

Background

The Office of Grants Management began operations in September 2007 with a mission to standardize, streamline and improve state grant-making practices and to increase public access to information about state grant opportunities.

The office, a Drive to Excellence initiative, was established through a one-time appropriation of \$125,000 for FY08 and is in part a response to findings of the Office of the Legislative Auditor regarding state grants.

The Office of Grants Management actively partners with more than 30 state agencies, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Association of Minnesota Counties and the Minnesota Council on Foundations.



State Grant Policies

Improving the state's grant-making is one of the primary goals of the Office of Grants Management. One tool for accomplishing this is the creation of comprehensive grants management policies as outlined in Minnesota Statute 16B.97 sub. 4 (a)(1). The following grants management policies are applicable to all Executive Branch agencies, boards, commissions, councils, authorities and task forces.

Policy 08-01: Grants Conflict of Interest

- State agencies must work to deliberately avoid both actual and perceived conflicts of interest related to grant-making at both the individual and organizational levels.

Policy 08-02: Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review

- State competitive grant review processes shall be conducted using review criteria that are identified in the notice of grant opportunity or request for proposal and a standardized scoring system to rate each application against the chosen criteria.

Policy 08-03: Publicizing Grants Notices and Requests for Proposals

- It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to include sufficient information in notices of grant opportunities and requests for proposal so that potential applicants may make informed decisions about applying for and managing state grants and to publicize competitive grant opportunities broadly.

Policy 08-04: Use of Grants Agreements

- Minnesota state agencies must use a written grant agreement for all grants made by the agency.
- Grant agreements must conform to Minnesota Statute 16 B.98 subd. 5, "Creation and Validity of Grant Agreements."

Policy 08-05: Public Comments Concerning Fraud and Waste in State Grants

- The Office of Grants Management will serve as the central point of contact for questions and comments about fraud and waste in state grants and about the violation of statewide grants policies.

Policy 08-06: Financial Review of Nongovernmental Organizations

- It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to make grants to nongovernmental organizations that are financially stable enough to carry out the purpose of the grant.
- Before awarding a grant of over \$25,000 to a nongovernmental organization, Minnesota state agencies must assess a recent financial statement from that organization.

Policy 08-07: Single and Sole Source Grants

- It is the policy of the State of Minnesota that grants are to be competitively awarded as much as possible.