



MARLOWE & COMPANY

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS

Where's My Money?

Congress reached a bipartisan agreement to avert a government shutdown this week. The short-term continuing appropriations bill will fund the federal government through October 4, 2011 at the \$1.043 trillion limit set by the debt limit law that was enacted in August. This measure will now move to the White House where it will be quickly signed into law.

In addition, the Senate agreed to pass a revised version of Majority Leader Harry Reid's six-week stopgap spending measure that would provide further government funding through November 18, 2011. It remains unclear whether the House will agree to this measure before we face another government shutdown threat next week.

What does all this mean for you? Because Congress was unable to pass a yearly budget, the government is operating on a week to week budget, delaying grant funding for a few more months.

Without a complete FY 12 budget, federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers and Homeland Security will not know how to plan their budgets for FY12. This means that important grant programs will be put on hold.

In a normal fiscal year, budgets operate thru September 30 and Congress works during the year to write legislation for the next fiscal year, prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1st. Of course, the FY 11 fiscal year was anything but normal as there was no federal budget until nearly half the fiscal year was complete. Once Congress is able to pass a FY 12 budget, federal agencies will know how much funding they will receive to distribute in the form of competitive grants.

Marlowe & Company is expecting agencies to open the competitive grant process early next year. We will continue to keep you updated on the latest budget information from Capitol Hill. Stay tuned!

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