

FUNDED



A GRANTS OFFICE PUBLICATION

GROUNDHOG DAY: THE 2015 BUDGET FIGHT & ITS LOOMING IMPACT

INCORPORATING
TECHNOLOGY INTO
YOUR GRANT
PROPOSAL

TO UNFUNDED BWC
APPLICANTS:
DON'T GIVE UP!



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ON THE COVER

Our nation's capital in the fall. With the official start of autumn also comes the annual federal budget debate. We cover how a potential shut down could effect you (even if you don't work in government). (Photo Thinkstock/sborisov)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

The coming of autumn often brings with it beautiful colors, the smell of burning leaves, a distinct chill in the air, and, in recent years, a drawn out battle to pass a federal budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

A delayed federal budget does not only have repercussions for public, government owned entities such as zoos and libraries, it also effects Federal Agencies responsible for grant making. Thus, delays in releasing grant programs caused by an incomplete federal budget precipitates additional delays for grant seekers.

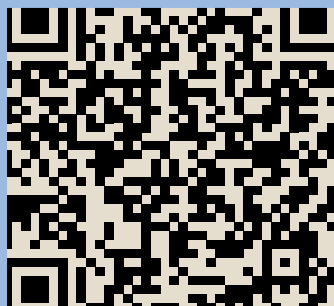
In his *Between the Lines* column, Chris LaPage explores a brief history of past budget delays and discusses what a potential stall of the FY2016 budget could mean to those seeking grant funding.

This October issue of FUNDED also features a call to those grant seeking law enforcement agencies who did not find funding for Body Worn Cameras through the Department of Justice. Dan Casion expounds numerous other outlets of funding available for those who would continue to seek it, further details of which can be found in the Program Snapshots featured on pages 10, 11, and 12.

Finally, Elizabeth Evans breaks down the importance of approach for those seeking grant funding for technology. As she delineates, writing a proposal can be a lot like baking a cake -- and technology is merely one ingredient.

If you have any questions, comments, or topics you would be interested in seeing in future issues, please email me at ksleeman@grantsoffice.com

Sincerely,
Kirsten Sleeman
Editor, FUNDED



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BAKING YOUR CAKE: INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY IN A GRANT PROPOSAL

BY ELIZABETH EVANS

Rarely are there grants expressly for the purpose of purchasing technology equipment. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is host to one of these exceptions, the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant, wherein the USDA funds the acquisition of video conferencing equipment for rural end-users proposing either distance learning or telemedicine projects.

Opportunities such as DLT are few and far between and often come with strict eligibility requirements that knock many would-be applicants out of the running.

Fortunately, many grants allow for technology purchases to be built in

as part of the budget for equipment. In fact, some of the best technology funding opportunities don't even come across as "technology grants" at first glance.

As with any line item on your grant proposal budget, it comes down to whether or not you are able to justify the need for that technology as contributing to part of the overall project. In other words, how is that technology a means to the end?

Here at Grants Office we have a mantra: "Grants fund projects, not products". In working with clients and technology vendors across all sectors, this phrase is something that is uttered countless times a day. The technology vendor is looking to make a sale, the customer has a technology need, and both are trying to make the transaction happen through grant funding. Both are excited

about the technology, what it can do, how it will integrate into the existing infrastructure.

Moreover, it's easy to get caught up in the mentality that grant funding is simply "free money ripe for the picking." That sentiment couldn't be further from the truth. Those who have worked on a grant proposal or an awards administration know firsthand how complicated and time intensive the process can be.

So again, we circle back to the idea that grants fund projects, not products. Urging everyone to remember why the

technology is needed in the first place is vital. Not simply because the current equipment is aging and in need of continuous repair. Nor because the current

network can no longer handle the influx of traffic.

How does that network support the overall purpose of the organization? What are those programmatic drivers behind the need for the technology acquisition? What is the overall project that the technology will ultimately support? These questions are attempting to focus you on one area - What is the problem your organization is trying to solve? This, the essential question that you must link back to in any grant proposal, is vital to a multitude of grant opportunities whether for a technology purchase or not.

