# Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)

Helpful Hints Guide for Completing the Federal Financial Report (SF-425)



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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this guide is to assist recipients of grant awards from the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) with the reporting and accounting of their financial expenditures. It provides essential information for facilitating the completion and submission of the mandatory quarterly Federal Financial Report (FFR) on Standard Form 425 (SF-425).

### I. What is the Federal Financial Report (SF-425)?

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) merged previous financial reporting methods into one comprehensive financial reporting form to give recipients of grants and cooperative agreements a standard format for reporting the financial status of their awards. OMB combined the Financial Status Report (FSR, or SF-269/SF-269A) and the Federal Cash Transactions Report (FCTR, or SF-272) into one Federal Financial Report (FFR, or SF-425). In so doing, OMB stated that the new form, the SF-425, will go into effect beginning with the first quarter reporting period of Fiscal Year 2010.

Recipients of federal funds under COPS Office grant programs (Grantees) are required to submit quarterly Federal Financial Reports (SF-425). The SF-425 is a standard form that Grantees must use to report cumulative expenses (calculated by adding all expenses from the beginning of the grant to date) incurred under each Grant Number. These expenses can be categorized as cash disbursed or as expenses incurred but not yet paid (Accounts Payable). When a recipient share is required, expenses incurred are further divided into federal share and recipient share (local matching contributions). A Grantee should refer to the award documentation to review federal and recipient share information.





### II. When and How to Submit the SF-425

**Ongoing reporting.** Upon project/grant inception, Grantees are required to submit one SF-425 per quarter for each Grant Number. Grantees who do not submit SF-425s by the due date will be unable to draw down funds.

Under current regulations, SF-425s for COPS Grants must be submitted *every quarter* and *no later than 30 days* after the last day of each reporting quarter, as detailed below.

<b>Reporting Quarter</b>	SF-425 Due Date
January 1–March 31	April 30
April 1–June 30	July 30
July 1–September 30	October 30
October 1–December 31	January 30

**Cumulative reporting.** The SF-425 mainly differs from the SF-269A by requiring *cumulative reporting* of expenditures. Cumulative reporting provides a sum of expenditures for the life of the Grant. To arrive at your cumulative total, add all expenses incurred to date.

In the example that follows, *Block 10e–Federal Share of Expenditures* and *10j–Recipient Share of Expenditures* continues to grow in each successive SF-425 to show the total amount of expenditures to date. If the Grantee finds that a reporting error has occurred, and in order to correct the SF-425 a deduction from either block is necessary, the Grantee is required to make a notation in *Block 12–Remarks*. Please note that not all Grants will require a Recipient share.

#### For example:

For the reporting period 10/01/09 to 12/31/09, a Grantee has spent the following:

- Federal share: \$28,358.00
- Recipient share (local match): \$7,098.50

For the reporting period 01/01/10 to 03/31/10, a Grantee has spent the following:

- Federal share: \$14,042.00
- Recipient share (local match): \$7,401.50

The below replication of the SF-425, Section 10, shows how to report a cumulative total for both reporting periods. Additional reporting period expenditures will be added to the current total.





#### SF-425: Reporting Period Ending December 31, 2009

Federal	I Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:		
10d.	Total Federal funds authorized	\$250,000.00	
10e.	Federal share of expenditures	\$28,358.00	
10f.	Federal share of unliquidated obligations	\$0.00	
10g.	Total Federal Share (sum lines e & f)	\$28,358.00	
10h.	Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)	\$221,642.00	
Recipient Share:			
10i.	Total recipient share required:	\$62,500.00	
10j.	Recipient share of expenditures	\$7,098.50	
10k.	Remaining Recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)	\$55,401.50	

#### SF-425: Reporting Period Ending March 31, 2010

Federa	l Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:	
10d.	Total Federal funds authorized	\$250,000.00
10e.	Federal share of expenditures	\$42,400.00
10f.	Federal share of unliquidated obligations	\$0.00
10g.	Total Federal Share (sum lines e & f)	\$42,400.00
10h.	Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)	\$207,600.00
Recipie	ent Share:	
10i.	Total recipient share required:	\$62,500.00
10j.	Recipient share of expenditures	\$14,500.00
10k.	Remaining Recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)	\$48,000.00

**Reporting with no incurred expenses.** A Grantee is required to submit an SF-425 for *every quarter*, regardless of whether expenses were incurred or not, once the project has begun. Even if expenses have not been incurred during the quarter, the Grantee must report the cumulative amount of expenses to date. If expenses have not yet been incurred during the life of the grant, the Grantee should report a zero cumulative total. Once a project has begun, a Grantee will need to submit the most recent SF-425 before accessing funds. Contact the COPS Response Center at 800-421-6770 for more information.

