspace)
- Workspace Functionality Spearheaded by JAD
 - Ability for institutions to grant AORs access to all workspaces
 - Ability to restrict budget and subaward budget access
 - Ability to grant workspace access to other institutions

Grants.gov: Enhancements Around the Corner and on the Horizon

Federal Demonstration Partnership

Presented by Grants.gov
September 6, 2018



Agenda

- Transformation Update
- Grants.gov Releases Update
 - Release 16.3 FDP Highlights
 - Mobile App
- Workspace Feedback from FDP

TRANSFORMATION UPDATE



Topics

- Project Vision & Timeline
- Current Year Focus
- New User Interface Design Approaches
- Transformation Next Steps
- Workspace Adoption
- Activity

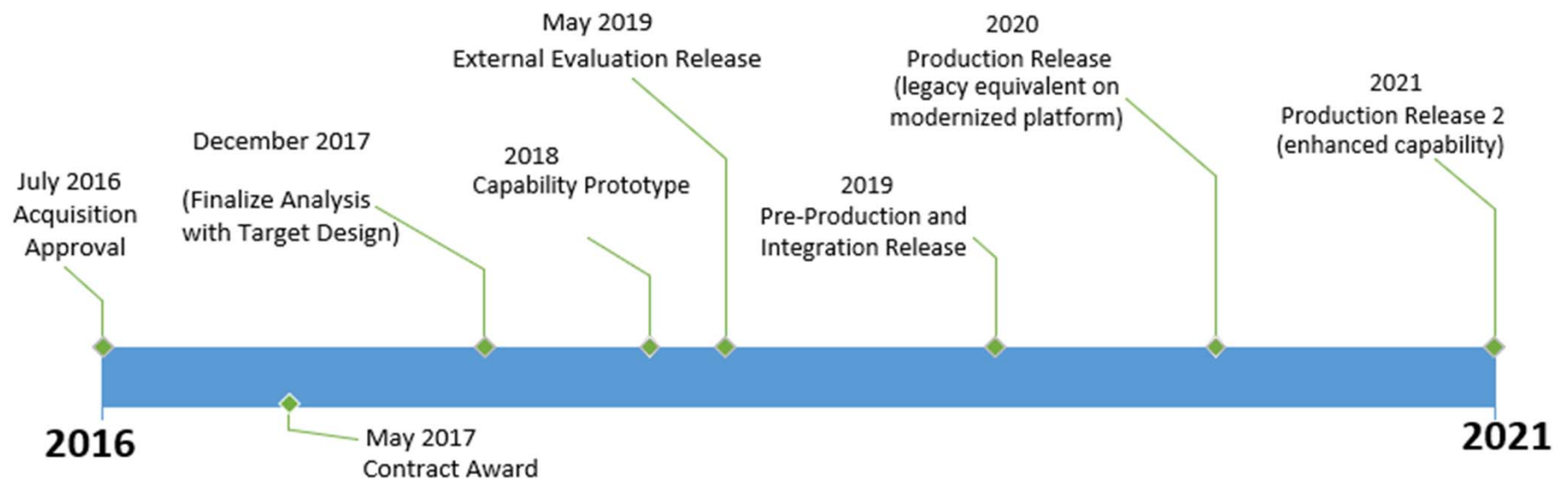
PROJECT VISION & TIMELINE

The Grants.gov Transformation project will transform and modernize the Grants.gov system – setting the next generation of the Grants.gov system, modernized to evolved technologies and standards.

Grants.gov Transformation Goals

- **Simplify Application Process:** Minimize the amount of time required for an applicant to apply for a grant by simplifying the process, reducing data entry, and increasing access to grant opportunities.
- **Improve Transparency:** Improve support for discretionary, continuation, and mandatory grants by providing enhanced Opportunity Planning capabilities and providing applicants with improved visibility into the award status after submitting an application
- **Improve the Quality of Applications:** Improve the data validation for grant applications, thereby reducing submission errors and improving the quality of applications received by grantors.
- **Reduce the burden on applicants** by providing a single reporting portal for uploading post-award reports
- **Connect Applicants to Relevant Opportunities:** Improve the ability for Grants.gov to connect applicants to grant opportunities for which they are qualified for and have interest

Timeline



CURRENT YEAR FOCUS



Current Year Goal

- Focused on **developing the foundational architecture/framework and an External Evaluation Release** of the next generation Grants.gov System based on the stakeholder feedback and target architecture and system requirements determined in the base year
- Goal is to implement current Grants.gov system functionality on the target architecture platform. Release focus on:
 - Search including Smart Search
 - Apply including Workspace
 - Registration and Authentication
 - Pre-Award Planning
 - S2S Web Services
 - Grants.gov website, to include content and home page
 - Offline Forms
 - Submission Report & Operational Analytics
- Release for External Evaluation: Mid 2019

