

# The DATA Act

## and other open data mandates

September 13, 2014  
Maryland Municipal League

**DATA** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TRANSPARENCY**  
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**COALITION**

- **The DATA Act transformation:** Government-wide data standards and comprehensive publication regime for federal spending.
- **The scope:** Federal financial, assistance, procurement, and performance reporting.
- **Impact on grants:** Automated compliance.

**Overview**

- Financial reports: Agencies to Treasury
- Payment requests: Agencies to Treasury
- Budget planning and actions: Agencies to OMB
- Assistance: Agencies to Commerce, GSA
- Procurement: Agencies to GSA
- Grants: Awardees to agencies
- Contracts: Awardees to agencies, GSA
- Subawards: Prime awardees to OMB
- GPRA: Agencies to Congress, OMB

## Current Landscape

- **Information not available.** The public, Congress, Treasury and OMB, agency leaders, inspectors general, and even program managers don't have the data they need.
- **Information not accessible.** Information is frequently available only as documents or summaries.
- **Information not interoperable.** Government-wide data fields, even for basic concepts, don't exist. Formats differ.

# Shortcomings

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**, February 2009: Hailed as blueprint.
- **Open Data Policy**, May 2013: Requires federal agencies to create data inventories that include financial, assistance, procurement, and performance reports, and to “architect for open.”
- **Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (“DATA Act”)**, first introduced June 2011, enacted May 9, 2014.

# Policy Change

## **Treasury and OMB**

- Establish government-wide data identifiers.
- Establish government-wide data format.
- Publish grants, contracts, and internal spending on existing USASpending portal.
- OMB to run pilot program to test standardized reporting by recipients.

## **Agencies**

- Apply standards to own reporting.
- After OMB pilot program, apply standards to recipient reporting.
- Data quality checks.

## **Recipients**

- Standardized reporting if imposed by agencies after OMB pilot.

# **DATA: the Basics**

- **Public Accountability.** Citizens have access to accurate, complete, searchable data on government spending.
- **Better Management.** Congress, Treasury, OMB, agency leaders, inspectors general, program managers utilize dashboards and analytics.
- **Automated Compliance.** Grantees and contractors report to agencies without strain; agencies automate reports to Treasury, OMB, GSA.

**DATA: Desired Impact**

- **Pilot Projects:** Ongoing
- **Treasury / OMB Roundtable:** September 26, 2014, Washington, DC.
- **Data Transparency 2014:** September 30, 2014, Washington, DC.
- **Standards:** Treasury and OMB issue first guidance on data standards on May 9, 2015.
- **Agency Reporting:** Agencies conform existing information to standards by May 9, 2017.
- **Recipient Reporting:** OMB starts recipient reporting standardization by May 9, 2015, and completes it by May 9, 2017.

**Status**



- **Automate compliance** with federal grant reporting requirements.
- **Reuse data standards** within state and local grant management systems.
- **Advocate further transformation** from disconnected documents into open data for Single Audit Act reporting and municipal securities filings.

**DATA: Grantees' future**

- **Founded** February 2012
- **Mission:** Representing the public interest and the private sector, advocate the publication of government information as standardized, machine-readable data
- **Executive Members:** Teradata, WebFilings, PwC, Research Data Group, RR Donnelley
- **Role:** Advocacy, education, collaboration
- **Future:** Advocate DATA implementation; pursue data standards mandates in financial regulation; articulate comprehensive policy agenda for government data

**Coalition**

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**Contact**

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