The DATA Act
and other open data mandates

September 13, 2014
Maryland Municipal League
• 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.
Current Landscape

- 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
- **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.

• **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.
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.
• **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
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DATA TRANSGRENCY COALITION