

# All Things GATA

... the condensed version

# But first- Who am I?

- Sarah Moore
- BSPE Support Services Manager

# What is my role in the grant process?

- Ensure GATA Compliance
  - Application intake
  - Monitor grantees to ensure compliance behind the scenes (e.g., active SAM.gov accounts)
  - Monitor Stop Payment List
  - Indirect Cost Rates
  - Create program-specific grant language, PRA language, etc.
  - Write NOFOs
  - Issue NOSAs
  - Submit executed agreements to IDOT GATA Team
  - Liaison between BSPE and IDOT GATA Team
  - Ensure BSPE is in compliance

# Back to GATA- Brief Background

- Required by law
- Constantly changing
- Streamlines grant process
- Illinois #1
- Not going away

# Basic Requirements

- Active SAM.gov account
- Complete ICQ for each STATE fiscal year (begins July1)
- Remain compliant
- Follow stipulations in agreement
- All 5 documents must be submitted
  - Application
  - PRA
  - Budget
  - Affidavit of Conflict of Interest
  - Attachment (varies based on program)
- All documents, due dates, and additional application stipulations will be in NOFO
- Annual audit review/CYEFR must be completed (completion dates will vary by audit type)

# Before applying

- Ensure SAM.gov account is active
- Have GOMB GATA Portal account
  - We encourage more than one employee have access to the portal
  - Check status to see if centralized, parent-child, or individual
- Read NOFO carefully
- Check eligibility for grant applicants
  - E.g., some are only for local law enforcement
- ICQ completed for appropriate STATE fiscal year (begins July 1)
- Not on Stop Pay List
- Not delinquent on reporting and/or audit review

# GOMB GATA Portal

- Access at [grants.Illinois.gov/portal/](http://grants.Illinois.gov/portal/)
- Usually fiscal officers have access
  - Contact me if you need information on who has access
- Notice if portal account is centralized, parent-child, or individual
  - Will need to have correct account to use on application and accompanying documents
  - I will alert you as to which account/DUNS will be used to process your application and reimbursements
- Have more than one user with log in credentials
- Grantees can add or delete additional users
- Ensure all pre-qualification requirements are met
- Ensure current STATE fiscal year ICQ completed (begins July 1)
- Submit any outstanding audit material
- Use to accept NOSA

# SAM.gov

- Account MUST remain active throughout the duration of the grant period
- Failure to renew activation status annually will result in breach of contract
  - May result in penalties
- I monitor SAM.gov accounts and will send reminders if the renewal date is >30 days away
  - Though I may send reminders out earlier due to COVID keeping people at home to allow more time for renewal
- Reactivating an inactive account is a pain
  - Renew account BEFORE worrying about switching over information (e.g., point of contact)
  - May take months
  - I recommend you call at least weekly to keep your ticket active
    - SAM.gov is quick to close tickets for inactivity or not receiving a response even if the person they are contacting is no longer with the agency or the phone number is no longer valid
    - Calling weekly will keep the ticket active
    - Once a ticket is closed, you will need to start the process over from scratch and you may not even know the ticket was closed (from my experience, calling once a week will keep it open)

# Applying for BSPE grants

- BSPE will notify about NOFOs
  - NOFO will be available at grants.illinois.gov
  - Vital information concerning eligibility, due date, stipulations, etc. are available in the NOFO for each grant opportunity
- BSPE will have the corresponding forms available on <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/safety/grants/current>
- Submit application and accompanying documents to DOT.TSgrants@Illinois.gov

# Not eligible to apply for grants- Basics

- On Stop Payment List
- Inactive SAM.gov account
  - Unless re-activated by end of NOFO posting
- Pre-Qualifications in portal are not met
- Do not meet criteria set forth in NOFO
- No GOMB GATA Portal account
- Delinquent Audit Report
- Disbarred/Suspended

# Now, about that NOSA

- Must be accepted before we can send grantees the agreement
- Not legally binding
  - Grantee is NOT legally obligated to sign agreement if accepted
  - Simply means grantee is still interested in receiving the grant under stipulations in NOSA
- Will more than likely contain some risk factor
  - Risks can be financial, programmatic or both
- No signature required- just click the ACCEPT button
  - Ignore the signature block

# NOSA Risks- no worries

- Most BSPE grantees have risks
- Financial risks are determined by ICQ answers
- Programmatic risks are determined by PRA answers
- Example-
  - Fraud, waste & abuse
    - Does NOT mean grantee is committing these acts. Rather, it means that the criteria determined there is a higher likelihood of such occurring based on the answers under this category in the ICQ

## NOSA Risks- Key Point

Grantee is still eligible to apply for state and federal grants

# Upcoming Changes

(per presentation from Fall 2018)

- PRA will differ for each grant
  - Will now be program-specific for each grant
  - Begins in BSPE this upcoming grant application “season”
  - Located in Section 5
- Trafficsafetygrantsillinois.org will be integrated into main IDOT internet
  - Trafficsafetygrantsillinois.org web address will still work *for now*- user will be automatically re-routed to IDOT internet page
  - As of 2020, BSPE has the new website: <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/safety/grants/index>
- Website Subscription Service Receive Notifications
  - Will send email blasts until subscription service is available
  - As of 2020, located in the Contact Us tab of the new website: <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/safety/grants/contact>
- ICR process in GOMB GATA Portal
  - Only for none, de minimis, and federal indirect cost rates
  - As of 2020, this is still not possible- hopefully soon though...
- Grant Management System
  - Integrated into portal
  - As of 2020, GOMB and state agencies are working with the contracted company to build the System but it is still not ready for use

# Conclusion

- Stay compliant
- I will alert you to any pertinent changes
- Always feel free to contact me

# Questions or Concerns- Contact Me

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