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# Office of Management and Budget



DAP  
HHS DATA Act Program  
Management Office

## DATA Act Program Management Office

Data Foundation DATA Act Training Program

# DATA Act Section 5 Pilot

*Beyond Agency Finance: How the DATA Act will Transform Grant Reporting*

June 8, 2017

## Purpose

Provide an overview of the President's management agenda and a status update on the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot.

## Discussion Topics

President's Management Agenda

Federal Spending Transparency and Grants Context

DATA Act Overview

Section 5 Pilot

Section 5 Grants Pilot

**The Administration will take action to ensure that by 2020, we will be able to say:**

**1. Federal agencies are managing programs and delivering critical services more effectively.**

**2. Federal agencies are devoting a greater percentage of taxpayer dollars to mission achievement rather than costly, unproductive compliance activities.**

**3. Federal agencies are more effective and efficient in supporting program outcomes.**

**4. Agencies have been held accountable for improving performance.**

2006

- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)

2009

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

2011

- Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB)

2013

- Uniform Guidance – 2CFR 200

2014

- Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act)

**In May 2014, Public Law 113-101 Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) was signed into law with the purpose to establish government-wide financial data standards and increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of Federal spending information.**



Refer to the complete [DATA Act legislation](#) for additional information.

The goal of the Pilot is to implement Section 5 of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-101, which requires the Federal Government to, “establish a pilot program with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for –



(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal government (§5(b)(1)(A));



(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting (§5(b)(1)(B));



(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards (§5(b)(1)(C)).”

**The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established a Section 5 Pilot (Pilot) with two primary focus areas — one on Federal grants and another on Federal contracts (procurement).**

- Per statute, the Pilot began on May 9, 2015 and grants track concluded May 9, 2017.

## Grants

Conducted six Test Models that examined standardization, access to information, and streamlining and centralizing reporting.

- OMB designated HHS as the executing agent of the Federal grants portion of the Pilot.

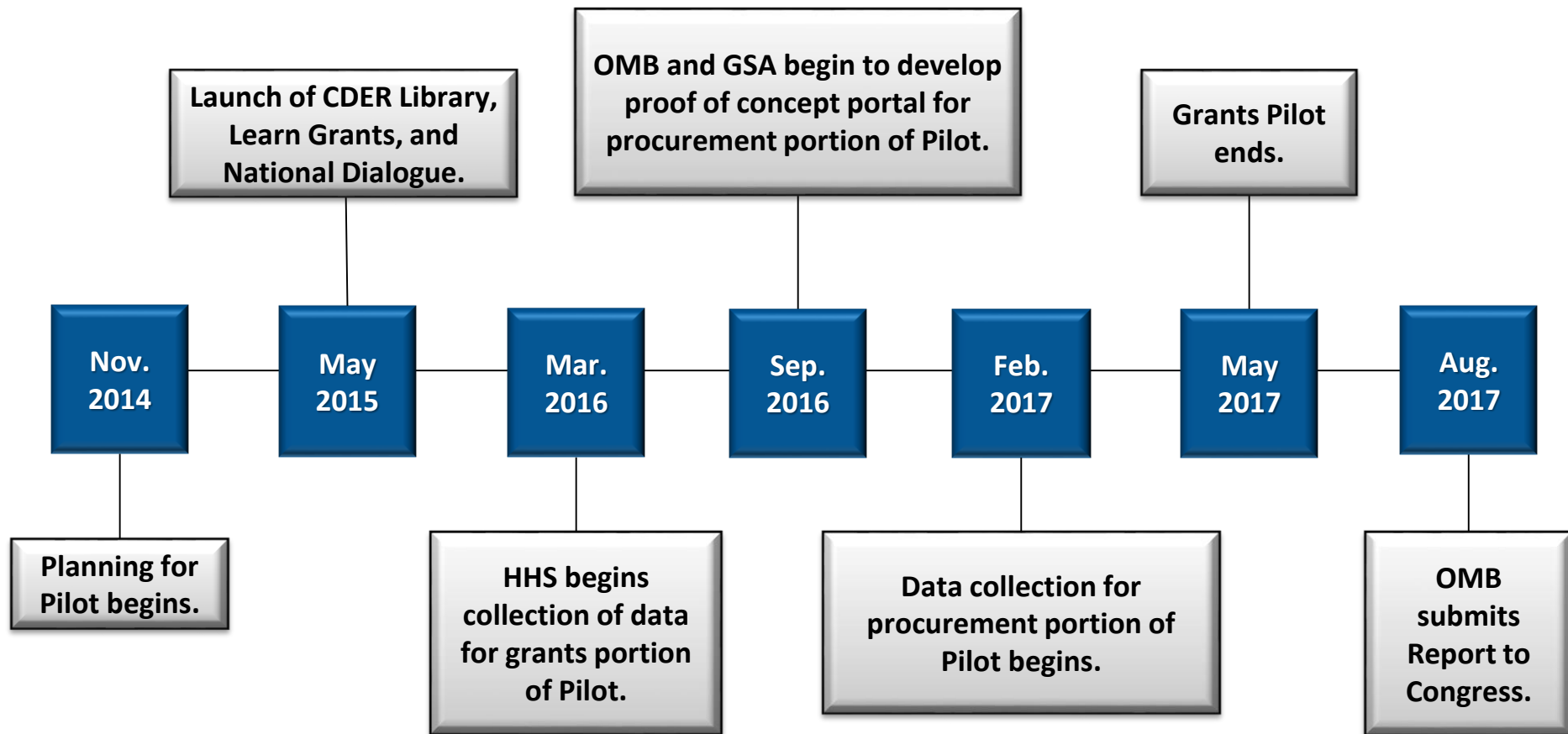
## Contracts (Procurement)

