Grant Reform FAQs

Where can I find the final guidance?
OMB’s final guidance was published as a Rule in the Federal Register on December 26, 2013.

What is the objective of the new guidance?
OMB’s new framework seeks to improve federal grant-making and outcomes for the American people by streamlining guidance for improved clarity and accessibility. The new uniform grants guidance improves on current policy by:
- Eliminating duplicative and conflicting guidance
- Focusing on performance over compliance for accountability
- Encouraging efficient use of information technology and shared services
- Providing for consistent and transparent treatment of costs
- Limiting allowable costs to make the best use of federal resources
- Setting standard business processes using data definitions
- Encouraging non-federal entities to have family-friendly policies
- Strengthening oversight
- Targeting audit requirements on risk of waste, fraud, and abuse

What is the effective date of the new guidance?
The standards set forth in this Part which affect administration of federal awards issued by federal agencies become effective once implemented by federal agencies or when any future amendment to this Part becomes final.
Federal agencies must implement the policies and procedures applicable to federal awards by promulgating a regulation to be effective by December 26, 2014 unless different provisions are required by statute or approved by OMB.
The standards set forth in Subpart F—Audit Requirements of this Part and any other standards which apply directly to federal agencies will be effective December 26, 2013 and will apply to audits of fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014.

Which existing Circulars were affected by the new guidance?
- A–21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions" (2 CFR Part 220)
- A–87, "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments" (2 CFR Part 225) and also Federal Register notice 51 FR 552 (January 6, 1986)
- A–89, "Federal Domestic Assistance Program Information"
- A–102, "Grant Awards and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments"
- A–110, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Awards and Other Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations" (codified at 2CFR 215)
- A–122, "Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations" (2 CFR Part 230)
- A–133, "Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations"
Those sections of A–50 related to audits performed under Subpart F—Audit Requirements of this Part

What language was changed in the final guidance?
A text comparison between existing Circulars and the Uniform final guidance can be found on OMB’s website, or by following this link: