



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 15 December 2022

SUBJECT: Post-Award and Implementation Process for State Grants—Final Report
for Approval

The attached Commission report is submitted for your approval. It was prepared in response to a request from Chairman Yager, who directed staff to review the post-award and implementation processes for state-administered grants to local governments and identify any changes warranted to streamline these processes so that grants may be more effectively utilized. Staff have included additional information from state agencies regarding considerations that would need to be considered before transitioning to a single, statewide grant management system.

Staff have strengthened the language of the report's four recommendations, based on feedback from Commission members. The report makes two recommendations for specific changes to state processes:

- **The Commission recommends that the state require agencies to use a single, statewide grant management system to promote a more uniform, user-friendly experience across agencies for grantees, with exceptions provided for agencies that can demonstrate the system won't support functions necessary for their grant programs.**
- **And it recommends that state agencies accept Title VI training provided by other agencies when verifying compliance with federal and state law—unless they can demonstrate other agencies' trainings are inadequate for their programs—to eliminate the need for grantees to take multiple trainings when they have grants with multiple agencies.**

The report also makes two general recommendations to promote good stewardship of grant funds through the identification and adoption of best practices:

- **The Commission recommends that state agencies regularly convene grant advisory boards made up of representatives for local governments and the entities that assist them with carrying out grant projects—similar to the boards already established by the Department of Economic and Community Development and other agencies—to solicit feedback for improving grant requirements and processes and to prioritize issues of importance to grantees, for example when considering new programmatic agreements with federal partners.**
- **And it recommends that the state consider establishing an interagency working group for sharing lessons learned from agencies’ efforts to improve grant requirements and processes to promote the adoption of best practices across grant programs.**