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OMB Issues New Federal Grant Guidelines

by Richard Koontz, INRC Director

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) creates circulars which govern reporting on federal grants, including federal monies running through state agencies.

A new version of the OMB Circular consolidates the various circulars applicable to nonprofits receiving this form of funding. These guidelines are now called “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.”

The purpose of these new guidelines is “to deliver on the promise of a Twenty-first Century government that is more efficient, effective and transparent.” It supersedes OMB Circulars A-21, A-50, A-102, A-89, A-110, A-122, and A-133.

Any Iowa nonprofit working with a government grant or contracts must get up to speed on these new guidelines.

To see the new guidelines, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/26/2013-30465/uniform-administrative-requirements-cost-principles-and-audit-requirements-for-federal-awards>

A key player in getting these changes made was the National Council of Nonprofits. Their statement on what was accomplished includes the following: “The new guidance means that nonprofits should be able to focus more on their missions and should be under less pressure to raise additional funds to essentially subsidize governments. In turn, charities with no government contracts or grants could see less competition for scarce philanthropic dollars. This is a major win for the entire charitable nonprofit community.” For the full

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What Does the 2014 Farm Bill Mean for Iowa Food Banks?

by Tyler Melling, JD Candidate

The Farm Bill, signed into law this February, deals with over one trillion dollars of federal money over the next ten years.

One of the more controversial aspects of the bill is the \$8.6 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or food stamps. How does this affect Iowa’s food banks? Is the

Farm Bill really a concern, or are there more important issues facing Iowa’s food banks?

The Farm Bill projected approximately \$764 billion in SNAP benefits over the next ten years, so \$8.6 billion is a very small fraction of that amount. This is especially true considering the controversial cut is

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simply considered by many as the closing of a loophole used by some states to offset the cost of winter heating bills to low-income families. Iowa is not among the list of states that rely heavily on the loophole so Iowa's SNAP benefits should not be greatly affected by the bill. However, there is much more at issue than SNAP funding.

In Johnson County alone, July 2013 was the busiest month in the Crisis Center's history. October 2013 broke July's record with 4,459 household visits. Last year's Project Holiday was the largest ever. As of February 2014, the Crisis Center projected 12% more service than the previous fiscal year.

The Crisis Center's food bank serves about 12,000 people per year while the Johnson County estimate for "food insecure residents" is about 18,400. That deficit means that many people in the community are underserved.

The shortage is compounded in part from budget cuts and reduced staff hours. One provision of the Farm Bill will allow emergency funding to food banks to adjust to the cuts, but only 15 percent of the food that the food banks need will come from that funding.

Perhaps the food bank dilemma is only cyclical and the situation will improve as the economy recovers, but in the meantime, food banks in Iowa will have trouble servicing their neighborhoods. If this food supply problem will be ongoing, Iowa needs to start looking for public and/or private remedies for ending hunger, and soon.

Other changes in the Farm Bill include soil conservation measures, \$17 billion in savings, a pilot program to encourage buying of fruits and vegetables by those receiving SNAP

benefits, continuance of meat labeling regulations, moving some catfish regulations to the Department of Agriculture instead of the FDA, and removing some farm subsidies.

Sources:

- <http://frac.org/leg-act-center/farm-bill-2012/>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/02/05/why-the-food-stamp-cuts-in-the-farm-bill-affect-only-a-third-of-states/>
- <http://www.kwwl.com/story/24583122/2014/01/29/cuts-to-farm-bill-will-impact-local-food-banks>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/05/us/politics/senate-passes-long-stalled-farm-bill.html>
- Johnson County Crisis Center Email Re: House Farm Bill's Impact on The Crisis Center's Food Bank?

Value of Volunteer Time Increases in 2013

Independent Sector's estimate of the value of volunteer time for 2013 is \$22.55 per hour. This is an increase of 41 cents over the 2012 amount.

According to the state-by-state breakdown, Iowa's value of volunteer time is \$20.93.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, about 64.5 million Americans, or 26.5 percent of the adult population, gave 7.9 billion hours of volunteer service worth \$175 billion in 2012.

For details, see http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

Branstad Initiates Council to Expand National Service

Governor Terry E. Branstad has signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on National Service in Iowa. The council will complement the Franklin Project, a national initiative chaired by General Stanley McCrystal, whose goal is to increase the number of one-year national service opportunities nationwide by developing an online technology platform to support a national service certification system.