Key Accomplishments in This Year

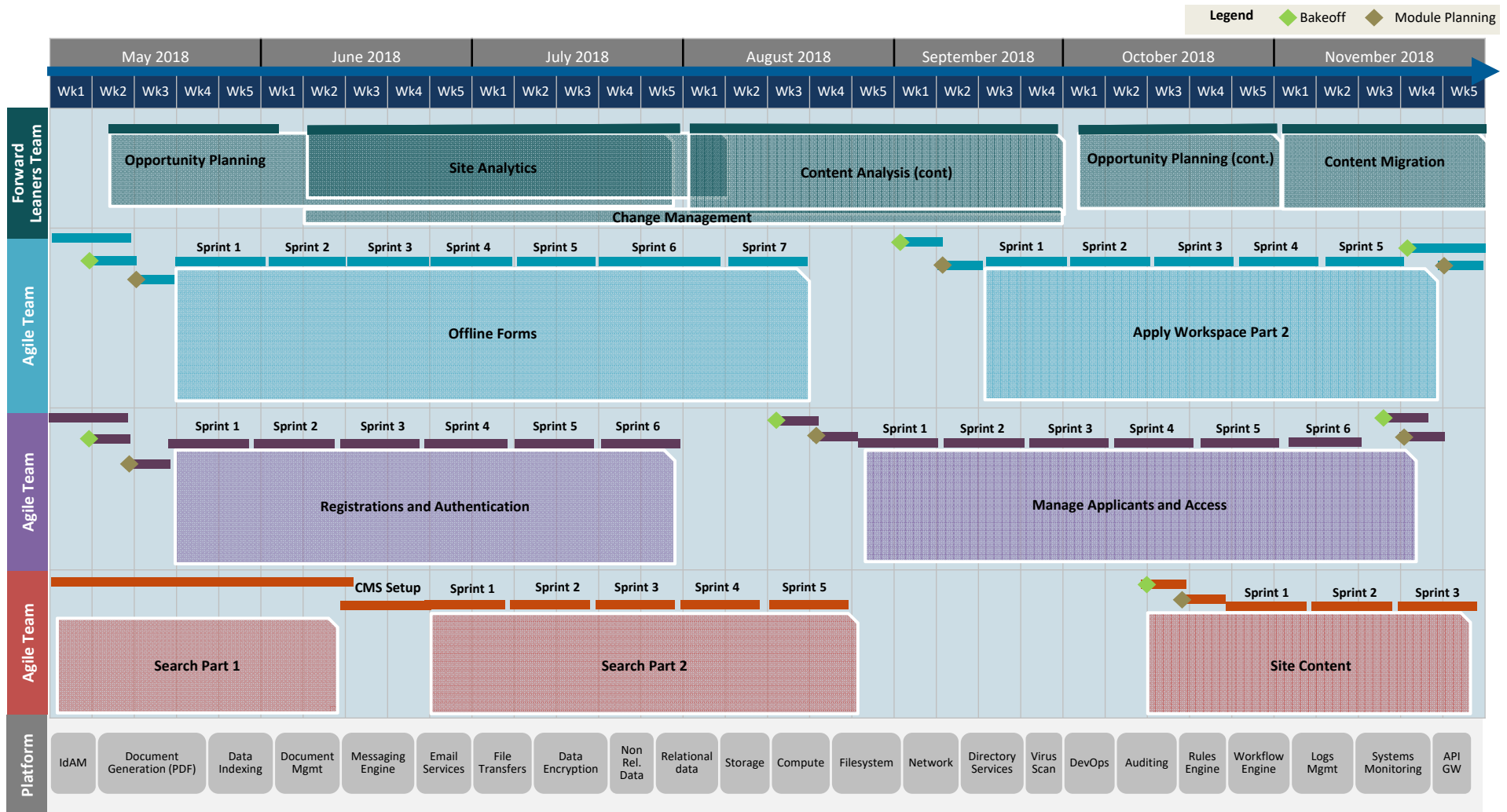
Development Highlights

- **Apply (Workspace) Module 1:** Enhanced UI for My Workspaces, application and forms status/progress indicators (completed May 11th)
- **Register/Authenticate Module 1:** Enhanced UI for account registration and activation (completed May 11th)
- **Search Module 1:** Enhanced UI for searching opportunities with refined relevancy tuning (completed June 5th)
- **Platform:** DevOps pipeline with dependency checks and code analysis

