

525 Clinton Street  
Bow, NH 03304  
Voice: 603-228-2830  
Fax: 603-228-2464



61 Elm Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
Voice: 802-229-0002  
Fax: 802-223-2336

[www.bistatepca.org](http://www.bistatepca.org)

December 4, 2023

Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, DC 20503

RE: The Office of Management and Budget proposed regulatory changes for Grants and Agreements.  
Docket No. OMB–2023–0017

To Whom It May Concern:

Bi-State Primary Care Association (Bi-State) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed regulatory changes for Grants and Agreements, Docket No. OMB-2023-0017.

Established in 1986, Bi-State is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization promoting access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on those most in need in Vermont and New Hampshire. Bi-State's combined Vermont and New Hampshire membership includes 21 Federally Qualified Health Centers, one Look-Alike, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Vermont's Free and Referral Clinics, consortia, and networks. Our members provide comprehensive, high quality primary care to over 300,000 individuals in New Hampshire and Vermont serving all counties in these states. Bi-State is supported by numerous federal grants and agreements and we are grateful for OMB's thoughtfulness around this proposed rule.

Bi-State supports many of the goals of this proposed rule, and appreciates OMB's periodic review of the guidance for grants and agreements. In general, we appreciate the clarity around definitions and the use of plain language. Additionally, we support the following provisions within the proposal:

- § 200.1, Equipment Definition: Increasing the equipment threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- § 200.1, MTDC Definition: Increasing the Modified Total Direct Cost eligible value from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- §200.414(f), Indirect Costs: Increase the *de minimis* rate from 10% to 15%.

We would request modification for the following:

- § 200.201 (b)(4), Fixed Amount Awards: There is proposed new language stating: "At the end of a fixed amount award, the recipient or subrecipient must certify in writing to the Federal agency or pass-through entity that the project was completed as agreed to in the Federal award and that all expenditures were incurred in accordance with § 200.403." We would request that the OMB revert to the current language requiring certification that the "project or activity was

completed or the level of effort was expended.” Our concern with the new language is that this renders fixed amount subawards cost-reimbursement. They are effectively cost reimbursement making the fixed amount mechanism moot.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at [gmaheras@bistatepca.org](mailto:gmaheras@bistatepca.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'gm', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Georgia J. Maheras, Esq.  
SVP, Policy and Strategy