The trick for technology purchases is not to be seduced by the technology itself and the logistics of the product. You should always keep in mind that technology is

*"Here at Grants Office we have a mantra:
'Grants fund projects, not products.'"*

FEATURE

simply one ingredient in an overall project. And that brings us to cake. More accurately, how putting together your grant budget is like baking a cake where the technology are the eggs.

I imagine you perked up at the thought of cake. Of course you did, who can blame you? But if I started listing off all of the ingredients that go into a cake you would probably zone out - skim over the next few lines until you saw something more interesting, check your email, send a text message. Of course, there will be a few who do find all of these ingredients interesting, however, the vast majority don't really care. What they are focused on is cake, the sum of all those individual parts.

The same is true of grant funders. They want to see the overall project. They want to know what the end result of the sum of your parts will be. Of course, because they are sponsoring this cake, they will want to know that you used quality ingredients, however, they don't want to necessarily focus only on the eggs. Even if the eggs are the essential ingredient that binds everything else together.

And so, a call to arms. Yes, you may have a technology need, but I challenge you to take some time and reflect. What will that technology ultimately support? How will its acquisition contribute to the overall mission of your organization? What need will it fill? What problem that your organization is facing will it solve? And most importantly, what is your programmatic driver for the technology acquisition?

The answers to those questions will help you identify which of the myriad of technology-friendly grant opportunities you should pursue to not only address a challenge your organization faces, but also fund your technology purchase through a grant!



If a grant is like a cake, technology is the egg - important, but should be in balance with the other components. (Photo: Thinkstock/McIninch)

DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE

SUMMARY: This program is specifically designed to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America through the use of advanced telecommunications technologies. The DLT program is legislatively authorized to provide three kinds of financial assistance, although in recent years, funding has been restricted to 100% grants, as opposed to loans or grant-loan combinations. The DLT Grant Program is primarily focused on providing equipment that operates via telecommunications to rural end-users of telemedicine and distance learning. It is useful to keep in mind that while the equipment is eligible, it does not fund the telecommunications that connects that equipment. DLT does not fund communications links between sites (wireless or wire-line) and it does not fund telecommunications or Internet connections. Grants (and eligible matching funds) can be expended only for the costs associated with the initial capital assets associated with the project.

There are three categories of eligible purposes:

- Eligible equipment for eligible purposes. Acquisition can be by purchase or lease. If leased, the cost of the lease during the three year life of the grant is eligible.
- First-time acquisition of instructional programming that is a capital asset (including the purchase or lease of instructional programming already on the market). Renewals of instructional programming are not eligible.
- Technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment (TA&I), including any related software. The costs for this category cannot exceed 10% of the grant amount requested or 10% of the eligible matching funds calculated separately.

NEXT DEADLINE: The 2015 deadline was July 6, 2015 a similar deadline is expected for 2016.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for a grant, your organization must:

- Be legally organized as an incorporated organization or partnership; an Indian tribe or tribal organization; a state or local unit of government; a consortium; or other legal entity, including a private corporation organized on a for profit or not-for profit basis with the legal capacity to contract with the United States Government. Many applicants for DLT Grants are informal consortia.
- Either operate a rural community facility directly, or deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to another organization that operates a rural community facility.
- Currently deliver or propose to deliver distance learning or telemedicine services for the term of the grant.

AWARD AMOUNTS: In 2015 awards ranged from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>

TO UNFUNDED BWC APPLICANTS: DON'T GIVE UP!

BY DAN CASION

On Monday, September 21st 2015 the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the awardees of the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance's Body-Worn Pilot Implementation Program that was first publicized in May of this year.

For those unaware, the Body-Worn Pilot Implementation Program supports the implementation of body-worn camera (BWC) programs in law enforcement agencies across the country. The intent of the program is to help develop, implement, and evaluate a BWC program as one tool in a law enforcement comprehensive problem-solving approach to enhance officer interactions with the public and build community trust.

