



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Records About Community Action Program Grants and Grantees,
7/1/1964 - 9/30/1981**

Record Group 381

Updated May 20, 2020

1. What information is in these records?
2. Why were these records created?
3. How can I locate a grant records awarded to a specific organization?
4. Are there errors in the data?
5. How can I access a copy of the full files?

1. What information is in these records?

This series contains two types of files. The Grantee Organization Master Files provide the names, addresses, and target areas of organizations that received grants-in-aid through the Community Action Program (CAP). The Funded Program Account Master Files document the history of federal aid to community development through approved CAP grants and funding. The files list each transaction separately, such as request and action by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) for initial or supplemental funding, obligation, or amendment. Each of the transactions forms a separate record identified by OEO Region, Grant Number, and Organization Number. These files document neighborhood and community based poverty programs as funded by CAP. The files contain information on grants awarded to activities such as: occupational training and placement; child care; education for all ages; housing services; health services; substance abuse prevention and treatment programs; emergency aid programs; urban and rural community development; migrant services; senior citizen services; and consumer and legal services.

2. Why were these records created?

The agency created these records to track grants made to local community action programs and the organizations receiving grants.

3. How can I locate a grant records awarded to a specific organization?

To locate specific organizations or those in a specific geographic region, search the Grantee Organization Master Files first. Then use the Grantee Number(s) found to search the Funded Program Account Master Files to identify the grants awarded to that organization.

4. Are there errors in the data?

Many variables in these files contain either no data or strings of zeroes. In particular, the agency did not consider the data on anticipated participants as reliable or consistent and ceased collecting this information after 1971.

5. How can I access a copy of the full files?

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 Community Action Program Grants and Grantees, or using the National Archives Identifier 604417, 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>.