**Measuring the Impact of the Uniform Guidance**

On December 26, 2013 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published final guidance in 2 C.F.R 200 titled *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal financial assistance. The guidance served as an instrument to better target financial risk and better direct resources in order to achieve evidence-based outcomes.

In an effort to assure effective implementation, the Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) established metrics to gauge how the guidance addressed its intended enhancements and to measure the performance of the Federal government’s work in the management of assistance in the form of Federal financial assistance. On September 30, 2014 OMB issued [Memorandum M-14-17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2014/m-14-17.pdf) to all executive Departments and Agency Chief Financial Officers (CFO) that manage assistance programs, and set forth requirements for the initial collection and use of administrative and audit metrics for the Uniform Guidance.

These findings for the Administrative Metrics are aggregated from twenty-one CFO Act agencies and will help establish a baseline. At this initial stage, metric collection is to inform the COFAR about the state prior to implementation of the Uniform Guidance. As outlined in [Memorandum M-14-17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2014/m-14-17.pdf), by January 15, 2017, OMB and the COFAR will evaluate the utility of these metrics and will consider whether it is appropriate to establish goals or target outcomes for any given metric.

**2014 Administrative Metrics results:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Number of OMB-approved Information Collections for Grants and Cooperative Agreements | 856 |
| 2. | Number of OMB-approved Exceptions Focused on Program Performance Over Compliance | \* |
| 3. | Total number of new awards (grants, cooperative agreements) issued during 2014 | 131,013 |
| 4. | Number of Fixed Amount Awards Issued \*\* | 5,236 |
| 5. | Number of Agency Exceptions to the Provision of Federally Negotiated Rates | 139 |
| 6. | Total number of Indirect Cost Rate Agreements issued by cognizant agencies during 2014 | 5,146 |
| 7. | Number of Indirect Cost Rate Extensions Approved by Cognizant Agencies | 83 |

\* Data not requested for this baseline metric.

\*\* Baseline data is based on Federal awarding agencies best approximation of what they considered fixed amount awards for 2014. Prior to the implementation of the Uniform Guidance, there was no unified definition on what was considered a fixed amount award.

These Administrative Metrics will be collected annually from OMB records of exceptions and Federal awarding agency records of: information collection requests, fixed-amount awards, number of indirect cost extensions, and agency exceptions to the provision of federally negotiated rates. Federal awarding agencies are responsible for the accuracy of the data submitted to OMB and are expected to accurately report the annual metrics as required by [Memorandum M-14-17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2014/m-14-17.pdf).

Based on the evaluation of these indicators after the implementation of the Uniform Guidance, OMB and the COFAR will work with Federal agencies to gauge the success of the guidance and the performance of the Federal government’s work in the management of Federal financial assistance.

**2014 Single Audit Metrics Results:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Number of Modified Opinions for Higher Risk Major Programs | 3,886 |
| 2. | Number of Audit Findings of Material Weaknesses in Internal Controls for Higher Risk Major Programs | 4,838 |
| 3. | Number of Repeat Findings for Higher Risk Major Programs | \* |
| 4. | Number of Major Programs selected for audit | 96,942 |
| 5. | Number of Audit Objectives in the Compliance Supplement | \*\*73 |

\* Data to be collected starting FY 2015

\*\* Audit objectives in Part 3 – Compliance Requirements of the 2014 Compliance Supplement

These Single Audit metrics results are aggregated from all the audit submissions by the auditees for FY 2014 (i.e., for fiscal year that ended between 01/01/2104 through 12/31/2014) to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. As of 12/18/2015 we have received 38,025 audits. The metrics results will be updated in March 2016 to provide a more complete picture as we expect that the rest of FY 2014 audits will be submitted by that date. These metrics will help establish a baseline for audits that were conducted before the effective of the Uniform Guidance and will serve to measure over time the effective implementation of the Uniform Guidance, including reductions of unnecessary administrative burden, and reductions in risks of waste, fraud and abuse. The analysis of these audit metrics will provide demonstrations of success and opportunities and needs for future revisions to the Uniform Guidance.

The next collection of the Single Audit metrics will be collected for FY 2015 (i.e., for fiscal year that ended between 01/01/2015 and 12/31/2015) in December 2016.

Based on the evaluation of these metrics after the implementation of the Uniform Guidance, OMB and the COFAR will work with Federal agencies to gauge the success of the Uniform guidance and the performance of the Federal government’s work in the audit and oversight of Federal financial assistance.