The program, which initially had \$20 million of funding, received an infusion of an additional \$2.5 million. This infusion allowed the Bureau of Justice Assistance to award more law enforcement agencies than originally anticipated.

There were 73 total awards as opposed to the 50 awards that were originally targeted. All in all, the BJA received 285 applications that requested over \$56 million in funding, which equates to roughly 55,000 BWC. The BJA ended up awarding 73 agencies about \$23 million for the purchase of 21,000 BWC.

However, what if you are among the 212 applicants who weren't funded or perhaps unaware of this opportunity all together? What now?

Don't fret, you have numerous options. There are many offerings from the BJA, among other sources, that can help

fund or, at the very least, offset the cost of a BWC project.

You may want to consider the BJA's Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), including both the Local Solicitations and State Administered JAG programs. Although these allocations seem fewer each year, the largely unrestricted opportunities could be an excellent source of funding for a modest deployment of a BWC project that can be built upon through other grants and funding stream.

Earlier this year the BJA released the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI), which contained Purpose Area 2 that was specific to



The Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded more grants than anticipated, but there are other organizations that award similar grants. (Photo: sandiego.gov/police)

FEATURE

BWC.

Applications were solicited from law enforcement agencies interested in using BWCs as a key component in problem-solving strategy to enhance public and officer safety as well as to improve policing practices through increased transparency, accountability, and legitimacy.

There also exists the Office on Violence against Women's (OVW) Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program.

"With a little editing here and there and customization of your application...you can recycle, reuse, and re-purpose the application for BWC friendly grants."

The program is designed to encourage partnerships not only between state, local, and tribal governments, but also courts, victim service providers, coalitions, and rape crisis centers to ensure that sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking are treated as serious violations of criminal law.

This would include requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system and community-based victim

service organizations.

While the program is focused on forging partnerships, developing policies and protocol, and implementing training programs, there is also the potential to position some BWC as part of larger, comprehensive project.

There are also additional funding options through the Department of Homeland Security.

The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) assists state and local preparedness activities that

address high-priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities

where a nexus to terrorism exists.

SHSP funds can support a number of initiatives, including those technology focused, such as BWCs.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) could also be utilized for a BWC project. The UASI assists high-threat and high-density Urban Areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

For tribal law enforcement agencies, there is BWC funding potential through the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP).

THSGP's allowable costs support all core capabilities in the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas.

Another route to fund BWCs for tribal law enforcement agencies is the Office of Community Oriented Policing Service's Consolidated Tribal Assistance Program (CTAS) (specifically, Purpose Area #1: Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP) Hiring and Equipment/Training). This holds immense potential to fund a BWC project.

Purpose Area #1 is designed to expand the implementation of community policing and meet the most serious needs of law enforcement in Tribal Nations through a broadened comprehensive program.

The funding can be used to hire or re-hire career law enforcement officers and Village Public Safety Officers, as well as procure basic equipment and training to assist in the initiation or enhancement of Tribal community policing efforts.

FEATURE

If you are one of the 212 unfunded applicants, there is solace in knowing that the work you have put into the Body-Worn Pilot Implementation Program, in terms of application development, will not have been in vain.

With a little editing here and there and customization of your application to conform with the funder's grant requirements you can recycle, reuse, and repurpose the application for BWC friendly grants.

