



Fact Sheet

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Program Income

What is program income?

Program income means gross income earned by the recipient or subrecipient that is directly generated by an award-supported activity or earned as a result of a federal award during the award period.¹ Program income includes income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under federal awards, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under a federal award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and principal and interest on loans made with federal award funds.

Program income means gross income earned by the recipient or subrecipient that is directly generated by an award-supported activity or earned as a result of a federal award during the award period.

Examples of program income that has been generated from some COPS Office-funded activities include fees collected for conference registration, exhibit booths, and website advertisements. Interest earned on advances of federal funds is not program income. Except as otherwise provided for in federal statutes, regulations, or the award terms and conditions, program income does not include rebates, credits, discounts, or interest earned on any of these.

The recipient may not earn or keep any profit resulting from a federal award unless expressly authorized in writing by the COPS Office.²

How do I know if my COPS Office award generates program income?

Although recipients are encouraged to earn program income to defray program costs where appropriate, most COPS Office awards are not conducive to generating program income. Contact your COPS Office Program Manager or Grant Program Specialist to determine if revenue generated from your COPS Office award constitutes program income. They will help you assess whether or not the income is generated as a result of the award-supported activity.

How can program income be used?

Program income must be used in accordance with the standards set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.307. Program income generated from an award can be used in the following ways:

- Deducted from total allowable project costs to determine net allowable costs to reduce the federal award
- Added to the federal award to increase funds committed to the project
- Used to meet the cost sharing or matching requirement of the federal award

Unless otherwise specified in the award terms and conditions or approved by the COPS Office, program income will be used to defray program costs and reduce the federal share of the project. Program income not anticipated at the time of the award must be used to reduce the federal award and recipient contributions rather than to increase funds

1. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.1.

2. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.400(g).

committed to the project. For example, if you were awarded \$100,000 in COPS Office funding with no local match requirement to support a conference and earned \$5,000 in program income from registration fees generated by that conference, an excess of \$5,000 would remain in award funds at the completion of the project. The \$5,000 would be returned to the Federal Government, thereby reducing the federal share of the project.

In some cases, with prior approval, recipients may be able to work with their COPS Office Program Manager or Grant Program Specialist to identify additional project-related allowable costs that could be supported with program income.

Earned program income can be spent only on allowable costs incurred during the award period. Program income cannot be commingled with other awards and cannot be used for purposes outside the scope of the award that generated the income.

There are a variety of circumstances that can affect how program income is treated. If you anticipate generating program income, please contact your COPS Office Program Manager, Grant Program Specialist, or designated Financial Analyst for guidance.

How should recipients report program income?

You are required to report gross program income earned and expended on the Federal Financial Report (SF-425)³ submitted each quarter. How you complete the report depends on when you earn and spend the program income and the status of your award. Using the example discussed earlier in which you earned \$5,000 from registration fees, you would enter the total amount of program income earned (\$5,000) on 10.l and the total amount of program income expended on line 10.m.⁴

Program income earned and expended must be reported on a cumulative basis. You must manually enter these cumulative amounts each quarter, as the SF-425 form does not automatically calculate these amounts. For example, if \$5,000 in program income was earned in the 1st quarter and \$10,000 was earned in the 2nd quarter, you would add those amounts together and enter \$15,000 as earned on line 10.l of the 2nd quarter's SF-425. Similarly, if you spent \$5,000 of program income in the 1st quarter and an additional \$10,000 of program income in the 2nd quarter, you would enter \$15,000 as expended on line 10.m of the 2nd quarter's SF-425. See table 1 for explanation of what to include in form SF-425.

In the event of an audit or other award compliance review, your agency should maintain detailed records that identify the specific project activity source (e.g., conference

Table 1. Program income on the SF-425

Line	Transactions	Description
10.l	Total federal program income earned	Enter the amount of federal program income earned. Do not report any program income here that is being allocated as part of the recipient's cost-sharing amount included in line 10.j.
10.m	Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative	Enter the amount of program income that was used to reduce the federal share of the total project costs
10.n	Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative	Enter the amount of program income that was approved and expended on the project
10.o	Unexpended program income (line l minus line m or line n)	Enter the remaining amount of unexpended program income by taking line l and subtracting either line m or line n, depending on which method you are using

Note: Use lines 10.d–10.o for single award reporting only. Do not complete these lines if reporting on multiple awards.

3. To access this form, visit https://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/SF-425_Form.pdf.

4. For examples of when lines 10.n and 10.o on the SF-425 are used, contact your COPS Office Program Manager.

registration fees) and the amount of all program income generated. Line 12 (“Remarks”) on the SF-425 can be useful to provide narrative explanations supporting the financial information entered.

Can recipients keep program income as a cash reserve for future project costs?

No. Recipients should expend earned project income before drawing down award funds.⁵

How much time is available to spend program income?

Allowable project expenses can be supported by earned program income during the open award period. Funds cannot be drawn down for expenses that are incurred after the award end date.

Avoid retaining earned program income for extended periods of time. If you anticipate a significant lapse of time occurring between earning and spending program income, contact your COPS Office Program Manager or Grant Program Specialist. Unused program income should be deposited into your COPS Office award account to reduce your federal share.⁶ These funds remain available for future use on allowable costs, incurred before award expiration, to fully implement your project.

If you anticipate having unused program income remaining toward the end of the award period, you may submit a request to your COPS Office Program Manager or Grant Program Specialist for a no-cost extension to provide additional time for your organization to spend program income

on allowable costs to fully implement your project. No-cost extension requests must be submitted prior to the award end date and are approved on a case-by-case basis based on reasonable justification.

Unused program income remaining 120 calendar days after the award end date must be promptly returned to the COPS Office.⁷ Please contact your COPS Office Program Manager or Grant Program Specialist for guidance on how to return excess program income and complete your final SF-425.

In the event that you earn interest on program income, please contact your designated COPS Office Financial Analyst for guidance on how to complete your final SF-425 to account for interest earned.

Important: Awards must be open and active to incur project expenses paid for by program income.

Contact the COPS Office

If you have any questions regarding the federal requirements on program income, please contact your COPS Office Program Manager, Grant Program Specialist, or designated Financial Analyst.

For more information about COPS Office programs and resources, please call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or by email at AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov or visit the COPS Office website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov>.

5. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.305(b)(5).

6. It can take up to six weeks for the returned program income to appear in your COPS Office account.

7. See 2 C.F.R. §200.344(a).