



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE LETTER/ OTHER TRANSACTION LETTER

This Financial Assistance Letter/Other Transaction Letter is issued under the authority of the Senior Procurement Executives of DOE and NNSA. It is intended for use by the procurement professionals of DOE, primarily Contracting, Grants, and Agreements Officers, and other officials of DOE that participate in the acquisition process. Other parties are welcome to its information, but definitive interpretation of its effect on DOE solicitations, Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcements, Requests for Applications, resulting Awards, and other related procedures and actions may only be made by DOE Contracting, Grants, and Agreements Officers.

**Subject: Funding Announcement Reviews - Implementation of Executive Order
14332 – Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking**

References:

[Executive Order 14332 of August 7, 2025, Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#)

Deputy Secretary Danly Memorandum, November 7, 2025, Implementing Oversight Procedures for Notice of Funding Opportunities

When is this Financial Assistance Letter (FAL)/Other Transaction Letter (OTL) effective?

This FAL/OTL is effective when issued.

When does this FAL/OTL expire?

This FAL/OTL remains in effect until canceled or superseded.

Who is the intended audience?

Department of Energy (DOE) Contracting, Grants and Agreements Officers and their cognizant program offices. While the announcement review requirement applies to National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), NNSA will be issuing separate guidance for their Contracting, Grants and Agreements Officers and cognizant programs.

Who is the point of contact?

For DOE questions, please contact the Contract and Financial Assistance Policy Division at DOEoapmpolicy@hq.doe.gov

NNSA personnel must contact the Acquisition Policy and Oversight Division, Policy & Oversight Branch (NA-PAS-111), at (505) 845-5639 for additional information, guidance and questions concerning review and approval of NNSA funding announcements and awards.

What is the purpose?

The purpose of this FAL/OTL is to provide information and guidance regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE or Department) implementation of Oversight Procedures for funding announcements, as required by Section 3 of Executive Order 14332, [Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking – The White House](#). This FAL/OTL addresses only the review of funding announcements. A subsequent FAL/OTL will address DOE review of discretionary awards, including grants, cooperative agreements, OTAs, PIAs, and TIAs.

What is the background?

Executive Order 14332 mandates significant reforms to Federal grantmaking processes to enhance accountability and ensure prudent use of taxpayer funds. Agencies are now required to establish a rigorous review process for all new notice of funding opportunity (NOFOs) announcements and discretionary awards. This includes pre-issuance reviews by a senior appointee(s) to confirm alignment with agency priorities and national interests, interagency coordination to prevent duplication, and independent judgment in evaluating proposals rather than automatic ratification of recommendations. Specific considerations are identified, such as prioritizing awards that advance the President's policy priorities, prohibiting funding for initiatives that promote racial discrimination or certain ideologies, favoring institutions with lower indirect cost rates, and ensuring grants have clear benchmarks for success.

The Executive Order mandates each agency head to appoint a senior official responsible for reviewing funding announcements and discretionary grants to ensure alignment with agency priorities and national interests. The DOE Deputy Secretary of Energy is designated to oversee the Department's grantmaking processes, ensuring efficiency, alignment with priorities, and responsible use of taxpayer funds. A memorandum was issued to the Heads of the Departmental Elements (dated November 7, 2025) by the Deputy Secretary of Energy, implementing oversight procedures for Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs). See Attachment 1.

What types of actions are affected by this FAL/OTL?

This FAL/OTL applies to all DOE funding announcements that may result in discretionary awards. For the purposes of this FAL/OTL, funding announcements include: Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) and Notice of Funding

Opportunity (NOFO) that result in grants and cooperative agreements; Broad Agency Announcements (BAA), Request for Applications (RFA), and Request for Proposal (RFP) that result in Other Transaction Agreements (OTAs), Partnership Intermediary Agreements (PIA), Technology Investment Agreements (TIA), rebates, prizes, incentives, and all other funding mechanisms used by DOE to fund discretionary awards.

This FAL/OTL does not apply to DOE RFPs or Requests for Quotations (RFQs) that only award FAR contracts, Notices of Intent (NOI) or Request for Information (RFI).

The process defined in this FAL/OTL does not apply to NNSA Contracting, Grants and Agreements Officers and cognizant NNSA programs. NNSA will issue its own funding announcement and discretionary award review guidance.

What guidance is included in this FAL/OTL?

This FAL/OTL implements the requirements of Executive Order 14332, “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking,” and informs DOE Contracting, Grants and Agreements Officers of the Department’s review and approval process by the Deputy Secretary prior to any public posting or announcement of funding announcements.

Heads of Contracting Authority (HCAs) should, to the extent permissible by law, review and adjust any local terms, conditions, and standard operating procedures to implement the Deputy Secretary’s review and approval process prior to any public posting or announcement of funding announcements.

Program Offices must submit all funding announcements via eDOCS for Deputy Secretary review and approval. The Deputy Secretary has up to 14 business days to review and approve a funding announcement. For scheduling purposes Program Offices should add an additional 6 business days for OMB review and 5 business days for Congressional Notification before the anticipated public posting or announcement of funding announcements.

The Office of Management (MA) will conduct an initial review of program funding announcements using the MA Announcement Readiness Checklist (Attachments 2-4). Programs will complete this checklist electronically through the MA Announcement Readiness Tool (Attachments 2-4 are provided for reference only). Once the funding announcement is submitted to eDOCS, Programs must email announcementreadinessreview@hq.doe.gov to get access to the MA Announcement Readiness Tool.

Funding announcements that exceed an HCAs delegated authority are subject to the MA Business Clearance Review (BCR) process by MA-621. MA-621 will utilize the MA Announcement Readiness Tool and eDOCS review process to perform the necessary BCR. Funding announcements approved in eDOCS will constitute clearance from MA-621 for the HCA.

Before submitting a funding announcement to eDOCS Program Offices must:

- Ensure consistency with DOE's current established funding announcement templates and best practices.
- Engage early with relevant offices prior to submission to facilitate ease of review.
- Ensure the focus of the funding announcement is aligned with the President's and Secretary's Agenda to Unleash the Golden Era of American Energy Dominance and Gold Standard Science Principles.
- Ensure merit review criteria, if applicable, is established to assign scientific and technical merit only, and program policy factors are consistent with agency program, and mission guidance.
- Obtain approval from the cognizant Head of the Departmental Element (HDE) and, if applicable, the Under Secretary for funding announcement release.

Attachments:

1. Deputy Secretary Danly Memorandum on Notice of Funding Opportunities
2. Announcement Readiness Checklist (Applicable to all Announcement Types)
3. NOFOs Deviating from a DOE NOFO Template
4. NOFOs Not Utilizing a DOE Standard Template