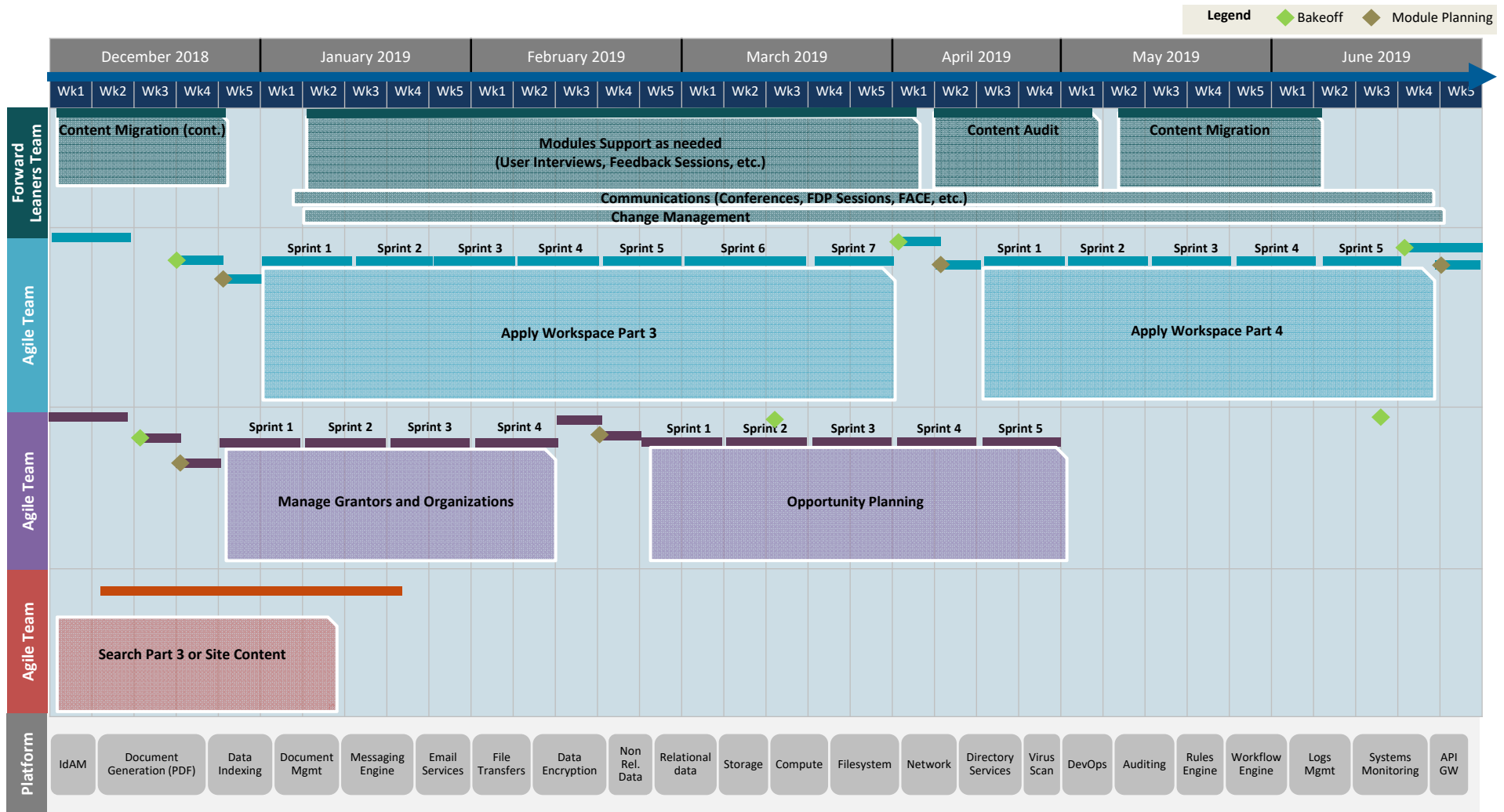
Outreach Efforts

- **Completed Card Sort (438 responses) and Tree Test (496 responses):** The results validated the revised information architecture provided insights into where it could be improved
- **Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting:** Attended JAD/FDP meetings (May) to deliver Transformation updates and conducted breakout exercise at FDP Open Session with 45 participants
- **User Interviews:** Conducted 19 user interviews to support Opportunity Planning (5), Apply/Workspace (9) and Offline Forms (5)
- **Conference:** Submitted application to participate in National Grant Management Association (NGMA) conference in April

Roadmap Part I (May – Nov 2018)



Roadmap Part II (Dec 2018 – June 2019)



NEW USER INTERFACE DESIGN APPROACHES

Apply – Workspace: Form Entry

Module 1 Development Completed on May 11th

[About](#) [Applicant Portal](#) [Grantors](#) [Help Center](#)

[Home](#) > [Applicants](#) > [Portal](#) > [My Workspace](#) > [MD test on 7.25.2018](#) > [Forms](#) > [Form: PHS 398 Cover Page Supplement](#)

MD test on 7.25.2018

Forms

Tasks

Instructions

Workspace Activity

Form: PHS 398 Cover Page Supplement

Form unlocked by Alan

63%

FORM INFO

1. Vertebrate Animals Section

Are vertebrate animals euthanized? (optional)

☒ Yes

☐ No

If 'Yes' to euthanasia Is method consistent with American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If No to AVMA guidelines, describe method and provide scientific justification

2. Program Income Section

3. Human Embryonic Stem Cells Section

4. Inventions and Patents Section (for Renewal applications)

Key Enhancements

Improved Validation

- 1 Immediate feedback on form fields for success and errors - including complex conditional business rules and logic

Simplified Process

- 2 Accordion allows for easy collapse of form section
- 3 Breadcrumb and side menu simply navigation within workspace and across entire site


