

**Recipients of ED Grants and Cooperative Agreements
Frequently Asked Questions on
Cash Management**

Q What are the Federal Laws and Regulations Regarding Payments to the States?

A The *Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990 (CMIA)* establishes interest liabilities for the Federal and State governments when the Federal Government makes payments to the States. See 31 U.S.C. 3335 and 6503. The implementing regulations are in Title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 205, <http://www.fms.treas.gov/fedreg/31cfr205final.pdf>.

Q What is a Treasury-State Agreement (TSA)?

A A TSA documents the accepted funding techniques and methods for calculating interest agreed upon by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and a State. It identifies the Federal assistance programs that are subject to interest liabilities under the CMIA. The CMIA regulations specify a number of different funding techniques that may be used by a State but a State can negotiate with the Treasury Department to establish a different funding technique for a particular program. A TSA is effective until terminated and, if a state does not have a TSA, payments to the State are subject to the default techniques in the regulations that Treasury determines are appropriate.

Q What are the CMIA requirements for a program subject to a Treasury-State Agreement?

A Payments to a State under a program of the Department are subject to the interest liability requirements of the CMIA if the program is included in the State's Treasury-State Agreement (TSA) with the Department of Treasury. If the Federal government is late in making a payment to a State, it owes interest to the State from the time the State spent its funds to pay for expenditure until the time the Federal government deposits funds to the State's account to pay for the expenditure. Conversely, if a State is late in making a payment under a program of the Department, the State owes interest to the Federal government from the time the Federal government deposited the funds to the State's account until the State uses those funds to make a payment. For more information, see the recently issued Memorandum from the Chief Financial Officer on Cash Management which is posted on the ed.gov "ED Memoranda to Grantees" page at:<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/gposbul/gposbul.html>

Q What are the CMIA requirements for a program that is not subject to a Treasury-State Agreement?

A If a program is not included in the State's TSA, neither the State nor the Federal government are liable for interest for making late payments. However, both the Federal government and the State must minimize the time elapsing between the date the State requests funds and the date that the funds are deposited to the State's accounts. The State is also required to minimize the time elapsed between the date it receives funds from the Federal government and the date it makes a payment under the program. Also, the Department must minimize the amount of funds transferred to a State to only that needed to meet the immediate cash needs of the State. The timing and amount of funds transferred must be as close as is administratively feasible to a State's actual cash outlay for direct program costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs.

Q What if there is no TSA?

A When a State does not have a TSA in effect, default procedures in 31 CFR, part 205 that the Treasury Department determines appropriate apply. The default procedures will prescribe efficient funds transfer procedures consistent with State and Federal law and identify the covered Federal assistance programs and designated funding techniques.

Q Who is responsible for Cash Management?

A Grantees and subgrantees that receive grant funds under programs of the Department are responsible for maintaining internal controls regarding the management of Federal program funds under the Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR 200.302 and 200.303. In addition, grantees are responsible for ensuring that subgrantees are aware of the cash management and requirements in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D.

Q Who is responsible for monitoring cash drawdowns to ensure compliance with cash management policies?

A Recipients must monitor their own cash drawdowns **and** those of their subrecipients to assure substantial compliance to the standards of timing and amount of advances.

Q How soon may I draw down funds from the G5 grants management system?

A Grantees are required to minimize the amount of time between the drawdown and the expenditure of funds from their bank accounts. (See 2 CFR 200.305(b).) Funds must be drawn only to meet a grantee's immediate cash needs for each individual grant. The G5 screen displays the following message:

By submitting this payment request, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the request is based on true, complete, and accurate information. I further certify that the expenditures and disbursements made with these funds are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the applicable Federal award or program participation agreement, and that the organization on behalf of which this submission is being made is and will remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of that award or program participation agreement. I am aware that the provision of any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me, and the organization on behalf of which this submission is being made, to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims, or other violations. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001; Title 20, Section 1097; and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812)

Q How may I use Federal funds?

A Federal funds must be used as specified in the Grant Award Notification (GAN) and the approved application or State plan for allowable direct costs of the grant and an allocable portion of indirect costs, if authorized.

Q What are the consequences to recipients/subrecipients for not complying with terms of the grant award?

A If a recipient or subrecipient materially fails to comply with any term of an award, whether stated in a Federal statute or regulation, including those in 2 CFR part 200, an assurance, the GAN, or elsewhere, the awarding agency may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by the non-Federal entity or more severe enforcement action by the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
2. Disallow (that is, deny both use of funds and any applicable matching credit for) all or part of the cost of the activity not in compliance.
3. Wholly or partly suspend or terminate the Federal award.
4. Initiate suspension or debarment proceedings as authorized under 2 CFR part 180 and Federal award agency regulations (or in the case of a pass-through be initiated by a Federal awarding agency).
5. Withhold further Federal awards for the project or program.
6. Take other remedies that may be legally available.

- Q Who is responsible for determining the amount of interest owed to the Federal government?**
- A** As set forth in 31 CFR 205.9, the method used to calculate and document interest liabilities is included in the State’s TSA. A non-State entity must maintain advances of Federal funds in interest-bearing accounts unless certain limited circumstance apply and remit interest earned on those funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, Payment Management System annually. See 2 CFR 200.305. Also, see the July 6, 2016, memorandum from the Department’s Chief Financial Officer on Department of Education Cash Management Policies for Grants and Cooperative Agreements posted at <http://ww2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/gposbul.html>.
- Q What information should accompany my interest payment?**
- A** Remittances must include pertinent information of the payee and nature of payment in the memo area (often referred to as “addenda records” by Financial Institutions) as that will assist in the timely posting of interest earned on federal funds. Pertinent details include the Payee Account Number (PAN) if the payment originated from PMS, or Agency information if the payment originated from ASAP, NSF or another federal agency payment system. CFR 200.305(b)(9).
- Q Are grant recipients/subrecipients automatically permitted to draw funds in advance of the time they need to disburse funds in order to liquidate obligations?**
- A** The payment requirements in 2 CFR 200.305(b) authorize a grantee or subgrantee to request funds in advance of expenditures if certain conditions are met. However, if those conditions are not met, the Department and a pass-through agency may place a payee on reimbursement.
- Q For formula grant programs such as ESEA Title I, for which States distribute funds to LEAs, may States choose to pay LEAs on a reimbursement basis?**
- A** A subgrantee must be paid in advance if it meets the standards for advance payments in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(1) but if the subgrantee cannot meet those standards , the State may put the subgrantee on reimbursement payment. See 2 CFR 200.305(b).
- Q Will the Department issue special procedures in advance if G5 plans to shut down for 3 days or more?**
- A** Yes, before any shutdown of G5 lasting three days or more, the Department issues special guidance for drawing down funds during the shut down. The guidance will include cash management improvement act procedures for States and certain State institutions of higher education and procedures for grants (including Pell grants) that are not subject to CMIA.