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Elizabeth F DelNegro  
Associate Chief Information Officer  
U.S. Government Services Administration  
1800 F Street NW  
Washington D.C. 20405

**RE: Comment on FR Doc #2026-01676; OMB Control No. 3090-0290, System for Award Management Registration Requirements for Financial Assistance Recipients**

Submitted via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

Dear Ms. DelNegro,

On behalf of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) we are writing to provide comment on the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) request for comment on the System for Award Management registration requirements for financial assistance recipients (OMB Control No. 3090-0290; FR #2026-01676). GFOA's mission is to advance excellence in public finance, and our more than 32,000 members are made up of state and local government finance officers who are deeply involved in planning, financing, and implementing thousands of governmental operations in their jurisdictions.

As recipients of federal financial assistance, state and local government finance officers are primary stakeholders in ensuring compliance with any registration requirements to receive federal financial assistance, including registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). We understand the current policy of the administration is to end unlawful discrimination and restore merit-based opportunity as outlined in the Department of Justice (DOJ) "Guidance for Recipients of Federal Funding Regarding Unlawful Discrimination" (July 29, 2025)<sup>1</sup> and Executive Order (E.O.) 14173, "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity" (January 21, 2025).<sup>2</sup> We also understand that GSA intends to update the Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications to align with these policies. As outlined by E.O. 14173 and the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1409486/dl>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02097/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity>

DOJ guidance, we also understand that unlawful discrimination includes policies and programs that promote “diversity, equity and inclusion” or DEI.

Without commenting on the merits of deeming DEI as discriminatory, government finance officers have a keen interest in ensuring that we are in compliance with federal law when accepting all forms of federal financial assistance. As recipients responding to the specific invitation on ways to relieve the burden of collecting information, we seek greater clarity around definitions and timing of application.

### **Clarity of Definitions**

To ensure that non-federal entities can effectively comply with any revisions to the SAM registration requirements, we respectfully request that GSA provide clear, consistent, and workable definitions of what constitutes as DEI if such activities are considered discriminatory under the updated policies. State and local governments operate within diverse legal, demographic, and organizational contexts. Without clear definitions, it will be difficult for recipients of federal financial assistance to evaluate how existing policies, such as workforce decisions, procurement practices, or community focused initiatives might impact an entity’s ability to accept a federal award. Additionally, without clear, consistent, and workable definitions, it will be difficult for federal agencies to objectively determine whether an entity is in violation of these requirements. This could lead to a lack of uniformity in the enforcement of these policies, which creates an unfair award system that undermines merit-based grantmaking.

State and local governments are already bound by federal civil rights statutes such as Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX, and the Equal Protection Clause. Any shift in how DEI-related activities are interpreted could require significant adjustments to compliance programs, training, hiring practices, and community engagement efforts. Clear definitions are therefore essential to prevent confusion, avoid unintended noncompliance, and allow state and local governments to responsibly implement any new requirements.

### **Timing of Implementation**

SAM registration has been a hallmark of systematic documentation between the federal assistance provider and the recipient since 2012. It has also underpinned organized efforts among grant recipients to track activity, such as maintaining accuracy throughout the transition from the data universal numbering system (DUNS) to unique entity identification (UEI) numbers.

Entities must register with SAM.gov to obtain a UEI number. From there, they are required to keep both their SAM.gov registration and UEI active for the entire covered period of financial assistance, including closeout. To ensure continued eligibility, recipients and subrecipients are required to validate their UEI number on an annual basis to ensure registration remains active throughout the life of the award. It remains unclear how amending the registration requirements will impact existing SAM.gov registrations during the annual UEI validation process. As GSA considers a change to the registration requirements, recipients should be provided legal guidance

on how the proposed revised status of UEI registration would apply to all existing federal assistance awards, not only to future applications.

State and local government finance officers take our commitment to compliance with federal laws seriously. We urge GSA to provide clear definitions of DEI under the proposed revision and more information on the timing of implementation. Please feel free to reach out to me at [ebrook@gfoa.org](mailto:ebrook@gfoa.org) or any of our representatives in Washington should you have any questions or desire additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily S. Brock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Brock  
Director – Federal Liaison Center