WHY DO MSAC GRANTS TAKE SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS TO ARRIVE?

It all starts with you!
The sooner you complete your W9
and Grant Agreement Form (GAF),
the sooner your grant will be paid.
Every day counts, so be sure to
prioritize these steps.

After these first steps of the payment process, the grant must be processed by MSAC's parent agency, the Maryland Department of Commerce.

The grant then returns to the Department of Commerce for a second approval.

Finalized payments are sent as checks to the address listed on the grantee's W9.

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Once the W9 and GAF are completed, MSAC staff can begin the first steps of the payment process.

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When MSAC and Commerce processing is complete, MSAC approves the grant payment.

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Finally, the grant is processed and approved by the Maryland General Accounting Division in Annapolis.

FAQs

What is a W9?

A W9 is a legal document used to report taxable income. W9s are required by MSAC because its grants are taxable.

What is a Grant Agreement Form, or GAF?

A Grant Agreement form (GAF) is a document describing the activities the grantee will complete using the grant funds.

What if my situation involves multiple addresses?

To speed payment, be sure the address in your grant application matches the address listed on your W9. If they're different, your payment will be delayed.

I got a check from the "State of Maryland," but it doesn't reference the Maryland State Arts Council. Is this my grant?

All MSAC grants are issued as checks from the "State of Maryland," with no direct reference to MSAC. Check your Grant Agreement Form (GAF) to make sure the grant amount matches the amount of the check. If so, it is most likely your grant. If you're still not certain, email msac.commerce@maryland.gov for confirmation.

What is a tax intercept?

Tax intercepts occur when state or federal taxation authorities determine that a grantee has an outstanding tax balance and choose to pull owed funds from a grant award. Unfortunately, MSAC has no way of knowing about tax intercepts before the grant payment reaches the General Accounting Division in Annapolis.

I'm confused by all this paperwork. Help!

MSAC staff are always glad to help you with the payment process. For assistance, start with Grant Management Associate Tammy Oppel at tammy.oppel@maryland.gov. She will provide direct assistance or connect you with the right staff member.

Why is my grant money taking so long to arrive? Because MSAC is publicly funded, there are many

Because MSAC is publicly funded, there are many checks and balances on how funds are disbursed. The process above ensures that each MSAC payment is reviewed by multiple agencies, in order to reduce the chances of error.