Grant Accountability & Transparency Act
Illinois State Board of Education Intranet
Frequently Asked Questions
As of April 10, 2017

Timing Questions

Question: Do I have to register again this year? I completed the process last year.
Answer: Yes, registration and pre-qualification are annual processes.

Question: Do I have to complete the registration and pre-qualification process prior to receiving funding for FY18?
Answer: For FY18 registration and pre-qualification must be completed prior to making application for a grant.

Question: Will the application be the same or at least similar to the application from last year? I would like to prepare my application and submit it as soon as possible so that I can prepare purchase orders for July 1st.
Answer: The application will be in the same form as last year and contain all of the information it has in the past as well as a few additional tabs with GATA required information.

Process Questions

Question: What is involved with the prequalification process?

Answer: All grantees will be required to register and pre-qualify annually, once for each fiscal year with the State of Illinois through an automated grantee portal. The portal can only be accessed through the GATA website at https://www.illinois.gov/sites/gata/Pages/default.aspx. Grantee registration will include verification of eight statuses: 1.) DUNS number; 2.) FEIN number; 3.) current SAM CAGE Code; 4.) good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, if applicable; 5.) whether the applicant is in Stop Payment status; 6.) whether the applicant is or has ever been on the federal Excluded Parties List; 7.) whether the applicant is on the federal delinquent debt list and 8.) whether the applicant is or has ever been on the Sanctioned Party List maintained by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. ISBE posts a grantee status report at https://www.isbe.net/Pages/GATA-Prequalification-and-Registration-Status.aspx where grantees can review their compliance status.

Question: Where can I find assistance with the authentication and registration process?

Answer: Instructions on completion of the process can be found at https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx . Additional resources can be found at https://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx

Question: How do I register in SAMS?
Answer: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/sam-duns-registration-instructions.pdf

Question: Currently, the NCLB grant is filled out online and then submitted to ISBE for approval. Is this going to change now with GATA? If so, will the grant application (Title I and II) be the same or a complete new format?

Answer: The NCLB grant will still be filled out online. The format will be the same with some additional steps including the programmatic risk assessment. Prior to making application you must complete GATA registration and pre-qualification through the grantee portal at https://www.illinois.gov/sites/gata/Pages/default.aspx. The FY18 ICQ is included in the registration process.

Question: When amendments are made throughout the year, will they go through ISBE or GATA? How will expenditure reports be handled each month? Will all expenditures have to go through a thorough process with GATA prior to purchasing items or will districts continue to purchase items according to what is in the approved budget detail pages?

Answer: Expenditure reports will be handled the same way they have been handled in the past. Expenditures will not go through a process with GATA; the process will be the same as it has been in previous years.

Question: How will the ICQ be completed?

Answer: The ICQ is available through the grantee portal at https://www.illinois.gov/sites/gata/Pages/default.aspx. All grantees will be required to complete the questionnaire that will compute the fiscal and administrative risk profile of the grantee. Specific conditions will be imposed if the grantee is determined to be medium or high risk. The questionnaire is entity-specific and required to be submitted annually, once for each fiscal year.

Question: How will the Programmatic Risk Assessment Questionnaire be completed?

Answer: The programmatic risk assessment is incorporated into the electronic grant application. Paper grant applicants will be directed to an ISBE IWAS System to complete the survey. All grantees will be required to complete a questionnaire for each program that will evaluate the programmatic risk profile of the grantee. Specific conditions will be imposed if the grantee is determined to be medium or high risk.

Question: How will the Notice of State Award (NOSA) acceptance be processed?

Answer: An eGMS page has been created. All grantees will receive a NOSA that is grant-specific along with a final grant agreement. The NOSA will reflect grantee information, program name, and funding amount, along with specific terms and conditions. The terms and conditions will be fed from the grantee responses to the ICQ and Program Risk Assessment Questionnaire. Grantees can elect to accept or not accept. An award cannot be granted without acceptance. If the grantee chooses not to accept, the award will not be made.

Applicability Questions

Question: Do all school districts have to do prequalification?
Answer: Yes, all entities that apply for a grant must be prequalified.

Question: Does a continuation grant have to do this?
Answer: Yes, all grants must follow GATA.

Question: Does this apply to all Title grants? For example, ELL Bilingual grants from the state?

Answer: Yes, this applies to all Title and ELL grants.

Question: Do Title III grants fall under these new requirements?
Answer: Yes, GATA is applicable to Title III grants.

Question: Do member districts in a coop need to secure a CAGE code if their IDEA Part B grants flow-through the coop?
Answer: Member districts must complete GATA registration and pre-qualification to apply for grants. If a Coop will apply for a grant it is responsible for registration and pre-qualification prior to making application.

Question: Do we have to follow the Merit-Based review process since we already have one?
Answer: We have to follow all aspects of GATA unless we apply for and receive an exemption.

Question: Do all applicants have to fill out the Programmatic Risk Assessment Questionnaire?
Answer: Yes, all applicants will have to fill out a Programmatic Risk Assessment Questionnaire for each grant before awards are made.

Question: Does GATA apply to the technology loan program?
Answer: Loan programs are exempt from some parts of GATA such as the cost principles, but are **NOT** exempt from the requirements for public notice of financial assistance, award monitoring, and audit.

Staffing & Definition Questions

Question: Who at the district is the best person to fill out the ICQ and Programmatic Risk Assessment Questionnaires?
Answer: Someone who is familiar with the district's administration and financial operations should fill out the ICQ. Someone familiar with the programmatic policies and procedures for the particular program in question should complete the Programmatic Risk Assessment Questionnaire.

Question: When questions arise, will we still contact our principal consultants or someone with GATA?
Answer: Questions should be directed to the ISBE program area or GATA@isbe.net.

Question: Each district will have a DUNS, FEIN and CAGE code for that entity. When they file in the Illinois Grantee Portal, if there is a business manager and three additional people, each of whom is responsible for a different grant, does the business manager file once in the portal for the entire entity, or will each individual person who handles a grant need to file in the Grantee Portal?
Answer: The entity only has to register once through the Grantee Portal no matter how many grants they receive.

Question: If a grantee has more than one location with multiple DUNS numbers, which one should they use?
Answer: It would be most practical to use the number for the location with the central administration or where most of the business processes are located.

Specific Component Questions

Question: Is the Notice of State Award in place of Assurances or an add-on?

Answer: The Notice of State Award is additional to and separate from the Certifications and Assurances. The NOSA is prepared at the time the grant is awarded and contains some of the grant/grantee-specific terms and requirements resulting from the ICQ and programmatic risk assessments.

Question: Will there be a monitoring template?
Answer: Implementation activities have been focusing on the pre-award phase. Monitoring tools are under development.

Question: If ISBE uses our AFR to calculate a restricted and unrestricted indirect cost rate for the school district, will this be given to GATA to use as our indirect cost rate?
Answer: Yes, your indirect rate determined through ISBE on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education will be communicated to GATU.

Additional Training & Resource Questions

Question: Where can I find additional information?
Answer: ISBE GATA website at https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx

Question: Will there be an informational webinar?
Answer: There are informational webinars and PowerPoint presentations available at www.grants.illinois.gov. It takes several presentations to take in all that GATA encompasses. An ISBE workgroup continues to work through implementation details and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Question: How can we request customized presentations?
Answer: Additional informational presentations are under development as new components are created. Specific requests can be emailed to GATA@isbe.net

Question: Who is a contact person for additional information?
Answer: Please contact your program contact at ISBE for additional information or email GATA@isbe.net.