Apply – Workspace: My Workspaces


Module 1 Development Completed on May 11th








My Workspaces 1

Create Workspace

FILTER BY +

Search Workspaces 

 Export Data

Workspace	Progress 2	Deadline 3 	Status 	
Uttara New Workspace	<div><div></div></div> 10%	October 01, 2018 12:00 AM(UTC)	IN PROGRESS	
Testing new form names	<div><div></div></div> 3%	October 01, 2018 12:00 AM(UTC)	IN PROGRESS	
MHM Test Applicaton 2018-07-17 NIH-TR-18-004	<div><div></div></div> 67%	October 01, 2018 12:00 AM(UTC)	IN PROGRESS	
Sprint 4 Demo 07.24.18	<div><div></div></div> 67%	October 01, 2018 12:00 AM(UTC)	IN PROGRESS	
MHM Application NIH-TR-18-004 August 09 2018	<div><div></div></div> 1%	October 01, 2018 12:00 AM(UTC)	IN PROGRESS	

Key Enhancements

Enhanced UI

- 1 Clean, simplified UI make application information easier to find and read, and key features easier to find

Improved Status

- 2 Progress bar indicator shows user level of completion for individual forms and entire workspace
- 3 Deadline clearly displayed, with closing time included

Registration and Authentication: Account Creation

Module 1 Development Completed on May 11th

The screenshot shows the GRANTS.GOV website header with the logo and navigation links: About, Applicant Portal, Grantors, and Help Center. A progress bar indicates the current step is 'Personal Details' (1), with 'Account Info' (2) and 'Summary' (3) following. The 'Create an Account' section is titled 'Personal Details' and contains three input fields: 'First Name' (Jane), 'Last Name' (Doe), and 'Email Address' (doe.jane). The 'Email Address' field is highlighted with a red border and a red error message 'Invalid Email' (2). Below the email field is the 'Mobile Phone Number' field (123-0-000) with a red error message 'Please enter a valid phone number or leave it empty' (3). A blue 'Continue' button is at the bottom.

GRANTS.GOV™

Sign in Create an account

About Applicant Portal Grantors Help Center

Personal Details 1 Account Info Summary

Create an Account

Personal Details

First Name
Jane

Last Name
Doe

Email Address 2
Invalid Email
doe.jane

Mobile Phone Number 3
Please enter a valid phone number or leave it empty
123-0-000

Continue

Key Enhancements

Improved Registration

- 1 Clearly delineated steps to provide awareness and transparency during the registration process

Improved Validation

- 2 Immediate real-time validation feedback to the User during the registration process to help reduce user error and increase data integrity

Improved Status

- 3 Descriptive messages for user to take action and proceed with registration

Registration and Authentication

Module 1 Development Completed on May 11th

GRANTS.GOVSM

Sign in Create an account

About Applicant Portal Grantors Help Center

Personal Details Account Info Summary

Create an Account

Account Information

User Name
jdoe

Password
Invalid Password 1

.....

[Show password](#)

Your password must contain:

- ✗ at least eight characters,
- ✓ at least one uppercase letters (A-Z), 2
- ✓ at least one lowercase letters (a-z),
- ✗ at least one number (0-9),
- ✓ and at least one special character (e.g. ! @ # \$ % ^ & *)

Confirm Password
Invalid confirm Password

Key Enhancements

Improved User Experience

- 1 User is able to verify password requirements while creating thru an explicit visual representation
- 2 Visual cues using colors and icons to inform user of meeting password requirements – per NIST guidance and HHS OS Security handbook

Registration and Authentication

Module 1 Development Completed on May 11th

GRANTS.GOV™

Sign in Create an account

About Applicant Portal Grantors Help Center

Personal Details Account Info Summary

Create an Account

Here is what we have for your account. Does this look correct?

Almost There, just one more step! 1

Hey Jane, we have successfully created a new Grants account for you. We have sent an verification email to:

doe.janetest@gmail.com [Edit](#) 2

If you don't receive the email within 30 minutes please make sure the email above is correct, and click the resend button below.

Resend Verification Email

Key Enhancements

Improved Registration Verification

- 1 User presented with phrases in addition to the visual process indicators to prevent any confusion and encourage user to complete registration
- 2 Ability to modify email address just in time rather than going back to the first step

Grant Opportunity Search

Module 1 Development Completed on June 5th

[Export Data](#)

Results 1 - 10 of 522

1 Sort By Relevancy

2 Opportunity Status

☒ Forecasted (15)
☒ Posted (507)
☐ Closed (333)
☐ Archived (7216)

Funding Instrument Type

☒ All Funding Instruments
☐ Cooperative Agreement (105)
☐ Grant (442)
☐ Other (7)
☐ Procurement Contract (5)

Eligibility

☒ All Eligibilities
☐ City or township governments (313)

3

os:Forecasted x os:Posted x

OPPORTUNITY
Biomechanics and Mechanobiology
Agency Opportunity Number Posted Date Closed Date
NSF PD-17-7479 09/22/2016 09/16/2018
The BMMB program supports fundamental research in biomechanics and mechanobiology. The program emphasizes multiscale mechanics approaches that integrate across

