

Congresswoman Candice S. Miller

Opening Statement

Committee on Government Reform

Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Census

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the witnesses that will testify before this subcommittee. I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

The E-Grants initiative outlined in the President's Management Agenda E-Government component is an example of how the Federal government can effectively use technology to decrease costs and improve services. Therefore, it is vital that this initiative be implemented swiftly and with a high degree of success.

With the amount of reform that presents itself within the Federal realm, successful implementation of the E-Grants program can act as a model as this Subcommittee examines measures to increase the use of and effectiveness of technology.

With the passage of the E-Government Act of 2002, there is now a legal authority to ensure the development of E-Government initiatives – including E-Grants. But legal authority does not guarantee success, as has been seen by many reform initiatives of the past.

I am pleased that there are so many distinguished individuals who are familiar with the “user side” of Federal grant programs have taken time to testify before this Subcommittee today. Successful reform is not possible without the input of those who actually utilize the programs.

Currently, there are 26 agencies distributing over 210,000 awards. Needless to say, there is redundancy and unnecessary waste between differing agencies administering grants with similar objectives and waste within agencies who allocate grants spanning different programs.

The implementation of E-Government is a good thing if done correctly, but the Federal government is currently finding itself in a situation where each agency has set up its own electronic application and reporting process. This has complicated matters for groups looking to obtain Federal grants.

Though this may cause certain problems, the mere fact that agencies are working to simplify the grant-making process is promising.

I look forward to working with the members of this Subcommittee, the Government Reform Committee as a whole, and the groups and individuals who use grants to improve the Federal grant-making process.

Thank you.