n the wake of the COVID-19 health pandemic, citizens are turning to their government leaders to manage health and economic recovery efforts. As a result, the process of overseeing the much needed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant funds will be under immense scrutiny. Considering this intensified spotlight, leaders will be called upon to develop and deploy a centralized and holistic strategy for efficiently managing CARES Act grants – ultimately getting their states, cities and citizens back to business.

Among the key elements required for this success is having the right technology in place to help government leaders - and subsequent agencies - manage the complexities of the grant lifecycle from start to finish. CGI Advantage Grantor is a unified component of the CGI Advantage ERP that supports the end-to-end business process lifecycle of distributing grants to sub-recipients. With our unified solution, organizations can invest scarce resources in more mission-critical tasks like improving constituent services, not building and maintaining a complex interface to your financial system.

The CGI Advantage Grantor solution allows grant managers to:

- Establish the grant budget and associated match requirements with eligibility criteria
- Publish opportunities to digitally transformed public facing grants portal
- Review, evaluate and route applications leveraging a highly configurable solution
- Engage with sub-recipients to complete the review and approval of grant applications
- Receive direct payment requests for review and automated disbursement
- Demonstrate the impact of funds through progress reports and enhanced analytics

The CGI Advantage Grantor solution allows sub-recipients to:

- Find - or be automatically notified about - grant opportunities on a simple and intuitive public facing grants portal
- Facilitate engagement with other sub-recipients for partnering on grant opportunities
- Submit grant applications online inclusive of associated documentation
- Execute steps for award acceptance leveraging a completely digital approach
- Request reimbursements supported by grant progress reports with associated required
CGI Advantage's modern and sleek user experience provides a transformed engagement that is highly configurable - eliminating the need for costly niche grants management standalone applications. Organizations can tailor the solution to their business requirements, facilitating a digital engagement that reduces calls to either the help desk or grant managers directly. Through digital engagement for both managers and sub-recipients, the solution creates a more efficient process for managing grants that ultimately lowers the total cost of ownership.

Benefits of a unified solution
With CGI Advantage all grant related functions are performed within one solution. This means encumbering funds, authorizing payments, maintaining balances and other financial tasks are executed in real time without a dependency on a complex, costly, and burdensome interface, or worse off, dual-manual-entry into an external grant management system.

A Unified Grant Lifecycle Management solution provides:

- **Single grant master data source** - sub-recipient information inclusive of grant awards, grant accounting and budgets as well as federal reimbursements with matched amounts all captured within the ERP solution. A unified solution eliminates the need for complex, error prone, and high cost integrations that are associated with inconsistencies between separate niche grants solution and the ERP.

- **Increased grant control** - grant managers, executives and auditors all working within a single solution that leverages real time processing against grant budgets, grant validations, and grant eligibility requirements. A unified solution reduces risk of over-spending, errors and/or fraud while simplifying audits as data resides in one system.

- **Unified reporting capabilities** - with greater access to information, organizations obtain more timely and accurate grantee and grantor information. A unified solution facilitates drilling down into grant details such as recipient and sub-recipient award information inclusive of financial accounting, federally reimbursed and matched amounts with a full audit trail that ties the sub-recipient disbursements to the grantor reimbursements.