

CAA Financial Management Survey – Fall 2009

Profile of Survey Respondents:

51 CAAs responded to the survey:

- All respondents were working with nonprofit CAAs
- 60% of respondents were Fiscal Managers – 40% were Executive Directors
- 63% of respondents had 1 to 3 direct federal agreements; 22% had more than 7 direct agreements
- 70% of respondents had more than 7 agreements with state or local governments which included federal fund
- 74% of respondents had annual operating budgets in the \$5 to 20 million range, with 38% in the \$5 to 10 million range, and 36% in the \$10 to 20 million range.

Handling Indirect Cost:

- 45% of respondents reporting having a Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate
 - 52% of those with a federal indirect rate reported that their rate was >11% but <20%
 - 26% reported that their rate was >6% but <11%.
- Of the remaining 55% of respondents who reported not having a Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate, 74% reported that they have determined that use a Cost Allocation Plan rather than a Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost rate works better for their organization.
- Only 18% of those working with a Cost Allocation Plan rather than a Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate reported that their Cost Allocation Plan has been “approved”. 74% of this group reported that their Cost Allocation Plan has been reviewed by auditors or funding source monitors but not explicitly “approved”.

Fiscal Management Challenges:

The following fiscal management issues were identified as challenging or significantly challenging by respondents:

- Dealing with uncertainty about state and local funding: 62%
- Obtaining adequate funding for effective administration: 58%
- Dealing with growth in programs : 54%
- Covering indirect costs associated with funding sources that will not pay our full negotiated indirect cost rate: 48%
- Dealing with cutbacks in state and local funding: 47%
- Board leadership in financial oversight and planning: 47%
- Assuring compliance with multiple grant and contract requirements: 46%

Format for training and technical assistance resources to address fiscal challenges:

Respondents rated the relative usefulness of various resource tools. “Very useful” ratings are shown below:

- Downloadable Templates and Tools: 80%
- FAQs on fiscal topics on the website: 77%
- Webinars: 67%
- In-person workshops: 52%