OPPORTUNITY
Engineering of Biomedical Systems
Agency Opportunity Number Posted Date Closed Date
NSF PD-18-5345 05/15/2018 10/21/2018
The Engineering of Biomedical Systems (EBMS) program is part of the Engineering Biology and Health cluster, which also includes 1) Biophotonics; 2) Biosensing; 3

OPPORTUNITY
Biophysical and Biomechanical Aspects of Embryonic Development (R21)
Agency Opportunity Number Posted Date Closed Date
HHS-NIH11 PAR-16-324 06/09/2016 09/18/2018

Key Enhancements

Improved Search Results

- 1 Search results display in order of relevancy score, but can also be sorted by other data. Methodical weighting to establish a foundation for intelligent search

Tailorable Search Criteria

- 2 Apply facets as needed to refine search results and see the number of opportunities update based on user selected facets

Intuitive UI

- 3 Implemented USWDS design to improve layout, use of white space, typography, and visual content dividers. Improved the UX to respond to feedback to help process data based on user research and best practices with our search transformation efforts

TRANSFORMATION NEXT STEPS

Review of Key Feedback

Pain Points and Themes from Surveys and Interviews

- Simplify the application process
- Allow applicants to **re-use and forward populate data** from SAM and from previous applications or from their agency profile. Update once and populate everything.
- **Add more validation** earlier in the process to **prevent submission errors** or to prevent applicant from being unable to submit.
- **Enable easier collaboration** for organizations in which multiple people contribute to the application.
- Provide **better instructions** and **Help functionality** to reduce applicant errors and calls asking for assistance.
- Enhance ability to **search for opportunities by agency and department** for grantees who are looking for specific grants.
- Allow applicants to **search for opportunities by topic** and **easily sort** by different criteria.
- Enable **single sign-on**.
- Make it easy to **identify if DUNS numbers roll up** to or are associated with a larger entity and **provide flexibility** around requiring DUNS to start or submit applications.
- Make it easier to **find out what else applicants have applied for** similar types of grants.
- Allow more **flexibility to configure reports** and enhanced options for **post-award reporting**.
- **Simplify** System-to-System integration interfaces and pro-actively alert agencies of upcoming changes
- **Provide greater flexibility for grantor agencies** when publishing of funding opportunity announcements
- Provide a single place for award recipients to **upload post-award reports** (e.g. 425 forms) so that they do not have to send them to multiple places.

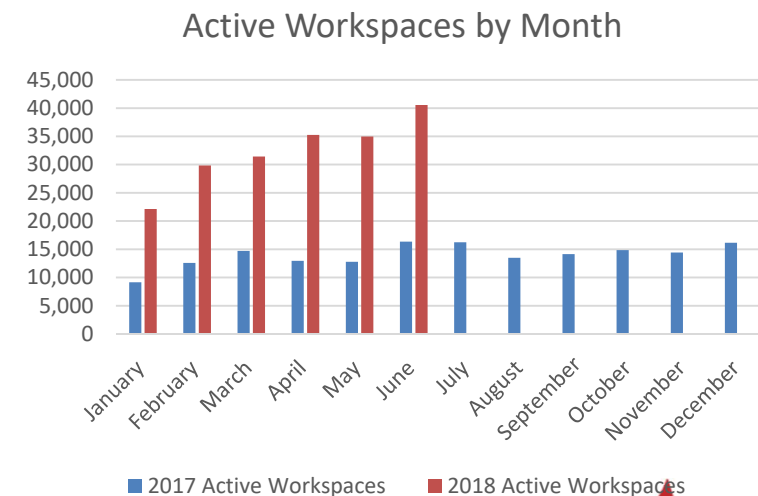
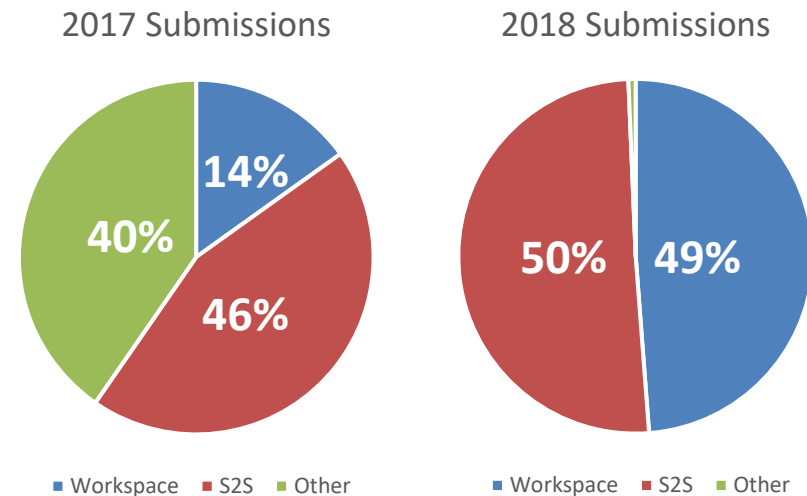
Transformation Next Steps

