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Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Polk, Denise[Polk.Denise@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wed 8/16/2017 2:42:36 PM
Subject: RE: [Revised EPA Strategic Plan Linkage Draft 10 JFD 8-15-17.docx](#)
[GAP Guiding Principles Draft Memo 080817.docx](#)

Thank you Ryan and Team. Peeling the onion back another layer, we are working to address how grant solicitations are written in the first place. Offices have been using several forms of "guidance" to draft solicitations, including a reliance on the 2014-2018 strategic plan which was implemented by the past administration. Some programs use additional internal guidance which we've found also focuses on the goals and policies of the past administration. To address how grants are written at the front end of the process, we have worked with the Office of Grants and Debarment, especially Denise Polk who is copied, to come up with the two documents attached.

- 1) A draft protocol for the entire agency to address how grant solicitations can be written without relying per se on the old strategic plan, while the new strategic plan is being written and reviewed.
- 2) A draft memo from Jane Nishida to her program and to the regions, directing them to use the new administration's goals and priorities as guidance.

Jane's memo, once approved, will serve as a template for all acting AAs and acting RAs to use to issue similar guidance to their respective grant writers.

Our long term goal is to be able to ensure grant solicitations are written in an appropriate way and that we are able to review and approve all grant solicitations before they are posted. This will allow for less back end oversight and keep the process moving in a smooth way. Within one grant cycle we should see that all grants being awarded have been written using our guidance and approved by us at the front end of the process. Until then, please continue to identify draft solicitations in your program offices and/or regional offices and forward them along so we can review, edit if necessary and approve before they are "put on the street".

Thank you all again for your help with this project.

John Konkus

-----Original Message-----

From: Jackson, Ryan

Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 2:10 PM

To: Mandy_Gunasekara@epw.senate.gov; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Davis, Patrick <davis.patrick@epa.gov>; Darwin, Veronica <darwin.veronica@epa.gov>; Yamada, Richard (Yujiro) <yamada.richard@epa.gov>; Traylor, Patrick <traylor.patrick@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <baptist.erik@epa.gov>; Flynn, Mike <Flynn.Mike@epa.gov>; Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>

Cc: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject:

I could use your help with grant solicitations your program offices and the regions are working up to place in grants.gov

These need to be reviewed by OPA (John Konkus) before they go live.

Will you instruct your program office and the regions to provide you with a list and description of the grant solicitations they are working up?

Ryan Jackson
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