*Early submission of an SF-425.* There are two scenarios in which a Grantee can submit an SF-425 prior to the reporting period end date.

- <u>Final Report</u>—A Final Report may be submitted no sooner than one quarter prior to the reporting period end date. For example, if the reporting period end date is December 31, 2009, a Grantee could submit the Final Report as early as October 1, 2009.
- <u>Non-Final Report</u>—A non-Final Report may be submitted no sooner than 10 business days (or 14 calendar days) prior to the reporting period end date. For example, if the reporting period end date is December 31, 2009, a Grantee could submit a non-Final Report as early as December 17, 2009.





**Delinquent reporting.** A Grantee is required to submit an SF-425 every quarter, even if the Grantee is delinquent in prior period reporting, once the project has begun or at least one report has been submitted. If the Grantee is delinquent in reporting on multiple quarters, the Grantee will be required to submit one SF-425 for each delinquent quarter.

#### For example:

The current reporting period is for the quarter ending 09/30/09, and the grant is not yet expired. The Grantee's last quarterly report was submitted for the quarter ending on 12/31/08. The Grantee must submit individual quarterly reports for the reporting periods ending:

- 03/31/09
- 06/30/09
- 09/30/09

The Grantee should report expenses in the appropriate quarter in which they were incurred and carry the cumulative totals forward to the next reporting quarter. Please contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 to discuss bringing SF-425 reporting up to date.

Adjustments to previously submitted SF-425s. Adjustments to an SF-425 can only be made to the most recent report in the current quarter. For example, if the most recently submitted report is 12/31/09, a Grantee can adjust this report until 01/31/10. After 01/31/10, if an adjustment is necessary, a Grantee should use the current SF-425 to reflect the appropriate expenditures. The Grantee is required to remark in *Block 12–Remarks* denoting the revision and the reason.

#### For example:

If the quarter has passed, the appropriate way to adjust expenditures is as follows:

#### 12/31/09 SF-425

- Federal Share Cumulative Amount: \$100,000
- Recipient Share (Local Match) Cumulative Amount: \$25,000

On 04/05/10, Grantee determines that, in actuality, only \$90,000 Federal Share and \$23,000 Local Share should have been reported on the 12/31/09 SF-425. The Grantee is unable to adjust the 12/31/09 SF-425 at this time. Also, the Grantee determines that \$4,000 Federal Share and \$1,000 Local Share have been expended for the 01/01/10-03/31/10 reporting period.

#### 03/31/10 SF-425

- Federal Share Cumulative Amount: \$94,000 (\$90,000 + \$4,000)
- Recipient Share (Local Match) Cumulative Amount: \$24,000 (\$23,000 + \$1,000)
- *Block 12–Remarks*: "Adjustment for 03/31/10 SF-425 to reflect actual expenditures for 12/31/09 and 03/31/10."





**Final SF-425 reporting by grantee.** A Grantee is required to submit a Final SF-425 *no later than 90 days* after the Grantee has reported and expended its total allowable Federal Share for the Grant Number, or after the expiration date of the award. Additionally, after the 90-day period, the Grantee is no longer eligible to draw down funds. A Final SF-425 is indicated by checking "YES" in *Block 6–Final Report* in the Online Grants Management form.

Please note that the quarterly reporting due date still applies. Therefore, if a Grant expires late in a reporting period, the Grantee will need to submit the Final SF-425 in accordance with the 30-day due date. This Final SF-425 will be editable until 90 days after the Grant has expired.

