

## GRANTS OVERSIGHT AND NEW EFFICIENCY ACT

The Department recognizes the importance of closing out grants and cooperative agreements in a timely manner. The implementation of a standardized Federal assistance management system (State Assistance Management System (SAMS)) for domestic bureaus and overseas posts, coupled with updates to Department Federal assistance policies, has enabled the Department to better monitor, analyze, and report on the closeout of awards. However, the Department still faces challenges in closing awards. While data does pass electronically between SAMS, the Department's financial systems, and PMS, some critical closeout tasks remain a manual process in the payment system. As highlighted in the GAO report, *Actions Needed to Address Persistent Grant Closeout Timeliness and Undisbursed Balance Issues* (GAO-16-362), the manual steps required to reconcile differences between systems can be labor-intensive, especially in PMS.

The Department has taken numerous steps to mitigate and resolve these issues. These include implementing SAMS, a uniform global Federal assistance management system that uses a standardized closeout checklist and offers reporting capabilities to help target awards awaiting closeout; using Department of Interior services to negotiate indirect cost rates on our behalf, which enabled the closeout of many old awards; and publishing a Federal assistance Human Capital Plan that resulted in increased training and guidance on Federal assistance management, including closeout requirements and procedures.

To compile the data required by the Grants Oversight and New Efficiency Act, the Department had to perform analysis between systems and conduct individual data calls for each overseas post since SAMS was not implemented overseas during the period covered by the Act.

GRANTS OVERSIGHT AND NEW EFFICIENCY ACT SUMMARY TABLE

Category	2-3 Years	>3-5 Years	>5 Years
Number of Grants/Cooperative Agreements with Zero Dollar Balances	109	77	15
Number of Grants/Cooperative Agreements with Undisbursed Balances	171	57	3
Total Amount of Undisbursed Balances	\$8,433,875	\$3,682,156	\$11,907