



Proposal Initiation- Contractor/Vendor:

Let's talk about the Federal Budget process, which is distinct from our State and Local work. Federal budgets run October to September, while most state budgets begin in July.

As you can see from the images displayed, the process typically begins with the President's budget. Agency plan and review their budget with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) - result in the release of the President's Budget Request, traditionally the first week in February.

Next is the Congressional appropriations cycle, typically running from Feb to April – when the House and Senate Budget Committees set total allocation levels. House and Senate ideally agree on a deeming resolution, yet in the absence of one, may set allocations otherwise, called 302(a) allocations, for House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

From May through June: Each of the 12 subcommittees, each dealing with a different part of the budget vote and set their allocations. From July – Aug the Reconciliation process takes place. Ultimately the budget is sent to the president to sign – starting the Federal Fiscal Year October 1.

Keep in mind this is the theory, and it is not unusual to have exceptions. In all but one of the last 10 years, there was a Continuing Resolution or a "CR" – meaning a delay in Congressional approval so the government runs, by default, on the budget from the prior year and suspends any new, noncritical work.