USASpending.gov Tour

Spending Explorer

You get to review all spending (not just awards) through multiple lenses and levels. You should note that DoD (and a few small agencies) are missing large amounts of data in the explorer. They should be in by the end of the year.

First, let's explore money through budget functions. Looking at the full government, we can see major issue areas such as Medicare, Social Security, Health, Income Security, General Government, and more.
Selecting a budget function like General Government shows a breakdown of budget sub-functions including fiscal operations, personnel management, property and records management, and more.

You can switch over to a table view that makes it easier to review and copy data. You can also select different breakdowns to view including Federal Accounts, Object Class, Recipients, and Awards.
You can drill down to individual awards (if the data is there). Clicking on an individual award will take you to the award display in the Advanced Search. You can use the breadcrumb trail on the left column to keep track of what you are looking at. It also allows users to move back up the trail by clicking on a higher level.

You can also view by agency.
Users can look at award recipients for either contracts or grants. This example shows NASA’s contract recipients. Note the 3 separate entries for Boeing. This is the result of fragmentation from poor entity identifiers.
Award Searches

The Advanced Search allows users to apply numerous filters to the awards data: fiscal year, awarding agency, award type, location, etc. Search results initially provide a list of awards organized in tabs by type of award. The award list defaults to show the largest awards first but can be resorted by any of the columns (but only in descending order right now).
Users can also look at a timeline of the search results in years, quarters, or months.
There is also a map that displays the geographic distribution of the spending. The map starts displaying state breakdowns, but can be switched to display county or congressional district.
There is a new Categories tab that allows users to review search result breakdowns by Awarding Agency (and sub-agencies), CFDA Programs, and Industry Code.
Users can click on individual awards from the table list to explore greater detail on the award including the source of the award, details on the recipient, award obligation and potential, description, and other info.
The award view also shows users transaction history, sub-awards, and other details.

The Additional Details on contract awards provides information on things like level of competition, product and service specifics, legislative mandates, and executive compensation.
Agency Profiles

Agency profiles give an overview of budgetary resources, obligated amounts with breakdowns for object classes, and federal accounts. Currently there is no information specifically on awards, geographic breakdowns, or top spending categories (like you see in State Profiles).

You can see the breakdown of obligations across major object classes (contracts, grants, salary) and can drill down one level to sub-object classes.
Users can also see agency obligations broken down by federal accounts. The chart shows 10 federal accounts at a time and changes scale as smaller amounts are displayed.
Federal Account Profiles

Federal Account Profiles start with a description, fiscal year summary, and snapshot of money in and money out for the account.

The Federal Account Profile also shows spending over time, and breakdowns for object classes. There are filters available to allow users to narrow what information is displayed.
The Federal Account Profile also lists the specific awards associated with the account, which can be sorted and clicked through to see details on individual awards.
State Profiles

Pick a state from the list.

The profile starts with overview: total spent, population and per capita spending, award type breakdown (contracts, grants, direct payments, loans, insurance), and map of counties or congressional districts.
The spending timeline allows users to review spending by year, quarter, or month. The profile does not allow the user to separate different award types (you can get that through award searches though).

Top 5 lists give a useful view of the highest categories of spending including agencies, recipients, programs, industry sectors, counties, and congressional districts. Users can also select tabs for different award types and see specific lists for just that type of spending in the state.
Data Lab

The Data Lab is a testing ground of USASpending where various innovative visualizations and exploration tools demonstrate what can be done with the spending data.

Federal Accounts Dendrogram

This uses an interactive tree diagram for federal agencies, sub-agencies, and federal accounts to encourage users to explore government spending. Hovering over any entry will pop-up data on total obligated spending and unobligated balance. Clicking on a federal account takes users to the Federal Account Profile section of the main site.
**Contract Explorer**

This sunburst graphic allows users to explore a multi-level ring diagram of contract spending for fiscal year 2017. The innermost ring initially represents agencies and their proportional level of spending. The next layer are sub-agencies that are color matched to their parent agency. The outermost ring shows contract recipients.

An agency can be selected, which will reform the sunburst graphic using only the data for that agency, which makes it easier to explore the outer layer.
Users can also select a contractor and see their contracts across all agencies. Hovering over a particular section will display the total amount received and the main categories of items contracted for.
Homelessness Analysis

The Homelessness tool demonstrates how an issue could be explored in greater detail by merging spending data with other government data on the issue. It has a map with detailed information on population of homeless people across the country.

The tool also shows funding through major programs and agencies for different regions along with the homeless populations for that region. The spending is also categorized as Housing, Education, Employment, Support Services, and Health.