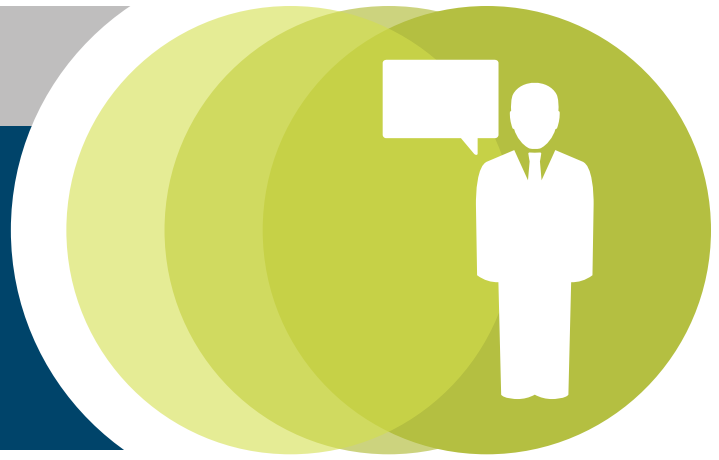# GRANT JARGON 101:
Commonly Used Acronyms

The world of grants is filled with terminology and acronyms that are specific to funding agencies and funding announcements. In order to be successful, you should become familiar with the acronyms most frequently used by grantor agencies. Although the following table is far from exhaustive, it is a good start for those new to the world of grants:

CBO	Community-Based Organization	A nonprofit organization that provides services within a specific community for the benefit of that particular community.
CFDA	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	The CFDA is a directory of all federal funding programs, which are cataloged based on their five-digit CFDA number (e.g., 14.239). The first two digits represent the funding agency and, in general, the last three digits represent the program. A CFDA number may correspond to a single grant program, or may encompass several grant programs in a particular focus/ subject area.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the departments and agencies of the federal government. For example, the 2 CFR 200 (OMB Uniform Guidance, or "Omni- Circular" or "Super Circular") regulates federal funding requirements and priorities.
DUNS	Dun and Bradstreet Street Data Universal Numbering System	Unique nine-character organization identification numbers required for all federal grant applications. This number is used for tracking purposes, validating addresses, and providing contact information. DUNS numbers are obtained by calling (866) 705-5711 or accessing www.dnb.com/us.
FAIN	Federal Award Identification Number	Each federal financial assistance award is assigned a unique identification number by the federal agency. The FAIN makes it easier for recipients to correctly report sub-awards. In addition, the public can use the FAIN and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number together to find one accurate result when searching online.

FBO	Faith-Based Organization	A type of nonprofit founded on religious principles. The Charitable Choice Act states that FBOs may not be excluded from federal grant programs simply because they are religious in nature.
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	The Act allowing for the full or partial disclosure of previously unreleased information and documents controlled by the U.S. government. Requests typically need to be in writing to the appropriate agency. For example, previously funded grant applications may be obtained by making a FOIA request, but it is a long process that should be started six or more months in advance.
FON	Funding opportunity number	The number that a federal agency assigns to its grant announcement. FONs are currently unique within the Grants.gov.
LOI	Letter of Intent	A simple one-page statement or form that may be required or requested prior to the application submission, indicating an entity's intent to apply for a particular program. Funding agencies usually request these so that they may prepare for how much staff time will be necessary to evaluate proposals.
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	A legal document between two parties intended to express the requirements for administering and maintaining grant funds. It is not as binding as a contract and typically complements the funding agency's program guidelines.
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability	NOFAs, RFAs, RFPs, and RFQs are different terms for public solicitations published by funding agencies that outline the availability of program funds. These solicitations identify activities and projects to be funded, amount of funds to be available, and eligible applicants. They are included with each funding opportunity in eCivis Grants Network. They may be distributed via Grants.gov or the Federal Register, mailed directly to potentially interested parties, or posted on funding agency websites.
RFA	Request for Applications	
RFP	Requests for Proposals	
RFQ	Request for Quotes	

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SAM	System for Award Management	The official U.S. government system that consolidated the capabilities of Central Contractor Registry (CCR)/Federal Register, Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). Entities may register at no cost directly from Sam.gov. Read the SAM Quick Guide for more information. Users of SAM include contracting officials, grant makers, contractors, and the public.
SPOC	State Single Point of Contact	Through the intergovernmental review program, participating states review grant applications submitted to the federal government before projects may be funded, and designate a point of contact for this process. Information regarding SPOC can be found here.

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eCivis is the leading cloud-based grants management system in the nation for state, local, and tribal governments. Our innovative solutions address both programmatic and fiscal grant funding requirements throughout the grant lifecycle, helping clients easily overcome the challenges and heavy workload that come with finding and managing grants.

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