

Data Transparency Town Hall

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Organization affiliation

- **Formerly OMB Watch**
- **Small, non-profit, public interest advocacy organization**
- **Promoting Government Accountability**
 - **Regulatory Matters**
 - **Federal Budget**
 - **Government Openness**

Organization affiliation

- **Launched FedSpending.org in 2006**
- **Millions of searches**
- **Wide variety of users**
 - **Media**
 - **Corporations**
 - **Legislative offices**
 - **General public**

Where do you find federal spending information now?

- USASpending.gov
 - Website
 - Downloaded data
- Recovery.gov
- FPDS.gov
- Agencies
- FedSpending.org

How do you use federal spending information?

- Overall spending trends for federal government
- How are agencies using contracting? Which companies benefit? What contracts have they won? From which agencies? For what goods and/or services? For how long? Full and open competition?
- How are grants being used to address national, state, and local needs?
- What is the geographic breakdown of federal spending and is there any correlation with demographic data and socioeconomic contracting goals (pop., unemployment, race, income, poverty, etc.)?

How do you use federal spending information?

- Who is receiving money in my state, county, district, city?
- What products and services are purchased the most and which agencies are purchasing them?
- Information on specific contract or award
- What money can non-profits receive to support their work?
- What contracts are competitors in the same field receiving and from which agencies?
- Is there a connection between election donations and receiving federal awards?

How would you use additional data under the DATA Act

- Expanded Spending Data
 - Sec. 3(b) Information to be posted – For any funds made available to or expended by a federal agency or component of a Federal agency
 - This includes salaries & benefits, leases, loan & insurance payments
 - Closer to full circle of spending from appropriations to obligations to outlays

How would you use additional data under the DATA Act

- Data Standards

- Consistent categories – programs, object classes – will allow better analysis across agencies, better evaluation of programs
- Unique identifiers for awards and entities – will make it easier to discover total amounts received and amounts spent on particular awards

Additional data & improvements

- CEG's priorities

- Make award documents public & linked to awards data & bid solicitation
- More and improved sub-recipient data
- Information on status of loan repayment
- Charts and graph options to visualize the data better
- Search improvements, e.g. numbers of bids received, whether closely associated with inherently governmental functions (capabilities that currently exist in FPDS.gov)