Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records About Grants, Insurance, Loans, Subsidies and Other Economic Assistance Awarded by Federal Agencies, 10/1/1980 - 9/30/1981

Record Group 381

Updated May 20, 2020

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1. What information is in these records?

This series contains selected, standardized data on grants, insurance, loans, subsidies and other economic assistance awarded by Federal agencies. Data are from all departments and major agencies of the executive branch of the Federal Government with grant making authority. Other programs included are all major Federal aid programs providing transfer payments to individuals, domestic economic assistance, grants-in-aid, community, economic, and rural development, poverty programs, loans, and insurance.

2. Why were these records created?

The agency collected and processed these records in accordance with the Federal Program Information Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-220), which called for improving the flow of Federal financial information, including reporting on assistance awards. The agency produced computer data files with records about grants, insurance, loans, subsidies and other economic assistance awarded by Federal agencies for use by Congress and for distribution to the public.

3. Why are there two types of records in these files?

Files contain two record types: action-by-action or transaction records, and county aggregate summary records. Action-by-action records are records of individual grants, insurance, loans, subsidies and other economic assistance transactions. County aggregate records contain data for numerous individual actions summarized into one record, such as entitlement payments made directly for individuals, or other large volume transactions, such as housing loans and flood insurance. Records contain the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) program number and title; state application identifier; recipient name, including names of businesses; recipient geographic codes and location information including Congressional district; type of recipient code; type of action code; Federal agency code and name; Federal and non-federal

funding amounts; dates of funding; transaction code; principal place of performance code and name; and project description.

4. Are there any records like these after FY 1981?
Yes. The successor to this series of Community Services Administration records is a series with the same name in the Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29.

5. Why do some fields contain the value "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX"?
Since the State Application Identifier (SAI) Number and the Federal Award Identifier (FAI) Number fields could potentially contain social security numbers, NARA masked the data in these fields with "X," including any fields that might have been previously blank. This includes the county aggregate files, where these fields would have been blank.

6. How can I access a copy of the full file?
The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: https://catalog.archives.gov/. There you can search by the series name, Records About Grants, Insurance, Loans, Subsidies and Other Economic Assistance Awarded by Federal Agencies, or using the National Archives Identifier 604982, which is the description identifier for this series.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link "file(s) described in the catalog" next to "Includes:" for a list of the file units within this series. Then select the file unit containing the records of interest to you. The file unit description will include the list of electronic records and documentation files available for viewing and/or downloading.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at: https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at: https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf.