

## Streamlining Federal Grants Act

- IL Sponsors: Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-17)
- Establishes a **Grants Council** composed of all grant-making federal agencies
- Requires each agency to develop and implement an **Agency Plan** of streamlined grant-making procedures that comply with the Grants Council guidance, including training and education opportunities for potential grantees
- Mandates that federal agencies **consult with non-Federal entities** – states, local governments, territories, Tribes, higher education, and nonprofits – during the development and implementation of their Agency Plans
- Requires summaries of notices of funding opportunities to be **short** (under 500 words), **clear** (plain language), and **accessible** (identifying training and assistance opportunities)
- Creates a reporting requirement for examining **why charitable nonprofits and other non-federal entities choose not to participate in federal grantmaking** and offering options to improve access

## Background

Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), John Cornyn (R-TX), and James Lankford (R-OK) introduced the to improve the effectiveness and performance of federal grants and cooperative agreements, simplify application and reporting requirements, facilitate greater coordination among agencies responsible for delivering services to the public, improve user experience, and solicit grantee input.

### Equity Note

- Nationally, White-led nonprofits were more likely to have federal revenue (NFF, 2022)
- POC-led organizations in IL were less likely to receive PPP funding (Forefront SOTS, 2022)
- In th SFGA, federal agencies are required to attend to entities that have not historically received grants or cooperative agreements
- Also in the SFGA, barriers study must include the experiences of faith-based and community-based organizations, rural communities, and small communities

## Rationale

Federal grants are notoriously difficult to manage. After more than a decade of confusion and miscommunication since the Office of Management and Budget issued its Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Sec. 200 et seq.), the Streamlining Federal Grants Act of 2023 (SFGA) would create a reform process through which longstanding challenges and impediments can be addressed and overcome.

### In Illinois

- 61 IL organizations signed SFGA letter of support coordinated by Social Current
- Forefront's Equitable Access and Capacity Initiative (EACI) was designed to support nonprofits managing government grants. In the first round of EACI funding, Forefront received 9x the amount of available grant funding in requests from IL nonprofits, demonstrating the need for support in managing government grants.