- **Development:** Continue the development of the core infrastructure, platform and application modules that modernize existing functionality in support of an external evaluation release in May 2019
- **Vision:** Develop refined Product Vision for enhancing and expanding the capabilities of Grants.gov.
- **Outreach Communications:** Continue stakeholder engagement to validate priorities, solicit user feedback on planned designs, and refining the vision for the Grants.gov transformation. Develop communications plan and materials to inform applicants and grantors of new and changed functionality.
- **Establish Analytics Baseline:** Establish an analytics baseline of the legacy system to support measurable and demonstrable improvements accomplished by the transformation
- **Develop Migration Plan:** Develop a plan for incremental fielding of transformed modules (e.g. search, opportunity planning)

WORKSPACE ADOPTION

Workspace & Grants.gov Transformation

- Workspace supports a collaborative/customizable application process
 - Simultaneous access and editing
 - Tailored application workflow
- Transformation incorporates what's successful in Workspace, analyzes areas for improvement
 - Data gathering on Workspace usage
 - Identify most meaningful improvements



ACTIVITY

Search Activity

Goal: Test the proposed search interface so we can gather feedback on how users refine/filter their searches to inform final designs.

Instructions:

- Use your laptop* and navigate to:
 - <https://search.grants.boozallencsn.com>
- Enter the test credentials provided to you
- Search for grants!

* Don't have one? We have tablets available!

Enhancement Ranking Activity

- Rank proposed Grants.gov Enhancements

Instructions:

- Break into small groups of 5-6 people
- Using the markers and post-its, work with your group to rank the set of enhancements
- Share your group's ranking

Enhancements

- [APL-003] Agency-specific validations (shared service)
- [APL-015] Extended application status
- [APL-024] Streamlined Apply
- [AWD-025] Notice of award posting
- [LRN-044] Guided application completion
- [PLN-048] Opportunity planning module for grantors
- [PLN-053] Support additional grants announcements beyond FOAs (e.g. RFIs, notices, etc.)
- [PLT-055] Modern; flexible S2S interface (JSON; REST)
- [PLT-058] Single sign-on
- [RPT-073] Grant project reporting portal pilot

Goals

- Factor 1: Simple application process
- Factor 2: Supports agency grants processes
- Factor 3: Reduces cost to agencies
- Factor 4: High Quality Applicant Pool - Only qualified/eligible applicants submit applications
- Factor 5: Collaboration - Applicants and agencies can communicate and collaborate through Grants.gov
- Factor 6: Collaboration with partners (called use of resources in Aug 2017 notes) - Effectively utilize partner relationships to achieve Grants.gov mission
- Factor 7: Support Grantors - Expand grant performance management and enhance day-to-day work

Values and Importance

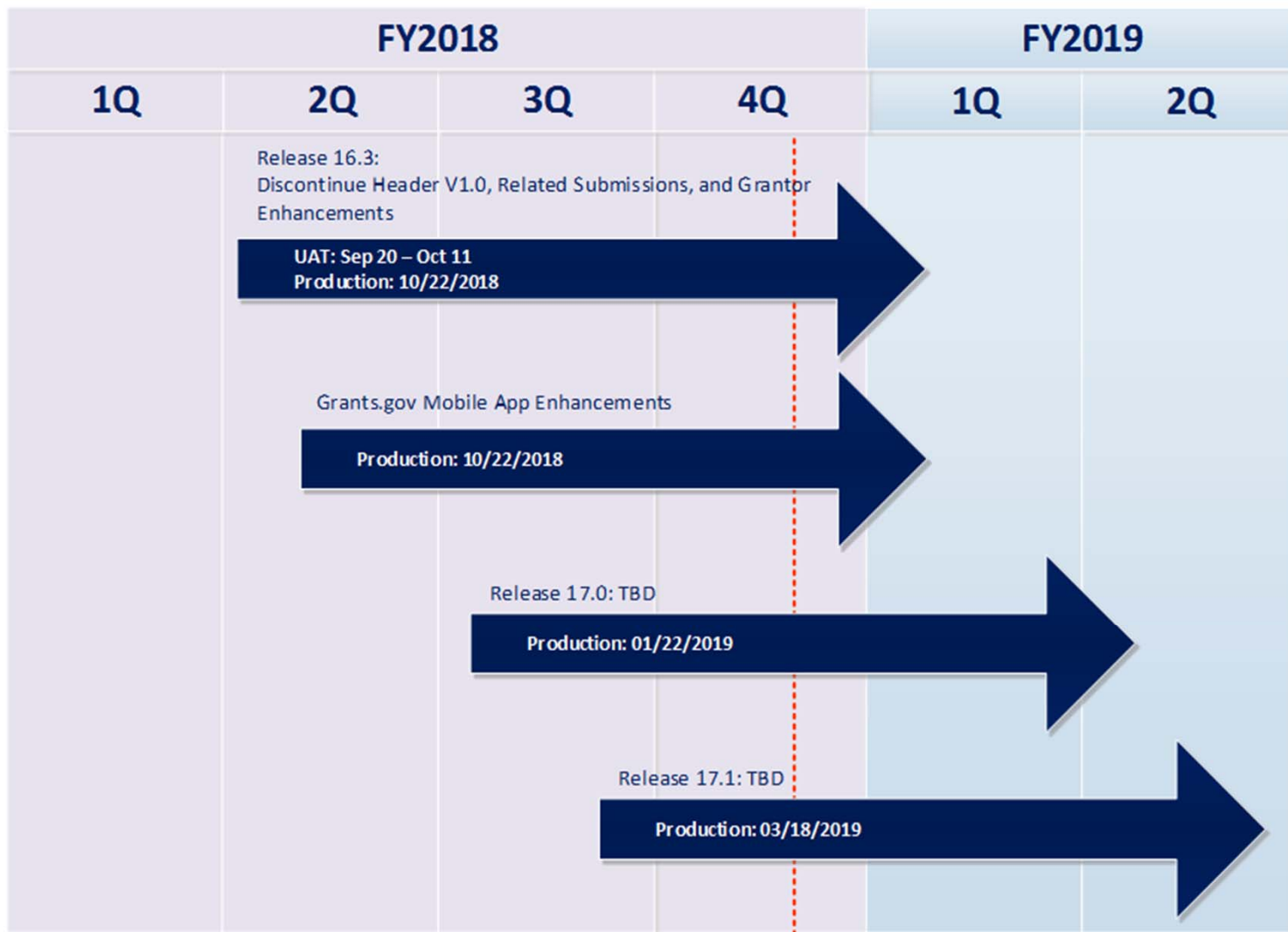
Enhancement that Best Accomplishes Each Goal	Importance Value
Factor 7: Support Grant Managers [RPT-073] Grant project reporting portal pilot	100
Factor 5: Applicant and agency comms and collab [APL-015] Extended application status	90
Factor 1: Simple application process [APL-024] Streamlined Apply	80
Factor 4: High Quality Applicant Pool - Only qualified/eligible applicants submit applications [LRN-044] Guided application completion [PLN-053] Support additional grants announcements beyond FOAs (e.g. RFIs, notices, etc.)	70
Factor 2: Supports agency grants processes [PLN-048] Opportunity planning module for grantors	65
Factor 6: utilize partner relationships [APL-003] Agency-specific validations (shared service)	40
Factor 3: Reduces cost to agencies [RPT-073] Grant project reporting portal pilot	30