Grant Expires On	Final SF-425 Due On	SF-425 Editable Until
01/31/2013	04/30/2013	04/30/2013
03/31/2013	04/30/2013	06/30/2013
05/31/2013	07/30/2013	08/31/2013
10/31/2013	01/30/2014	01/31/2014

For example:

**Final SF-425 reporting by COPS Office.** The COPS Office reserves the right to update an SF-425 to "Final" status if the Grantee fails to submit an SF-425 marked "Final" within 90 days after grant period end date. At that time, the Grantee will forfeit the remaining eligible balance. The Grantee is still required to meet the 30-day reporting requirement.

**Final drawdown of funds.** Grantees are required to submit a Final SF-425 and draw down funds for allowable costs incurred within 90 days after the grant period end date. If remaining funds are not drawn down within 90 days after the grant period end date, the Grantee will forfeit the remaining eligible balance. The Grantee is still required to report those funds on the Final SF-425.





### III. How Many SF-425s to Submit

A Grantee must submit one SF-425 per Grant Number every quarter. The COPS Office will *not* accept Federal Financial Report Attachments (SF-425As).





### **IV.** Where to File the SF-425

Grantees are highly encouraged to submit the quarterly SF-425 online. Visit the COPS Office website at <u>www.cops.usdoj.gov</u> and select the "Account Access" link in the upper right corner to log in and complete and submit reports online.

In emergency situations, the grantee can submit a signed copy of the completed SF-425 via fax to 202-616-4428 or by mail to the following address:

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Federal Financial Reports (SF-425) Records Center 10E.1004 145 N Street NE Washington, DC 20530

#### V. Where to Get Help

The SF-425 form and instructions are on the COPS Office website at <u>www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=740</u> or obtainable by calling the COPS Office Response Center at 1.800.421.6770.





### VI. Step-by-Step Procedures for Completing the SF-425

Block 1:	Federal Agency	MANDATORY
	Office Grant Programs, this field will pre-popula	
of Justice C	Office of Community Oriented Policing Services	
Block 2:	Federal Grant Number	MANDATORY
• This field v	vill pre-populate with the alphanumeric Grant N	umber cited on your Award
Document.	Verify this Grant Number is correct.	
• Grantees w	ill complete one SF-425 for each Grant Number	·.
Block 3:	<b>Recipient Organization</b>	MANDATORY
	vill pre-populate with the Grantee Organization'	
and should	match the name and address on the award docur	ment. Verify this information
is correct.		
Block 4a:	DUNS Number	MANDATORY
• This fie	eld will pre-populate with the Grantee Organizat	ion's Data Universal
Numbe	ring System (DUNS) number or Central Contra	ct Registration extended
DUNS	number. Verify this information is correct.	
Block 4b:	EIN	MANDATORY
• This fie	eld will pre-populate with the Grantee Organizat	ion's Employer Identification
Numbe	r (EIN). Verify this information is correct.	
Block 5:	Recipient Account Number	OPTIONAL
• This field v	vill pre-populate with the Grantee Organization'	s Originating Agency
Identifier ((	ORI) Number. Verify this information is correct	





Block 6:	Final Report	MANDATORY		
	appropriate box indicating "No" if the S 5 is a Final Report.	SF-425 is a Quarterly Report or "Yes" if		
• This field Report.	should always be checked "No" until the	he Grantee is ready to submit the Final		
applicable Number o choose "Y	SF-425 is due 90 days after the Grantee , local recipient share expenses for <i>all</i> a r after the grant period end date of the l Yes" to indicate a Final Report even if a lly, after the 90-day period, the Grantee	awards issued under the same Grant last award. A Grantee may elect to ll funds are not drawn down.		
• The COPS fails to sul	• The COPS Office reserves the right to update an SF-425 to a "Final" Status if the Grantee fails to submit the SF-425 marked as "Final" in <i>Block 6–Final Report</i> within 90 days after the grant period end date. At that time, the Grantee will forfeit the remaining eligible			
Block 10f-	Grantee is using Accrual Basis of Acco -Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligation nce accruals are not acceptable for Final Science Final Scien	tions will automatically populate with		
Block 7:	Basis of Accounting	MANDATORY		
	appropriate box to specify whether a ca financial transactions related to the awa			
	is of Accounting refers to the accounting when they are paid.	ng method in which expenses are		
	the Grantee uses Cash Basis of Accoun ock 10f–Federal Share of Unliquidated			
	Posis of Accounting refers to the account	inting mathed in which avpances are		

- Accrual Basis of Accounting refers to the accounting method in which expenses are recorded when they are incurred.
  - If the Grantee uses Accrual Basis of Accounting, the Grantee **will** report Accounts Payable in *Block 10f–Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations*.



