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#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW STAFF SECRETARY AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

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FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Presidential Memorandum to Departments and Agencies on Grant Management

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential memorandum and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

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### WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/2/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2/6/86

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM TO DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES ON GRANT MANAGEMENT

Document No.

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**REMARKS:** Please provide any comments on the attached directly to my office by Thursday, March 6th. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:** 

David L. Chew Staff Secretary



#### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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#### FEB 2 8 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

James C. Miller

FROM:

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SUBJECT:

Presidential Memorandum on Grant Management

#### SUMMARY

This forwards for your consideration a proposed memorandum to heads of departments and agencies, directing them to issue common grant management regulations. Common grant management regulations would further our Federalism and Regulatory Relief objectives by simplifying and providing uniform guidance on grants management to State and local governments, while maintaining effective control over Federal grant funds.

#### BACKGROUND

As part of the Federalism and Regulatory Relief programs, OMB identified its Circular A-102, "Uniform Requirements for Assistance to State and Local Governments," and the related agency regulations as being among those that would be reviewed with the objective of reducing the paperwork and red tape associated with grant programs. A task force of all the major grant making agencies was set up under the President's Council on Management Improvement. Its goal was to simplify and replace over 20 sets of redundant, burdensome, and inconsistent agency regulations or other nonregulatory guidance affecting grants to State and local governments.

This work has been completed and a revised OMB circular developed; but by itself, the circular will not guarantee prompt or complete implementation of the policy and regulatory changes. Each agency would have to follow up by independently going through its own rulemaking process to establish the policies legally. We do not want each agency to develop its own regulatory version of the streamlined policies. We have recently learned, through implementation of the A-122 lobbying policy, how much agency practices vary and how that undercuts uniform implementation. Instead, we would like to skirt the regulatory thicket by getting agencies to issue one set of regulations. The only way to do this is to require by Executive order or Presidential memo that it be done. We believe the memo is the better approach here. This is the same approach taken recently in your memo on the Uniform Relocation Act (Attachment B).

#### RECOMMENDATION

**7**5.

I recommend that you sign the proposed memorandum.

Attachments

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Uniform Requirements for Grants to State and Local Governments

In 1971, the Office of Management and Budget issued standards governing the fiscal and administrative requirements for grants and assistance to State and local governments in Circular A-102, "Uniform Requirements for Assistance to State and Local Governments." Circular A-102 was a significant step toward the simplification of grants management at the time. However, after 14 years, some of the provisions are out-of-date, there are gaps where the standards do not cover important areas, and agencies have interpreted the circular in numerous, different ways in their regulations. It is now time for the circular to be revised to reflect developments consistent with our Federalism policies and State and local regulatory relief objective, and the President's Management Improvement Program.

A 20-agency Task Force under the President's Council on Management Improvement, chaired by OMB, was established to review OMB Circular A-102 and suggest ways to simplify grants management requirements. To complete this effort, I hereby direct the following actions:

- OMB will revise Circular A-102 to specify uniform, Governmentwide terms and conditions for grants to State and local governments and provide policy guidance to Federal agencies on grants management.
- Within 90 days of the date of this memorandum, all affected executive departments and agencies shall simultaneously propose common regulations that adopt

the Governmentwide terms and conditions verbatim, except where there are inconsistent statutory requirements. Within one year of the date of this memorandum, such departments and agencies shall issue common regulations.

 OMB shall consult periodically with State and local governments and other affected organizations and interest groups to consider improvements in grants management.

Ronald Reagan

### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The purpose of this Memorandum is to improve administration and implementation of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

Specifically, I hereby direct the following actions:

- 1. The Presidential Memorandum of September 6, 1973 on this subject is superseded.
- 2. As with other Administration management improvement initiatives, a lead agency, the Department of Transportation (DOT), is designated to coordinate and monitor implementation of the Act, and consult periodically with State and local governments and other organizations and interest groups affected by administration of the Act.
- 3. DOT, jointly with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall interact with the principal executive departments and agencies affected by the Act in developing Administration policy.
- 4. Within 90 days of the date of this Memorandum, all affected executive departments and agencies shall propose common regulations under the Act. Within one year of the date of this Memorandum, such departments and agencies shall issue common regulations under the Act. Such regulations shall be consistent with the model policy promulgated by DOT, in consultation and coordination with other affected agencies, and published in final form in the Federal Register simultaneously with this Memorandum.
- 5. DOT shall report annually to the President's Council on Management Improvement, through the Office of Management and Budget, on implementation of the Act.

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