Preliminary Ranking

Enhancement	Total Value
[PLN-053] Support additional grants announcements beyond FOAs (e.g. RFIs, notices, etc.)	312
[PLN-048] Opportunity planning module for grantors	287
[APL-003] Agency-specific validations (shared service)	269
[LRN-044] Guided application completion	259
[RPT-073] Grant project reporting portal pilot	250
[APL-015] Extended application status	242
[AWD-025] Notice of award posting	212
[APL-024] Streamlined Apply	148
[PLT-055] Modern; flexible S2S interface (JSON; REST)	117
[PLT-058] Single sign-on	68

GRANTS.GOV RELEASES UPDATE

Upcoming Release Schedule



RELEASE 16.3 FDP HIGHLIGHTS

UAT: 9/20 – 10/11/2018

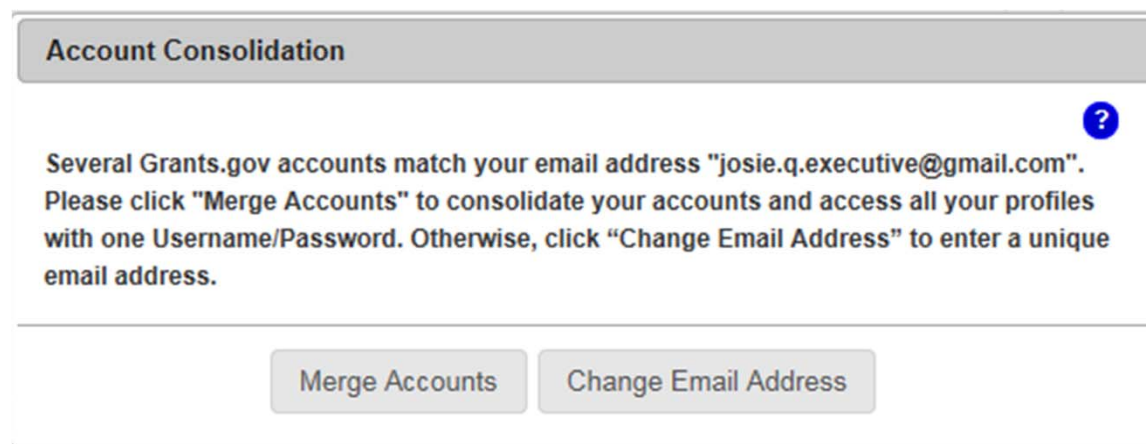
PRODUCTION: 10/22/2018

Release 16.3 FDP Highlights

- Require unique email address (merge accounts)
- Applicant S2S
 - Header V2.0
- New email notifications
 - SAM registration about to expire
 - S2S Certificate about to expire

Require Unique Email Address (Merge Accounts)

