

DECISION

**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES**
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

FILE: B-212467

DATE: August 2, 1983

MATTER OF: Professional Services Consulting, Inc.

DIGEST:

Complaint concerning Federal agency's rejection of a grant application is dismissed since, with certain limited exceptions not present here, GAO does not review complaints concerning awards of grants.

Professional Services Consulting, Inc. objects to the decision by the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce (EDA), to reject its proposal for a research grant made available under the authority of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 3121 et seq. (1976). We dismiss the complaint.

We have consistently declined to interfere with the functions and responsibilities of grantor agencies in making and administering grants, and therefore we generally do not review complaints concerning the awards of grants themselves. New York State Waterways Project, B-201559, January 6, 1981, 81-1 CPD 12. The only exceptions to that rule occur when the complainant alleges or presents evidence that the agency awarded grants instead of contracts to circumvent competition requirements of procurement statutes or regulations, or that a serious conflict of interest was involved. Johnson Products, Inc., B-198976, February 24, 1981, 81-1 CPD 129. As the complaint here raises no such allegations, but rather challenges EDA's standard for selecting projects for funding, the complaint does not fall within those limited exceptions and therefore will not be considered.

The complaint is dismissed.

F. H. Barclay Jr.
for Harry R. Van Cleave
Acting General Counsel

026319

122038