



Source: Thompsons Federal Grant Development Handbook, July 2016.

Federal Grant Oversight

In 1980, the U.S. government awarded \$24 billion in grant funding; by 1990, the figure was \$91 billion; in 2000, \$200 billion was awarded; and, by 2016 the amount had risen to \$600 billion. Federal audits in 2009, 2010, and 2011 found \$110 billion, \$125 billion, and \$115 billion in improper payments. Concomitantly, federal legislation impacting administration of federal grant funding was passed to address grant management concerns. These included: the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (2006); the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System Act (2008), the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act and the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act (2010); the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012; and the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (2014). In 2011 the Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) was established and led to the OMB consolidation of eight grant circulars into the Uniform Grant Guidance. Most of these federal reforms have occurred within the last ten years. Together these reforms have resulted in greater regulatory oversight. Grantees are now required to meet a higher level of compliance in managing federal awards as well as all pass through awards to states, cities and other local non-federal entities.