#### Block 8: Project/Grant Period (From/To)

• This field will pre-populate with the time period covered by the Grant Number. Please be aware: If the grant is expired and the SF-425 is 90 days or more past due, a Grantee will be unable to create a new SF-425. Please contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 to file or revise a Final SF-425.

Block 9: Reporting Period End Date

- Verify the ending date of the reporting period. The only appropriate dates are the following (calendar quarter):
  - o 03/31/YEAR
  - o 06/30/YEAR
  - o 09/30/YEAR
  - o 12/31/YEAR

• Once the project has begun, the Grantee is required to report quarterly and may be required to file multiple reports for missed quarters in order to become compliant.

#### Block 10: Transactions

- Enter **CUMULATIVE AMOUNTS** from the date of the inception of the award through the end date of the reporting period specified in *Block 9–Reporting Period End Date*. Cumulative amount is calculated by adding all expenses incurred to date, including all previously reported expenses.
- Use *Block 12–Remarks* to provide explanations necessary to provide further detail about information listed in this section.





#### MANDATORY

MANDATORY

MANDATORY

NOT APPLICABLE

#### **Federal Cash:**

#### Block 10a: **Cash Receipts**

• Do not enter any information in this field. The COPS Office does not require a Grantee to report this information. This field may be used for Administrative purposes by the COPS Office.

#### Block 10b: **Cash Disbursements**

Do not enter any information in this field. The COPS Office does not require a Grantee to report this information. This field may be used for Administrative purposes by the COPS Office.

#### Block 10c: **Cash on Hand** NOT APPLICABLE

Do not enter any information in this field. The COPS Office does not require a Grantee to report this information. This field may be used for Administrative purposes by the COPS Office.

#### **Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:**

Bl	ock 10d:	Total Federal Funds Authorized	MANDATORY
٠	This field wi	ill pre-populate with the appropriate amount of	of Federal funds authorized
	as of the rep	orting period end date. This information can	also be found on the Award
	Documentat	ion. Verify this information is correct.	

This number should include all accepted original awards.

#### **Federal Share of Expenditures** Block 10e:

- Enter the *CUMULATIVE AMOUNT* of Federal fund expenditures. The cumulative amount is calculated by adding all expenses incurred to date (10e = Prior period's 10e)+ current period's incurred expenditures).
  - The cumulative amount includes all Federal Share of Expenditures for the life of 0 the grant.
  - 0 The web form SF-425 includes a brief note with the previously reported cumulative amount. If this is the Grantee's first report, this number will be \$0.00.
- **Cash Basis of Accounting:** For reports prepared on a Cash Basis, expenditures are • the sum of
  - o cash disbursements for direct charges for property and services;
  - the amount of indirect expense charged;
  - the value of third-party, in-kind contributions applied;
  - the amount of cash advance payments and payments made to sub-recipients.
- Accrual Basis of Accounting: For reports prepared on an Accrual Basis, expenditures are the sum of
  - o cash disbursements for direct charges for property and services;
  - the amount of indirect expense incurred as approved as an allowable cost under 0 the approved budget;
  - the value of in-kind contributions applied;
  - the net increase or decrease in the amounts owed by the recipient for the 0 following:
    - 1. Goods and other property received



NOT APPLICABLE

# MANDATORY



- 2. Services performed by employees, contractors, sub-recipients and other payees
- 3. Programs for which no current services or performance are required

Block 10f:

- **Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations** MANDATORY This field is only available to those Grantees reporting based on Accruals.
- Cash Basis of Accounting: For reports prepared on the Cash Basis, do not enter any information here.
- Accrual Basis of Accounting: For reports prepared on an Accrual Basis, enter the Federal share of unliquidated obligations or expenses incurred but not yet paid, over the life of the grant.
  - Obligations can include direct and indirect expenses incurred but not yet paid, 0 including amounts due to sub-recipients and contractors.
  - Do not include any amount that has been previously reported in *Block 10e*-Federal Share of Expenditures.
  - Do not include any amount for a future commitment of funds (such as a longterm contract) for which an obligation or expense has not been incurred.
  - Note: If a Grantee is using Accrual Basis of Accounting and submits a Final SF-425, Block 10f–Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations will automatically populate with "\$0.00" since accruals are not acceptable for Final reports.

**Total Federal Share** MANDATORY **Block 10g:** This field will pre-populate with the calculated sum of *Blocks 10e–Federal Share of* 

*Expenditures* and *10f–Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations*. Verify this information is correct.

Block 10h:

- **Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds** MANDATORY
- This field will pre-populate with the calculated difference of Blocks 10d-Total Federal Funds Authorized and 10g–Total Federal Share, based on prior period submissions. Upon reporting the current information, this block will re-calculate to include the updated information. Verify this information is correct.





#### CI n . .

<b>Recipient Share:</b>		
Block 10i:	<b>Total Recipient Share Required</b>	MANDATORY
<ul> <li>based on ori</li> <li>Please n and may</li> <li>Please re</li> <li>The required recipients an</li> <li>This amount amount required recipient indication</li> </ul>	will pre-populate with the calculated Minimum I riginal budgeted local share. Verify this informa note that this calculated amount is based on the O y increase or decrease given a particular Grantee refer to your Award Document for verification o ed recipient share should include all matching ar and third-party providers to meet the level requir nt should not include cost sharing and match am puired by the Federal agency; for example, cost o accurs additional expenses and, therefore, contribu- match than the level required by the Federal age	ation is correct. ORIGINAL grant amount, e's spending. of the amount. nd cost sharing provided by red. nounts in excess of the overruns for which the utes a greater level of cost
Block 10j:	Recipient Share of Expenditures	MANDATORY
<ul> <li>Enter the Cardisbursement payments to adding all e recipient shaton This cumulate for the cumulate state of the cumulate state stat</li></ul>	<b>CUMULATIVE AMOUNT</b> of the recipient share ents or outlays (less any rebates, refunds, or othe o sub-recipients and contractors. Cumulative arr expenses incurred to date $(10j = prior period's 1)$ hare of expenditures). <b>Imulative</b> amount will include all Recipient Shar he grant. bb form SF-425 includes a brief note with the pre- tive amount. If this is the Grantee's first report, t " in may include the value of allowable third-party of share of program income used to finance the r program.	er credits) including nount is calculated by 0j + current period's re of Expenditures for the eviously reported this number will be y in-kind contributions and non-Federal share of the
Block 10k:	Remaining Recipient Share to be Pro	
<ul> <li>information</li> <li>If this field Minimum R award docu</li> <li>In order to c continue to</li> </ul>	calculates to "\$0.00." this indicates that the Gra Required Recipient Share based on program per	antee has met the Budgeted reentage, as indicated in the xpenditures, please ent Share of Expenditures
Program Income:		

#### **Program Income:**

Block 101:	Total Federal Program Income Earned NOT APPLICABLE
• Do not enter an	y information in this field. The COPS Office does not require a

Grantee to report this information. This field may be used for Administrative purposes by the COPS Office.





