



# 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