



DECODED®

Executive Orders and Federal Grants

What You Need to Know



Bridging The Gap

Presented By: | BFS Strategic Partners



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Mara Ash, CIA, CGFM, CMRA, CICA



Mara, Senior Partner at BFS, is a Compliance Expert with over 25 years of experience in finance, compliance, and advisory services across both public and private sectors. She specializes in driving strategic alignment, fostering transparency, and promoting sustainable growth—all while ensuring regulatory compliance. Her deep understanding of government operations and commitment to innovation has made her a trusted advisor in the field.

Mara is also dedicated to supporting public sector auditors and accountants, currently serving as the North American Representative on the Institute of Internal Auditors Global Advisory Group.

Cindy Watson, CICA



Cindy Watson, Managing Director at BFS, is an expert in financial management, grant compliance, and audit automation, bringing over 25 years of public sector experience. Cindy specializes in streamlining compliance processes and designing customized solutions to enhance audit efficiency. Known for her ability to translate complex regulations into actionable strategies, she has trained countless professionals on navigating federal and state requirements. Cindy's work has strengthened operational frameworks and boosted compliance across a wide range of agencies.



Executive Order

What Are Executive Orders

What Are Executive Orders

What they are, who issues them, and why they matter to Federal Grants.



Executive Orders (EOs) are official directives from the President of the United States, used to manage operations of the federal government.



EOs are published in the Federal Register and can influence federal agency operations, priorities, and regulations.



They do not require congressional approval but carry the force of law within the scope of executive power.



Not all EOs impact federal grants but those that shift agency priorities, funding allocations, or program requirements can create compliance implications for grantees.

Executive Orders Influence Federal Grant Policy

The connection between EOs and grant policy creates an indirect, but real, compliance impact. They may:



Shift Eligibility Rules

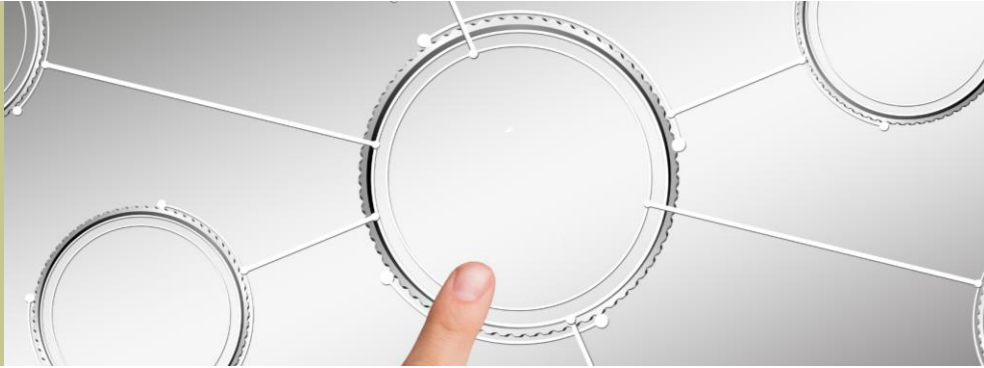


Change Application Requirements



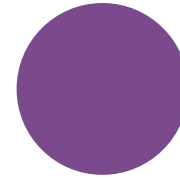
Impact Allowable Costs or Procurement Rules

Recent Examples Impacting Federal Grants



How EOs have affected grants, which could continue in the future.

Note that some EOs have no impact on grants – part of the challenge is knowing which ones matter.



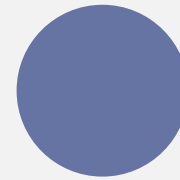
Example #1

Buy American Executive Orders – impacted procurement requirements for federally funded projects.



Example #2

Climate-related EOs – pushed agencies to prioritize projects addressing sustainability and environmental justice.



Example #3

DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) EOs impact program eligibility and reporting requirements.

Polling Question #1

Which of the following best describes an Executive Order?



**A law passed
by Congress.**



**A regulation
issued by an
agency.**



**A directive
from the
President.**



**A policy
memo from
the OMB.**



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Identifying Compliance Risks

Compliance Risks Triggered by Executive Orders

Executive Orders create potential compliance risks, even if they don't directly change a regulation.



Executive Orders can indirectly create new risks by:

- Shifting funding priorities mid-grant
- Triggering new program requirements or reporting standards
- Introducing new procurement rules or domestic preference requirements



Common Risk Areas Include:

- Funding use restrictions
- Procurement / Buy American changes
- Eligibility changes or added programmatic focus
- Increased oversight or reporting burdens

Many organizations don't see the risk until an audit or monitoring review.

Scenarios and Real-World Considerations

1

Scenario #01

Mid-grant, an EO shifts priorities, and your agency requires a new reporting component tied to environmental outcomes — what now?