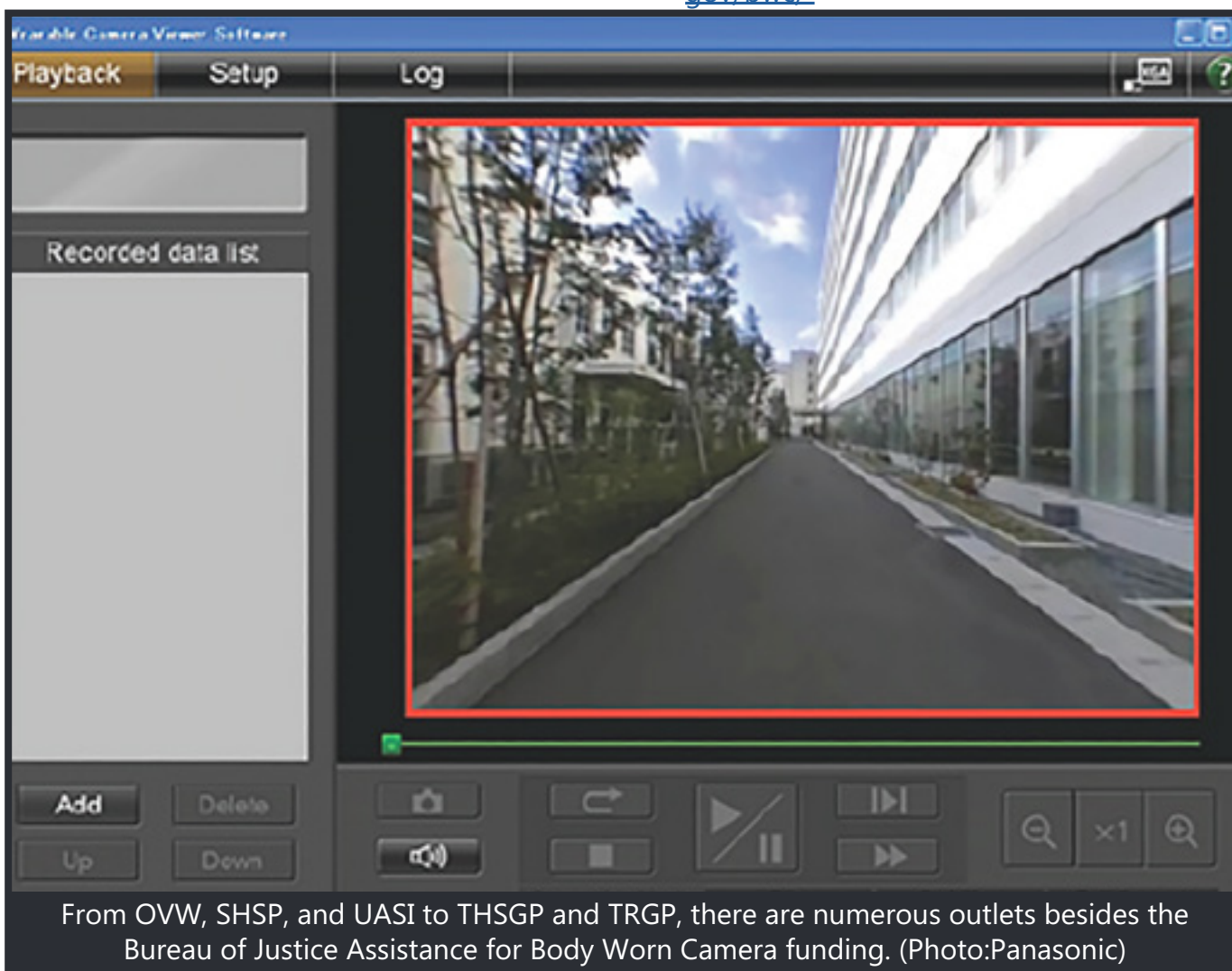
If you haven't applied for BWC, but plan to in the future and don't know where

to begin with your project, the BJA offers a comprehensive online toolkit that consolidates important considerations.

These considerations include research, promising practices, model policies, and other tools that address issues surrounding body-worn cameras.

Some common issues the toolkit addresses are implementation requirements, image retention, community engagement, and the concerns of policy makers, prosecutors, victim, and privacy advocates.

The toolkit is available at <https://www.bja.gov/bwc/>



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

OVW: GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE ARREST POLICIES AND ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTION ORDERS PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This program (Arrest Program) recognizes that sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are crimes that require the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest, and prosecution of violent offenders, and through close judicial scrutiny and management of offender behavior.