Block 10m:	Program Income Expended in Alternative	Accordance with the Deduction NOT APPLICABLE
Grantee to repo purposes by the		e used for Administrative
Block 10n:	Alternative	Accordance with the Addition NOT APPLICABLE
	y information in this field. The COP ort this information. This field may be e COPS Office.	
Block 10o:	Unexpended Program Income	NOT APPLICABLE
	y information in this field. The COP ort this information. This field may be cOPS Office.	1
Block 11:	Indirect Expense	IF APPLICABLE
<ul> <li>reporting this infor the COPS Respons</li> <li>Enter <i>CUMULATI</i> the end date of the Cumulative amoun</li> <li>Use the multiple root</li> </ul>	tees are eligible to report this inform mation and Block 11–Indirect Expen- e Center at 800-421-6770. <b>VE AMOUNTS</b> from the date of the reporting period specified in Block 9 t is calculated by adding all expenses ws to indicate separate types and rate arks to provide explanations necessa n this section.	<i>se</i> is unavailable, please contact inception of the award through <i>—Reporting Period End Date.</i> s incurred to date. es.
Block 11a:	Туре	
	ould state whether indirect cost rate( Final, or Fixed.	s) is (are) Provisional,
Block 11b:	Rate	
• Enter the indire	ect cost rate(s) in effect during the rep	porting period.
Block 11c:	<b>Period From; Period To</b>	
	ning and ending effective dates for the	he rate(s).
Block 11d:	Base	
	nt of the base against which the rate(	s) was (were) applied.
Block 11e:	Amount Charged	
charged during correct.	pre-populate a calculation indicating the time period specified (11b * 11d	
Block 11f:	Federal Share	
	al Share of the amount listed in <i>Bloc</i>	k 11e–Amount Charged.
Block 11g:	Totals	
	pre-populate a calculation indicating -Amount Charged, and 11f–Federal	





Block 12:	Remarks	
<ul> <li>Use <i>Block 12–Remarks</i> to provide explanations necessary to provide further detail about information listed in this report, specifically <i>Block 10–Transactions</i>.</li> </ul>		
• Use <i>Block 12 – R</i> submitting the SF	<i>emarks</i> to provide an explanation why -425.	a grantee is delinquent in
Block 13:	Certification	MANDATORY
that the figures re the police chief, s	fficial is the individual who has the known ported on the SF-425 are accurate and heriff, certified public accountant (CP. Grantee's organization.	complete. This individual may be
Block 13a:	Name and Title of Authorized	Certifying Official
• Type or print	the certifying official's name and title.	
Block 13b:	Signature of Authorized Certi	fying Official
• The authorize	d certifying official must sign here.	
Block 13c:	Telephone	
• Enter the telephone number (including area code and extension) for the individual listed in <i>Block 13a–Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official</i> .		
Block 13d:	Email Address	
• Enter the email address of the individual listed in Block 13a–Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official.		lock 13a–Name and Title of
Block 13e:	Date Report Submitted	
• Enter the date and year form	the SF-425 is submitted to the Federa at.	l agency using the month, day,
Block 14:	Agency Use Only	NOT APPLICABLE

• This section reserved for Federal agency use only. Do not write in this block.





#### VII. Glossary.

**accrual basis of accounting.** Expenses are recorded in the period in which they are incurred, rather than when they are paid.

cash basis of accounting. Expenses are recorded in the period in which they are paid.

**COPS Office.** The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is the grantor agency for the Grantee's COPS Office grants. The COPS Office is directly responsible for programmatically administering and monitoring the grant for the entire grant period.

**Federal Financial Report.** The Federal Financial Report (FFR) is also known as Standard Form 425 (SF-425). The COPS Office will not be accepting the Federal Financial Report Attachment (SF-425A).

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has merged previous financial reporting methods into one comprehensive financial reporting form to give recipients of grants and cooperative agreements a standard format for reporting the financial status of their awards. OMB has combined the Financial Status Report (FSR, or SF-269/SF-269A) and the Federal Cash Transactions Report (FCTR, or SF-272) into one Federal Financial Report (FFR, or SF-425). OMB has stated that the new form, the SF-425, will go into effect beginning with reporting the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2010.

**Federal share contributions.** The amount of Federal funds a Grantee can draw down to reimburse allowable expenses incurred during the grant period. The allowable Federal share may not always equal the maximum Federal share.

**grant number.** This number uniquely identifies each grant (e.g., 95CFWX0000 or 2000SHWX0000). An SF-425 will be required for EACH Grant Number.

**matching funds.** Certain COPS Office grant programs require Grantees to contribute a local match toward allowable costs of the program, project, or activity funded under the award. Any required local match can be found on the Financial Clearance Memorandum for the specific award.

