



October 31, 2024

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
House Oversight and Accountability
Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Oversight and Accountability
Committee
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Streamlining Federal Grants Act of 2023 (HR 5934)

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Raskin:

On behalf of the nation's local governments and charitable organizations working to advance the public good, the National League of Cities, National Council of Nonprofits, National Association of Counties and International City/County Management Association write to express our strong support for the bipartisan *Streamlining Federal Grants Act of 2023* (H.R. 5934/S. 2286), which will standardize and coordinate grant administration across the federal government to reduce complexity for communities and organizations applying for federal grants. In particular, the bill would expand the accessibility of federal grants to a wider pool of local governments and organizations in small and rural communities. We urge the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability to include H.R. 5934, the Streamlining Federal Grants Act, for markup at any future Full Committee Business Meeting before the 118th Congress adjourns.

This important, bipartisan, and bicameral legislation would improve the effectiveness and performance of federal grants and cooperative agreements, simplify the application and reporting requirements, and facilitate greater coordination among agencies responsible for delivering services to the public. Notably, the legislation also seeks to improve the services delivered to communities and organizations that historically have not directly received federal grants or cooperative agreements. Specifically, this bill would:

- **Provide Clarification of Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO).** The legislation expressly requires that agencies must “improve user experience” by mandating summaries of notices of funding opportunities that are short (under 500 words), clear (plain language), and accessible (identifying training and assistance opportunities). Applicants would no longer have to sift through 70 pages of jargon to determine whether they are or are not

eligible to apply, which is especially onerous for small and rural applicants with limited staff resources.

- **Elevate Training and Assistance for Potential Applicants of Grants.** A primary tenet of the legislation is to improve the delivery of services to the public, particularly services by communities and organizations that historically have not received federal grants or cooperative agreements. One way this is accomplished is by requiring agencies to include in their Agency Plans the steps necessary to ensure potential grant and cooperative agreement program applicants are provided opportunities to receive training and assistance in accessing federal grant opportunities from the agency.
- **Emphasize Access to Federal Grants.** The legislation orders a report that identifies why non-federal entities choose not to participate in federal grantmaking and offering options to improve access. The study must include the experiences of rural and small communities and community-based organizations, among others. The release of the report is timed to ensure that solutions can be incorporated into Agency Plans for streamlined grant-making procedures.

S. 2286 was introduced by Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), John Cornyn (R-TX) and James Lankford (R-OK) and reported out of Committee in July 2023. Companion legislation, H.R. 5934, was introduced by Representatives Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) and Virginia Foxx (R-NC) in October 2023 and is awaiting a vote in the House Oversight Committee. Matching Senate action by adding this important, non-controversial bill for committee markup would signal the support necessary to advance more quickly in the future.

Collectively, our organizations represent the nation's 19,000 cities, towns and villages, 3,069 counties and 35,000 nonprofits throughout the United States. Passing the *Streamlining Grants Act* will broaden the reach of federal grants and help ensure that federal dollars are providing a long-lasting impact in the communities that need them most. **The National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, International City/County Management Association and National Council of Nonprofits urge the House Oversight Committee to consider H.R. 5934 before the 118th Congress ends.**

If you have any questions, please contact us: Dante Moreno moreno@nlc.org, Jessica Mendieta jmendieta@councilofnonprofits.org, Paige Mellerio pmellerio@naco.org, and/or Amber Snowden asnowden@icma.org.

Sincerely,



Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Marc A. Ott
CEO and Executive Director
International City/County Management
Association

David L. Thompson
Acting CEO and VP of Public Policy
National Council of Nonprofits



Matthew D. Chase
Executive Director/CEO
National Association of Counties (NACo)

National League of Cities

The [National League of Cities](#) (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions. Stay connected with NLC on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

National Council of Nonprofits

Communities thrive when nonprofits succeed. For more than 30 years, the National Council of Nonprofits has mobilized the largest network of nonprofits in the United States to achieve transformative results. We champion, connect, and inform nonprofits across the country. Join our collective efforts to ensure a connected and powerful nonprofit community equipped to champion the public good. Learn more at www.councilofnonprofits.org.

National Association of Counties

The [National Association of Counties](#) (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,069 counties, 40,000 county elected officials and over 3.6 million county employees through advocacy, education, and research.

International City/County Management Association

[International City/County Management Association](#) is the leading organization of local government professionals dedicated to creating and sustaining thriving communities throughout the world. We do this by working with our more than 13,000 members to identify and speed the adoption of leading local government practices to improve the lives of residents.