



COVID-19 rapid response: Grants management

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Even as companies worldwide focus on responding in real-time to the uncertainties created by COVID-19, leaders understand the need to prepare for ongoing disruption over the months and years to come.



To help companies be ready to compete in the new reality, KPMG is bringing together our knowledge of business and industry, applying creative thinking, and using today's emerging technologies to specifically respond to fast-moving immediate challenges, as well as those that are potentially systemic, brought forth by COVID-19.

Taking steps to accelerate use of digital technologies has become especially important for the states, municipalities, and nonprofit entities responsible for disbursing CARES Act, HHS, and stimulus grant funds related to COVID-19 relief efforts.

Entities are under significant pressure to distribute an unprecedented level of funding and then be accountable for its use. Transactions must be seamlessly and securely transferred, requiring recipients who qualify for the payments to be easily identified and verified. The distribution of funds must be closely monitored to prevent fraudulent transactions and ensure that every qualifying recipient has received their funds. For grantees, the pressure to maintain transparent tracking and reporting methods and auditable records has only increased.

New problems augment the old

Grant management represented a considerable challenge for funding entities and recipients before COVID-19. Now, for both grantors and grantees, the volume of work and level of urgency to complete it have increased substantially, virtually overnight.

Duplicative grants management requirements are especially burdensome when multiple grants are involved and when recipients lack digital tools to manage them. Manual tracking and reporting processes were already time-consuming and problematic; undertaking inefficient processes over and over again on multiple grants leads to inconsistencies in the completeness and quality of the reported information. Grantors are then unable to meet their goals for providing standardized, transparent data, and recipients risk noncompliance and the inability to prepare adequately in the event of an audit. Both sides lack information they can trust.

These circumstances have helped reveal the cracks and roadblocks in existing processes, which, the less digital they are, the more difficult they are to manage. The solution lies in a balanced use of emerging technologies, one of which is blockchain. In this time of heightened scrutiny, scale and need to demonstrate accountability, blockchain provides a traceable, immutable, unalterable record, which in turn adds a new level of trust in the data it connects.

Making the transition to trust

KPMG has developed a set of capabilities and blockchain-based accelerators to enable the complete lifecycle of grant management.

Value-added benefits of our blockchain based solution

- Provides a structure through which grants process can be managed
- Adds a layer of transparency and trust
- Provides a real-time record of spending
- Helps manage a wide array of funding sources, thereby adding a layer of efficiency

In addition to deep public sector knowledge, KPMG understands the pain points, the funding paths, and the fundamentals of grant usage. Off the shelf products often are not meant to be the system of record over time but rather a point in time dashboard. Our solution underpins near-real-time process and tracking data with the digital infrastructure to provide long-term trust, traceability, and transparency, of funding use.

KPMG grant management capabilities provide transparency and traceability into the distribution of funds with an auditable transaction record and simplified means to identify and verify qualifying recipients. It offers:

- Detailed visibility into funding management activities
- Reporting capability for portfolio and grants programs across participants
- Transparent communication across multiple, disparate parties
- Immutable, auditable record of transactions
- Real-time analytics to provide insight into the allocation and usage of funds

Why KPMG

KPMG has extensive experience across the grants management lifecycle and is working with many states to support economic recovery and reopening in the wake of COVID-19. Blockchain, and the trust in data, transactions, and identities (corporate or individual) that it helps to enable, is expected to become an increasingly important component of a broader, foundational digital trust infrastructure, post COVID and beyond. Go to the [KPMG Blockchain website](#) to learn more

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