Led by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, the Iowa council will include leaders from state agencies, higher education, and the private sector who will make recommendations on how to expand national service and engage a new generation of Iowans.

"It is critical we engage more people in service to our country to have a stake in its future," said Branstad. "Building the investment and ownership in our communities through civic engagement will pay dividends immediately and for generations to come."

An example of private sector involvement is offered by MidAmerican Energy. MidAmerican is funding five national service Green Iowa AmeriCorps members in partnership with the Center on Sustainable Communities and the City of Des Moines to help homeowners learn about weatherization and energy audits.

The Council aligns with the Branstad-Reynolds administration's goal of making Iowa a volunteering leader.

Nonprofit Funding Opportunities

In each issue of the INRC Quarterly we feature funding opportunities for Iowa nonprofits. If your nonprofit is a funder and you'd like to be listed, please let us know.

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

Grant program: Mediacom Arts and Culture Grants

Grant description: Funds support a distinct aspect of the organization's arts activities such as a one-time event, a single production, an exhibition, an educational seminar, or series of related arts activities, such as art classes or training sessions.

Funding amounts: "arts and culture" grants on 2012 Form 990 range from \$7,000 to \$68,000.

Eligible grantees: Dubuque arts and non-arts organizations.

Grant application deadline: Applications are made available in May and are due in August. Awards are announced in October.

For more information: <http://www.dbqfoundation.org/mediacom>

Mid-Iowa Health Foundation

Grant program: Health Safety Net System

Grant description: The health care safety net provides appropriate, timely and affordable health services to people who experience barriers to accessing services from other providers due to financial, cultural, linguistic, or other issues.

Funding amounts: \$10,000-\$30,000

Eligible grantees: Organizations working toward improving the health of people in greater Des Moines, Iowa.

Grant application deadline: October 1.

For more information: <http://www.midiowahealth.org/grants.html>

State Historical Society of Iowa

Grant program: Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP)

Grant description: To provide funds to preserve, conserve, interpret, enhance, and educate the public about the historical resources of Iowa.

Funding amounts: up to \$100,000.

Eligible grantees: Nonprofit corporations.

Grant application deadline: April 25.

For more information: <https://www.iowagrants.gov/insideLinkOpps.jsp?documentPk=1386619978946>

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statement, see <http://pages.invoc.us/archive/bWVzc2FnZV8yMjAwOTA5Xz-M0OF8xMDI2XzM0NDQ4>

Issues that have been changed are indirect cost (optional 10%), direct cost (now including program administration), and audit rules (raised to \$750,000). The new rules take effect on December 26, 2014.

Training Opportunities

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Nonprofit Management Academy

Combinations of courses may be taken through the Nonprofit Management Academy for a certificate in nonprofit management. The Academy is co-sponsored by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, Johnson County; Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, Linn County; the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center; and United Way of Johnson County.

Registration per course is \$70. CEUs are available for an additional \$25. All classes meet Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm at the Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South, Iowa City.

For information and to register, contact Jacky Cole by telephone at 319-337-2145 or by email at jkcole@iastate.edu.

View the course catalog online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/news/nonprofit-management-academy-2014>.

April 17

Building Effective Boards & Committees

Instructor: Regenia Bailey, Bailey Leadership Initiative, LLC

May 22

And You Thought the Nonprofit World was Conflict Free

Instructor: Don Broshar, Don Broshar Consulting, LLC

June 5

Only Superheroes Should Have Secret Identities - Crafting and Sharing Your Story

Instructor: Rob Cline, Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa & Melea Dau, Englert Theatre

June 19

Understanding the Human Resource Aspects of a Nonprofit

Instructor: Don Broshar, Don Broshar Consulting, LLC

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About Our Organization

The Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center is a University of Iowa interdisciplinary collaboration created to make more accessible educational and service programs focused on strengthening the operational capacity of Iowa nonprofit organizations.

The INRC works collaboratively with government agencies, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to impart new knowledge through activities

and provide information and training resources to help nonprofit organizations and interested persons throughout Iowa. We seek to build the capacity and develop the effectiveness of community-based organizations and enhance the overall effectiveness of local organizations in building communities.

The INRC also introduces students to the nonprofit sector and develops their sense of public and community service.