



Roundtable - Leaving Money on the Table: The Challenge of Unspent Federal Grants

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Offices of The Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street NW, Washington DC 20004

Summary

In the years leading up to Detroit's bankruptcy, the city left millions of dollars of federal grant money unspent. Unfortunately, this is an all too common issue among cities and towns across the U.S. Every year, hundreds of millions of federal grant dollars go unspent in communities across the United States. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) called attention to this issue in a 2015 report as an integral problem facing fiscally distressed municipalities. The report underscored the fact that usually the cities that need the money the most are the ones that do not have the capacity to spend it. Grant programs are subject to a wide range of accountability requirements under their authorizing legislation, grant agreements, or appropriation, to ensure that funding is spent for its intended purpose. Each federal agency has regulations that direct grant recipients to submit reports and maintain records proving compliance as a condition to receiving funds.

Federal transfers to state and local governments are a critical source of funds to accomplish the mounting responsibilities cities and towns have to manage. In fiscal year 2015, for example, the federal government provided state and local governments nearly \$625 billion in federal grants, funding a wide range of public policy areas, such as health care, transportation, education, social services, community and regional development, and environmental protection. The White House convened a working group to look into this issue in the city of Detroit. Still, challenges remain and the federal government needs to work with states and municipalities in order to address the issue of unspent grants.

This program endeavors to achieve the twin goals of framing the scope and magnitude of this problem for policy-makers and surfacing solutions, best practices, and ideas across a network of private and public sector stakeholders focused on these issues.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast (2nd floor)

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Welcome Remarks and Overview of the Day

- Kil Huh, Senior Director, State and Local Fiscal Health, Pew Charitable Trusts
- Moderator of the Day: Lourdes Germán, Director of International and Institute-wide Initiatives, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- Kathryn J. Lincoln, Chief Investment Officer and Board Chair, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- Ben Metcalf, Director, California State Department of Housing and Community Development

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. The Federal Grant Process and Emerging Scholarship**
- Thomas James, Assistant Director, Government Accountability Office
 - Natalie Keegan, Research Manager, Congressional Research Service
 - Betsy Gardner, Northeastern University
 - Moderator: Jenna DeAngelo, Program Manager, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. Framing the Problem and Surfacing Solutions: What’s Happening in Municipalities?**
- Kurt Wilson, City Manager, Stockton, CA
 - Mike Grigalonis, Chief Operating Officer, Chester County Economic Development Council
 - Patrick Jordan, Deputy Director, National Resource Network
 - Moderator: Toby Rittner, President and CEO, Council of Development Finance Agencies
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. Lunch Program and Networking**
- George McCarthy, President and CEO, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. How Do States Play a Role?**
- Ramesh Advani, formerly with CPAT Federal Grants Management, state of Massachusetts
 - Carol Kraus, Director of Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit, state of Illinois
 - Laurie Petrone, Director of Grants Management, state of Rhode Island
 - Moderator: George McCarthy, President and CEO, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- 2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Introduction of Workshops and Coffee Break**
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (4th floor)**
- Attend 1 of 3 Workshops:
 1. **Creating a Centralized Grants Management Framework at the City Level:** John Hill, Chief Financial Officer, and John Hageman, Chief of Staff to CFO, City of Detroit (Room: London)
 2. **Finding the Right Resources – The Potential Role of the Private Sector:** David Cibrian, Managing Director, Brevet Capital; and Greg Dunkle, Executive Vice President, Tutor Perini Corp. (Room: Alaska)
 3. **Creating a Centralized Grants Management Framework at the State Level:** Merril Oliver, Director, Maryland Governor’s Grants Office (Room: Idaho)
- 3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Move back to main conference room (2nd floor)**
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Report-out from Workshops and Closing Remarks**

Please note that the entire event will be captured by a photographer and videographer, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy expects to use the content on its website, social media, and/or in future publications. If you prefer that your image not be used, please contact: jdeangelo@lincolninst.edu.