



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Office of the Chief  
Financial Officer

1400 Independence  
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Washington, DC  
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**TO:** Agency Chief Financial Officers and Staff Office Directors

**FROM:** Jon M. Holladay  
Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT:** Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-15-12,  
“Increasing Transparency of Federal Spending by Making Federal  
Spending Data Accessible, Searchable, and Reliable.”

OMB published OMB Memorandum 15-12 on Friday, May 8, 2015 which is attached. The memo imposes the following requirements for USDA Agencies and Staff Offices to implement the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act):

- 1) Maintain current Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act reporting;
- 2) Report Agency-level data to OMB and Treasury via the Government-wide Treasury Account Symbol (GTAS) system;
- 3) Implement data exchange standards. These standards, still under development by OMB and Treasury, will be used in recording and reporting DATA Act data elements;
- 4) Continue to assign unique Federal Award Identification Numbers;
- 5) Ensure that agency-level and award-level financial data is sourced from agency financial systems and implement a link between agency financial systems and additional non-financial data housed in the management systems using award identification numbers (ID); and
- 6) Report all financial assistance awards over the micro purchase threshold of \$3,000. (It is USDA’s policy that all Federal financial assistance is reported regardless of threshold, e.g. a \$1,500 financial assistance award would be reportable).

The unique award ID in the fourth requirement above, was transmitted in a memo to Agency Chief Financial Officers on April 16, 2014, also attached.

For the sixth requirement listed above, agencies shall indicate whether they already report the award ID to their financial system for each award obligation and outlay by July 22, 2015 and must come into compliance by October 1, 2017. For those agencies and staff

offices using FMFI as their General Ledger and USDA eGrants (formerly Grantor), OCFO will manage the DATA Act reporting requirements.

Questions concerning this memorandum should be directed to Tyson Whitney at (202) 720-8978 or [tyson.whitney@cfo.usda.gov](mailto:tyson.whitney@cfo.usda.gov).

cc: Agency Heads  
Under Secretaries  
Deputy Under Secretaries

Attachments