UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

JUN 15 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Recipients of grants and cooperative agreements

From: Thomas Skelly, Delegated to Perform Functions of Chief Financial Officer

Subject: Department of Education Cash Management Policies for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind the Department of Education's (the Department's) grant and cooperative agreement recipients (recipients) of existing cash management requirements regarding payments. The Department expects that recipients will ensure that subrecipients are also aware of these policies by forwarding a copy of this memorandum to them.

There are two different sets of payment requirements that apply to the draw of funds from recipient accounts at the Department. Payments to a State under programs covered by a State's Treasury State Agreement (TSA) are subject to the requirements of the *Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990 (CMIA)* as published in 31 United States Code 6503.

All other payments to States and all payments to other types of recipients are subject to the requirements in either 34 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 74, applicable to nongovernmental entities, or 34 CFR Part 80, applicable to State, local, and Indian tribal governments. These regulations are part of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) and are available on the Web at http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_08/34cfrv1_08.html.

CMIA Requirements

States that draw funds under programs subject to the *CMIA* must draw funds as required under the TSA for the State. If a State draws funds under one of these programs to make payments to a subrecipient, the payment request to the Department should only be made at the request of the subrecipient, which must make draw requests to the State as required under the requirements in EDGAR, as described below.

EDGAR Requirements

Payments to States under programs not covered by the State's TSA and payments to other governments are subject to the requirements in Part 80 of EDGAR. These payment requirements also apply to all other types of recipients under Part 74 of EDGAR, which applies to nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, hospitals, and commercial organizations. States that draw funds on behalf of subrecipients under programs not covered by a TSA should remind subrecipients that they may only request funds from the State under the payment standards in Part 74 or Part 80, as applicable.

For any cash drawn from your program or project account at the Department:

- Recipients must minimize the time between the recipient's draw down of funds from its grant account at the Department and the time the recipient disburses those funds to payees via electronic transfer, check redemption or other means of transfer. See 34 CFR 74.22(a) and 80.21(b). Specifically, recipients may only draw funds to meet the immediate cash needs of the grant or cooperative agreement.

- For recipients subject to Part 74 of EDGAR, unless the conditions described in 34 CFR Part 74 Section 22(k) exist, these recipients must deposit advances of Federal funds in interest bearing accounts.

- Recipients subject to Part 74 of EDGAR must return to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the interest earned on advances of grant funds except that the recipient may retain up to $250 of interest earned on the account each year to pay for the costs of maintaining the account. These requirements also apply to subrecipients subject to Part 74 Section 22 (l) which requires these recipients and subrecipients to annually remit interest earned on advances of funds. The address for interest remittances to HHS is:

  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  P.O. Box 6120
  Suite 1133
  Rockville, MD 20852

  The remittance should be accompanied by a letter stating that the remittance is for "interest earned on Federal funds" and should include the DUNS number.

- Recipients subject to Part 80 of EDGAR must return to the Department the interest earned on advances of grant funds except that the recipient may retain up to $100 of interest earned on the account each year to pay for the costs of maintaining the account. Section 80.21(i) requires these recipients to promptly (at least quarterly) remit interest earned on advances to the Department. These requirements also apply to subrecipients subject to Part 80. The address for interest remittances to the Department is:

  U.S. Department of Education
  P.O. Box 979053
  St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

  The remittance should be accompanied by a letter stating that the remittance is for "interest earned on Federal funds" and should include the DUNS number.

- Recipients must use grant funds only for obligations incurred during the funding period.

- Recipients must distribute Federal funds to subrecipients only when requested by the subrecipient and as needed to pay program costs.

Recipients have other responsibilities regarding the use of Federal funds. We highlight the following practices related to the draw of Federal funds that are either required by EDGAR or will assist recipients in meeting their responsibilities under EDGAR.

- Recipients must regularly monitor the payment requests made by their subrecipients to ensure that those requests conform to the same payment requirements that apply to the recipient. See 34 CFR Part 80 Section 20(b)(7);

- Recipients must regularly monitor the fiscal activity of their subrecipients on a continuous basis and ensure that their subrecipients return interest earned;

- If expenditures under the program or project require the recipient's board or specified officials to approve expenditures, the recipient should obtain that approval before making the payment request for any expenditure, thus minimizing the period of time that funds remain in the recipient's bank account pending disbursement of the funds for expenditures under the program or project. See 34 CFR 74.21(b)(5) and 80.22(a); and

- Plan carefully for cash flows for your grant project and review projected cash requirements before each drawdown. See 34 CFR 74.21 and 74.22 or 80.20 and 80.21, as applicable.

Recipients that do not follow the cash management requirements applicable to their grants could be:

- Placed on a "cash-reimbursement" payment method, i.e., a recipient would have to pay for grant activities with its own money and submit documentation of the expenditures to the Department before receiving reimbursement from the Department;

- Designated a "high-risk" recipient under 34 CFR 74.14 or 80.12, as applicable, which may involve the imposition of conditions in addition to that of being placed on a reimbursement payment system;

- Subjected to further corrective action, including withholding of funds, suspension, and termination of the award. See 34 CFR 74.62 or 80.43, as applicable;

- Denied funding under future Department discretionary grant competitions. See 34 CFR Part 75 Section 217(d)(3)(ii); and

- Debarred or suspended under 34 CFR Part 85 from receiving future Federal awards from any executive agency of the Federal government.

A small number of ED grant programs have program-specific cash management and payment requirements based on the authorizing legislation or program regulations. These program-specific requirements may supplement or override the general EDGAR cash management or payment requirements. If you have any questions about your specific grant, please contact the program officer, whose contact information is on your Grant Award Notification (GAN).

ED's Office of the Chief Financial Officer will provide ongoing outreach efforts regarding cash management and payment requirements, including supplementary webinars, URL links and Frequently Asked Question sheets.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Heath at (202) 245-8043 or cynthia.heath@ed.gov