2

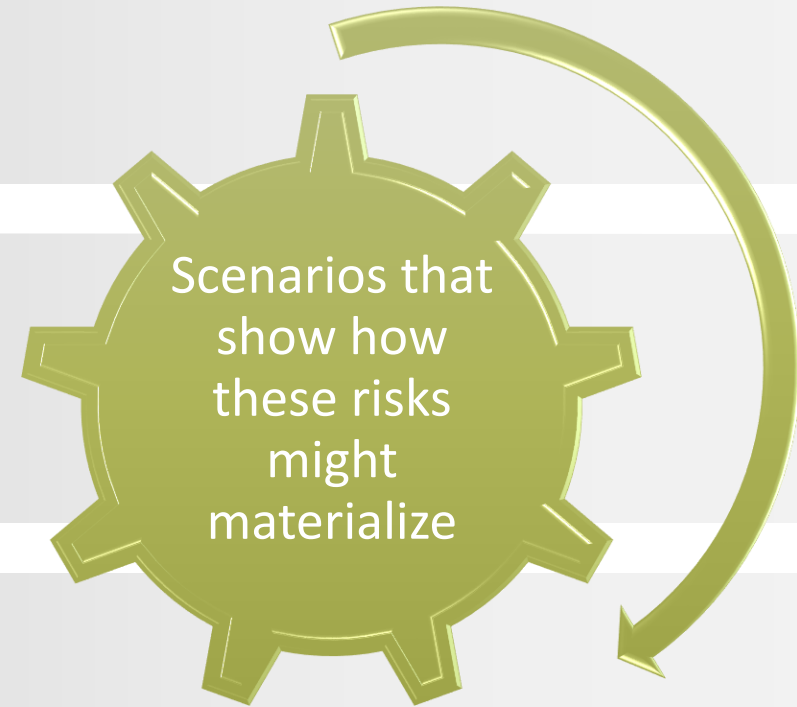
Scenario #02

Your procurement processes no longer align with a new "Buy American" provision — what are the next steps?

3

Scenario #03

An EO shifts focus to underrepresented communities, so your project must show alignment or risk funding reductions.



Polling Question #2

Have you ever had to adjust a federally funded project because of a policy change (EO or otherwise)?



**Yes, at least
one time.**



**Not yet, but I
expect to.**



**Nope, not so
far.**



I'm not sure.



Practical Steps to Protect Your Funding

Monitoring Changes - Stay Ahead of Shifting Requirements

Tool and strategies to monitor changes



Remember

Monitoring means staying abreast of current EOs as well as in contract with your funder to know how those EOs effect your grant.



Use Free Public Resources

- [FederalRegister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov)
- [WhiteHouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)
- Agency-specific email updates and guidance.



Suggested Workflow

1. Check for new EOs monthly.
2. Flag those with potential grant relevance.
3. Meet with your team to discuss implications.



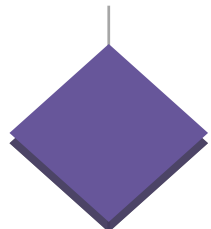
Optional Resources

- ✓ Blogs, tools and books
 - ✓ DECODED®
 - ✓ NGMA
 - ✓ ALGA
 - ✓ AGA
 - ✓ And others

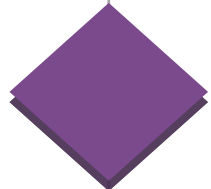
Flexibility into Grant Budgets & Program Activities

Plan for uncertainty by building flexibility into budgets and deliverables.

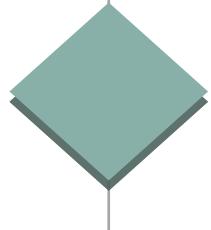
Factor in possible compliance shifts by:



Avoiding over-reliance on one funding stream



Including optional program components that can scale up/down



Preparing procurement plans that meet both current and likely future rules (Buy American, DEI preferences, etc.)

Scenario:

If a new EO affects cost allowability mid-grant, flexible budgeting helps you adjust without risking non-compliance.



Communication Strategies



01

Don't wait for changes to hit—
communicate early

02

If you notice a new EO may affect
your program, ask your funding
agency for clarification

03

Document everything

04

Remember, your funders may also be
navigating the same policy shifts –
collaboration is key

Final Takeaway & Action Steps

Executive Orders can shift grant priorities, sometimes without warning



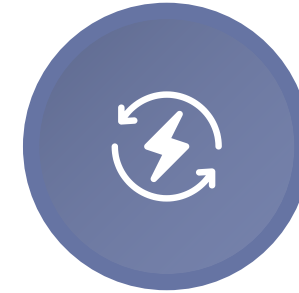
Monitoring Tools can help you stay informed



Build Flexibility into programs and budgets



Optional Resources
Check back often to see what's new



Communicate early and often with your funding partners and stakeholders



Remember to Document!

Polling Question #3

Which of the following tools do you currently use to stay informed about policy or compliance changes?



**FederalRegister.gov;
other Agency
information.**



**Internal team
meetings; other
methods.**



Blogs or summaries.



**I don't have a
system yet.**



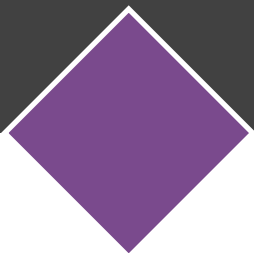
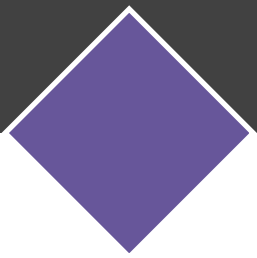
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- Tools
- Trainings

Questions



Answers

Contact Info



BFS Strategic Partners

Mara Ash, CIA, CGFM, CRMA,
CICA

Senior Partner

Email: Mara.Ash@bfssp.com

Cindy Watson, CICA

Managing Director

Email:

Cindy.Watson@bfssp.com

Website

www.bfssp.com

Thank You for Attending!

Contact:

grantsoffice@treas.nj.gov