



How to Tell Them Apart Subaward, Subcontract, Consultant, Vendor Office of Sponsored Projects

Areas Administered by Office of Sponsored Projects

SUBAWARDS

Subaward

Typically the agreement to an eligible subrecipient made under a grant or cooperative agreement to carry out a research project.

All subawards have the following:

Indicative characteristics

- Involved in a significant portion of the scope of work of the MSU sponsored project
- Has responsibility for programmatic decision making;
- Uses the funds to carry out a program within the organization as compared to providing goods or services for a program;
- Is responsible for adhering to applicable program compliance requirements (i.e., OMB Circulars, agency regulations, etc.); and
- Subawardee's PI may be a co-author on publications or may seek patent protection for inventions.

SUBCONTRACT

- A term used to refer to the subagreement when the prime award is a contract.
- Subaward may be another term used for Subcontract

Areas Administered by Procurement and Contracts

VENDOR

Vendor

A dealer, distributor, merchant, or other seller providing goods or services that are required for the conduct of a research program

Indicative characteristics

- Provides the goods or services within normal business operations;
- Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers;
- Operates in a competitive environment;
- Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the research project; and
- Are not subject to monitoring or reporting requirements of the prime award.

CONSULTANT

Consultant

Categorized as a vendor-type relationship. An individual or company retained to provide professional advice or services on a project for a fee.

Indicative characteristics

- A company or an individual who is clearly a bona fide consultant (expert advisor) who pursues this line of business for him/herself.
- Are paid for their time at a daily or hourly fixed rate.
- A consultant is considered a "work for hire" thus all intellectual property and copyrightable information is assigned to MSU.
- Usually short term
- RFP sometimes dictate amount that can be charged