Developed and tested a proof of concept portal that could be used to submit reports required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

- OMB's Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) worked with the General Services Administration's (GSA) 18F to develop this test.

**Results from both tracks were used to develop recommendations for Congress.**

The following is a timeline of major Pilot activities:





**HHS began planning for the grants portion of the Section 5 Pilot in November of 2014. Since then, HHS has designed, executed, and collected results on six Test Models to develop recommendations for Congress to reduce grant recipient reporting burden.**

## **Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library 1**

Tested the effectiveness of the CDER Library as a tool to improve the accuracy and speed of grants lifecycle forms completion to help reduce grant recipient reporting burden.

## **Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library 2**

Identified duplication across forms using the CDER Library so that agencies could update/reduce forms to reduce grant recipient reporting burden.

## **Consolidated Federal Financial Report (CFFR)**

Tested the efficiencies gained using a single grants reporting entry point.

**HHS began planning for the grants portion of the Section 5 Pilot in November of 2014. Since then, HHS has designed, executed, and collected results on six Test Models to develop recommendations for Congress to reduce grant recipient reporting burden.**

## Single Audit

Tested the effectiveness of a more streamlined approach for SF-SAC/SEFA reporting for the Single Audit Report package.

## Notice of Award – Proof of Concept (NOA – POC)

Tested the effectiveness of how standardizing the NOA could result in efficiencies for grant recipients.

## Learn Grants

Tested the effectiveness of a tab on the Grants.gov website that promotes knowledge sharing among the grants community.

Five of the six Test Models required participation from grant recipients. HHS used a multi-pronged approach to solicit participation in the Test Models. Communication channels included:

### Newsletters

- Bi-monthly newsletter distributed to external stakeholders.

### Website

- External facing child page within hhs.gov ([www.hhs.gov/dataactpmo](http://www.hhs.gov/dataactpmo)).

### Twitter

- Twitter account – @HHS\_DAP ([www.twitter.com/HHS\\_DAP](http://www.twitter.com/HHS_DAP)).

**Additionally, HHS reached out to potential participants through email distributions via the GovDelivery online platform.**

In conducting the Grants Pilot, HHS obtained one of the largest participation rates ever from the Federal grants community.

- HHS developed the Pilot framework based upon the foundation of the Grants Reporting Information Project (GRIP). In total, HHS had over 500 participants within the Grants Pilot, a 5,467% increase from the GRIP Report.

Section 5 Grants Pilot Test Model Data	
<i>Test Model</i>	<i>Total Participants</i>
CDER 1	59
CFFR – Facilitated Discussion	30
CFFR – ACF Pilot	115
Single Audit – Facilitated Discussion	123
Single Audit – Form Completion	13
NOA-POC	104
Learn Grants	57
Grand Total	501

**Section 5 Grants Pilot participants represented the following organizations:**

- Federal Government
- For Profit Organizations
- Higher Education
- State/Local Government
- Native American Tribes
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Other

**For more information, please contact OMB at [spendingtransparency@omb.eop.gov](mailto:spendingtransparency@omb.eop.gov) or HHS at [DATAActPMO@hhs.gov](mailto:DATAActPMO@hhs.gov).**