The Arrest Program is designed to encourage partnerships between state, local, and tribal governments, courts, victim service providers, coalitions and rape crisis centers, to ensure that sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are treated as serious violations of criminal law requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system and community-based victim service organizations. The Arrest Program challenges the community to work collaboratively to identify problems, and share ideas that will result in new responses to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

NEXT DEADLINE: The 2015 deadline was March 3, 2015 a similar deadline is expected for 2016.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants are:

- States;
- Units of local government;
- Indian Tribal governments;
- State, local, Tribal, and Territorial courts, including juvenile courts;
- Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking victim service providers, either nonprofit or tribal government;
- State or tribal sexual assault or domestic violence coalitions; and
- Government rape crisis centers in a state other than a territory

AWARD AMOUNTS: In 2015 \$30,000,000 was available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-solicitations>

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

TRIBAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: Particular emphasis in THSGP will be placed on capabilities that address the greatest risks to the security and resilience of tribal communities and the United States. Funding will support deployable assets that can be utilized through automatic assistance and mutual aid agreements. Using the core capabilities, FY 2015 THSGP supports the achievement of the Goal by:

- Preventing a threatened or an actual act of terrorism;
- Protecting our citizens, residents, visitors, and assets against the greatest threats and hazards;
- Mitigating the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters;
- Responding quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic incident; and
- Recovering through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening, and revitalization of infrastructure, housing, and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of communities affected by a catastrophic incident

NEXT DEADLINE: The 2015 deadline was MAY 19, 2015, 2015 a similar deadline is expected for 2016.

ELIGIBILITY:

A) Any Indian Tribe:

- that is located in the continental United States;
- that operates a law enforcement or emergency response agency with the capacity to respond to calls for law enforcement
- that is located on or near (50 miles) an international border or a coastline bordering an ocean or international waters;
- that is located within 10 miles of a system or asset included on the prioritized critical infrastructure list established under section 210E(a)(2)
- that is located within or contiguous to one of the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas in the United States; or
- the jurisdiction of which includes not less than 1,000 square miles of Indian country, as that term is defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code; and

B) a consortium of Indian Tribes, if each Tribe satisfies the requirements of subparagraph

AWARD AMOUNTS: In 2015 \$10,000,000 was available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.fema.gov/preparedness-non-disaster-grants>

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (IOWA)

SUMMARY:

NOTE: This snapshot features a SHSP grant from Iowa, to find a listing for your state please visit <http://www.upstream.grantsoffice.com> and search by state.

This program is a core assistance program that provides funds to build capabilities at the State, local, tribal, and territorial levels, to enhance our national resilience to absorb disruptions and rapidly recover from incidents both natural and man made as well as to implement the goals and objectives included in State homeland security strategies and initiatives in their State Preparedness Report (SPR).

SHSP supports the implementation of state Homeland Security Strategies to address the identified planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events. SHSP also provides funding to implement initiatives in the State Preparedness Report.

Activities implemented under SHSP must support terrorism preparedness by building or enhancing capabilities that relate to the prevention of, protection from, mitigation of, response to, and recovery from terrorism in order to be considered eligible. However, many capabilities which support terrorism preparedness simultaneously support preparedness for other hazards. Grantees must demonstrate this dual-use quality for any activities implemented under this program that are not explicitly focused on terrorism preparedness.

DHS grant funds may only be used for the purpose set forth in the grant, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other Federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal government or any other government entity.

NEXT DEADLINE: The 2015 deadline was May 19, 2015 a similar deadline is expected for 2016.

ELIGIBILITY: Varies by state.