- User accounts must have a unique email address for features such as password reset, email subscriptions, forum, etc.
 - 6,700 Applicants have accounts with duplicate email addresses
 - Users must either merge their accounts or change their email address during the login process
 - Users will no longer be allowed to postpone this task if they have multiple accounts with duplicate email addresses



Applicant S2S

- Use Applicant Submission Header V2.0 instead of Header V1.0
 - After October 22, Header V1.0 will be retired
- Use **Get Opportunity List** web service instead of web services being retired:
 - **Get Opportunities**
 - **Get Opportunity Plus Comp Title**
- Web services will have a new optional input parameter to provide Previous Tracking Number in order to relate submissions
 - **Submit Application**
 - **Submit Application as Third Party**

Applicant Submission Header

Header-V1.0 (Cannot be used after R16.3)

Data Element	Type / Max Length	Required?
Hash Value	Base64Binary	Mandatory
Agency Name	60	Optional
CFDA Number	15	Mandatory if Package has a CFDA
CFDA Title	120	Optional
Funding Opportunity Number	100	Mandatory
Funding Opportunity Title	255	Optional
Competition ID	100	Mandatory if Package has a Competition ID
Opening Date	Date	Optional
Closing Date	Date	Optional
Application Filing Name	240	Optional

Header-V2.0

- Identify a Package using Opportunity Package ID
- Simplify data collected and remove Hash

Data Element	Type / Max Length	Required?
Package ID	11	Mandatory
Application Filing Name	240	Mandatory

Note: There is no impact to the submission files received by the Grantors.

New Email Notifications

- Your SAM Registration is expiring soon
 - Sent 60 days and 30 days before SAM expiration
 - Recipients: EBiz POC and users with any of the following privileges
 - Manage Organization
 - Submit Applications for My Workspace
 - Submit Applications for Organization Workspaces
- Your S2S Certificate is expiring soon
 - Sent 30 days and 15 days before Certificate expiration
 - Uses certificate expiration date provided on the Certificate Request Form
 - Recipients: Certificate email address and users with “Manage Organization” or “Manage Certificates” privilege

Release 16.3 Applicant Release Notes

- Additional changes include:
 - Enhance Reset Password process
 - Related Opportunities
 - Display in View Grant Opportunity
 - Include in Search results
 - Related Submissions
 - Workspace Sign and Submit
 - Check Application Status / Submission Details
 - Applicant S2S
 - Specify Related Submissions
 - Other Enhancements
 - Track My Application: Clarify button and always show search criteria
 - Check Application Status: Add Application Filing Name as search criteria
- For information on additional changes in Release 16.3, please review the R16.3 Applicant Release Notes:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/releases.html>

RELEASE 16.3

USER ACCEPTANCE TESTING

User Acceptance Testing (UAT)

- Release 16.3 UAT Dates:
 - Round 1: 09/20/2018 to 10/03/2018
 - Round 2: 10/10/2018 to 10/11/2018
- To sign up or if you have any questions, please send an email to:
 - To: UAT@grants.gov
- Please provide the following information when you sign up:
 - Participant contact information
 - Type of user (Applicant UI, Applicant S2S)
 - Participation (confirmed or tentative)
- Guidelines will be provided before the testing begins. Users are encouraged to do ad-hoc testing as well and inform Grants.gov on what was tested.

MOBILE APP



Grants.gov Mobile App

- Mobile app launched in April 2018 for Android and Apple phones
- Installations: ~44,000 (as of August 2018)
 - Android: ~28,000
 - Apple: ~16,000
- Notifications per week: ~3,000
- Learn more about the mobile app:
<https://blog.grants.gov/2018/04/24/download-the-grants-gov-mobile-app/>



Mobile App Current Features

- Login with Grants.gov credentials
- Quick Search
 - Locate posted opportunities by keyword, CFDA, Agency
 - Easily share opportunities
- My Opportunities
 - View opportunities & corresponding subscriptions
 - Add new opportunity subscriptions
- My Submissions
 - View latest submissions & submission details
- Notification Center
 - Notifications sent to mobile phone
 - View latest notifications

Mobile App New Features

- New features coming in October 2018:
 - Search for grants now available without an account
 - Add event reminders for package Closing Dates to your phone's calendar
 - Track submission status by entering your Grants.gov Tracking Number
 - Enhance Login by remembering Username
 - Quick access to Grants.gov's Community Blog, Twitter and YouTube training videos

WORKSPACE FEEDBACK



Workspace Feedback

- Tell us how Workspace is working at your institution
- Email us at community@grants.gov
- Post your feedback on the Grants.gov Discussion Forum and start a conversation with the grants community

CONNECT WITH GRANTS.GOV

Connect with Grants.gov

- Stay connected with Grants.gov through our mobile app and social media to find out more about what's coming, new training opportunities, and updated resources



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Email Us:

Community@grants.gov

Grants.gov Applicant Helpdesk Support

- If you have any issues or questions while using Workspace to complete your application, please contact the Grants.gov Support Center at support@grants.gov or call 1-800-518-4726