AWARD AMOUNTS: In 2015 \$3,734,500 was awarded in Iowa, award amounts vary by state.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/grants/HSGP.html>

GROUNDHOG DAY: THE 2015 BUDGET FIGHT & ITS LOOMING IMPACT

BY CHRIS LAPAGE

It's the beginning of autumn and the leaves are starting to turn colors. Election-season is in full gear, accompanied by harsh rhetoric across the political spectrum and intrusive television ads interrupting your local news broadcast.

September 30th marks the end of another federal fiscal year and a government shutdown looms unless both chambers of Congress and the President can come to a budget agreement.

Stop me if this sounds familiar... because it could be any year in the last half-decade that this was written. February 2nd is still months away, but we have reached Groundhog Day (or would season be more appropriate?) once again in America when it comes to funding the federal government.

There are few differences from one budget showdown from the next. Each is typically tied to some issue du jour, but unlike soup, an increasingly frustrated American public has no appetite for this repetitive circus-like atmosphere.

In 2013 (FY 2014 budget) the budget was held hostage over attempts to repeal Obamacare. In 2014 (FY2015 budget), the debt ceiling was used as leverage in an attempt to extract deep spending cuts across government programs. Now, in 2015 (FY 2016 budget), some legislators are advocating government shutdown as a strategy to defund Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood receives nine-figure support from the federal government each year to deliver comprehen-

sive women's health services. The agency receives these dollars through the Medicaid program as well as grant funding in the form of Family Planning Service Grants, offered through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

In 2015, more than \$286 million was made available through HRSA for these Family Planning Service Grants, which does not include any type of Medicaid support.

While federal funds cannot be used for abortion except in rare codified instances, it is Planned Parenthood's association with this specific service line that has placed it front and center in the 2016 budget debate.

The current situation with Planned Parenthood may come as a surprise to those who consider grants "small potatoes"

when it comes to the overall federal budget which is dominated by

entitlement programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. However, in this particular case, disagreements over the inclusion or exclusion of grant funds in the budget has the potential to shut down the federal government. This seems particularly surprising considering the grant funding in question essentially amounts to a rounding error in the context of the entire federal budget.

While this Groundhog Day is sponsored by Planned Parenthood, the ultimate resolution and impact on grant funding is

"...in this particular case, disagreements over the inclusion or exclusion of grant funds in the budget has the potential to shut down the federal government."

BETWEEN THE LINES

likely to be the same as in past years.

Accompanied by no shortage of political grandstanding, we are likely to see a short-term, continuing budget resolution passed prior to September 30th that will leave Planned Parenthood intact and fund the federal government through December at current levels.

This is the most likely result considering Democrats in the Senate have enough votes to filibuster any spending bill that defunds Planned Parenthood.

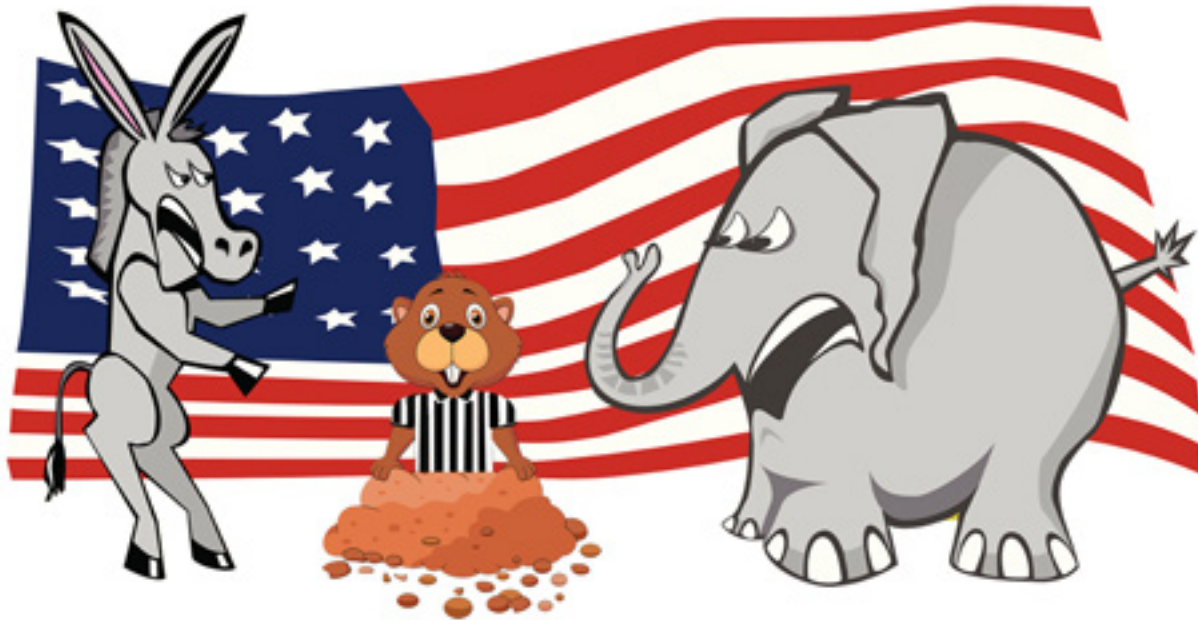
Even if a budget including reduced or eliminated Planned Parenthood funding somehow passed through the Senate, President Obama would veto any such legislation. In turn, Republicans are wary of being blamed for shutting down the government again, regardless of the root issue.

This outcome will give all sides additional time to come to agreement on

a full budget that will be passed just prior to the New Year. The 26 Federal Agencies responsible for grantmaking will experience déjà vu and will likely have to delay their grant program timelines to deal with the uncertainty over their annual budget.

The end result will be a flurry of grant-related activity in the second (January-March) and third quarters (April-June) of the federal fiscal year. These federal agencies will spend the last quarter of federal fiscal year 2016 (July-September) reconciling their budgets and preparing for FY2017. And come September 2016, we will wake up to Sonny and Cher on the radio and do it all over again¹.

¹Reference to plot in *Groundhog Day* (1993), produced by Columbia Pictures Corporation



In a war between Democrats and Republicans, the federal budget is the ultimate showdown. (Photos: Thinkstock/Debbie Hanford, Thinkstock/Illustratiostock, Thinkstock/Tigatelu)

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

DELTA HEALTH CARE SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to address the continued unmet health needs in the Delta Region through cooperation among health care professionals, institutions of higher education, research institutions and economic development entities in the Delta Region. The Agency is encouraging applications that grants to projects based in or serving census tracts with poverty rates greater than or equal to 20 percent. This emphasis will support Rural Development's (RD) mission of improving the quality of life for Rural Americans and its commitment to directing resources to those who most need them.

Grant funds must be used for the development of health care services, health education programs, health care job training programs, or the development and expansion of public health-related facilities in the Delta region.

NEXT DEADLINE: December 2, 2015.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants must be a consortium of the following: regional institutions of higher education, academic health and research institute, and/or economic development entities located within the Delta Region.



AWARD AMOUNTS: Approximately \$5,312,610 will be available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/delta-health-care-services-grants>



UPCOMING GRANTSCAST EVENTS

- **Quarterly Avnet GIRC VAR Training: Using Grants to Start the Conversation** - Sponsored by NetApp
October 16, 2015 at 2:00 pm EST
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/q6t3sfu>
- **Technology and Strategies to Ramp-up and Fund Your Workforce Development Project** - Sponsored by NetApp
November 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm EST
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/q2ezj5l>
- **Tips and Best Practices for funding and Deploying Body-worn Video for Public Safety** - Sponsored by NetApp
November 17, 2015 at 2:00 pm EST
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/po967dl>
- **Tapping Into Technology: Best Practices for IHEs to Leverage Technology in Their Grant-Funded Research & Education Projects** - Sponsored by NetApp
December 8, 2015 at 2:00 pm EST
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/oadaxc4>

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- **Winning Technology-friendly Grants for K-12** - Sponsored by NetAppT
Watch: <http://tinyurl.com/ndadsce>
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