

Characteristics of Sponsored Project Award Types

Characteristic	Gift	Grant	Cooperative Agreement	Contract
Basic Purpose	Donated for a general or specific purpose ex: endow a chair, set up a scholarship, buy a piece of equipment; charitable in nature	Awarded to assist the organization in fulfilling a goal or public purpose; supports further knowledge in a particular subject area or field of research	Awarded to transfer money, property, services, or anything of value in order to accomplish a public purpose	Awarded to acquire (by purchase or lease) property or services for the direct benefit or use by the sponsor
Involvement by Sponsor	Little to none	Once awarded usually very little involvement other than ensuring reporting requirements are met	Sponsor is substantially involved throughout the project and may even be responsible for some of the work.	Sponsor heavily involved in supervision of the project; could require reporting by milestones
Solicitation Method	Solicited from or offered by donors	Investigator initiates request via application kit or guidelines	Typically proposal is solicited by sponsor	Typically solicited by request for proposal (RFP), or request for bid/quote
Quid Pro Quo	Nothing of value expected in return to the sponsor, other than recognition (a tax deduction)	Benefit to the grantee/PI by furthering their own purposes or programs; general benefit to the sponsor in that research supports further knowledge in field and/or public good	Assistance to both parties; project done "for the public good"	Sponsor benefits by using results for their needs or anticipates an economic benefit as the result of the research conducted; university receives funds to conduct research, train scientists and expand knowledge
Project Direction	At the discretion of the recipient	Considered assistance - generally the PI can do what is desired/necessary within the limits of the sponsor solicitation	PI defines the project and develops the scope of work in conjunction with the sponsor	Developed by sponsor
Award Selection Process	Discretion of the donor	Awarded based on peer review recommendation	Awarded based on peer review recommendation	Awarded based on selection process that gives "best value" to the sponsor
Award Instrument	Letter or MOU that outlines specific or general purpose; instructions given at the time the funds are donated	Description of the statement of work with general terms and conditions outlined	Description of the work with general terms and conditions; the responsibilities of the sponsor and recipient are outlined	Award is detailed and includes specs, clauses, regulations, and outlines required deliverable; typically fairly restrictive administrative requirements
Period of Performance	Normally not defined by the donor	PI defines, may receive input from sponsor, period of performance can be defined by availability of funds	Developed by sponsor and recipient	Sponsor sets time frame and due dates
Cost Principles	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	Uniform Guidance A-21 Higher Education A-122 Non-Profit Organizations	Uniform Guidance A-21 Higher Education A-122 Non-Profit Organizations	Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Higher Education 31.3 Non-Profit 31.1
Administrative Requirements	None	Uniform Guidance A-110 (Agency Implementation)	Uniform Guidance A-110 (Agency Implementation)	Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)
Rebudgeting	Little to none	Normally flexible within most budget categories; sponsor can restrict certain categories such as foreign travel	Normally flexible within most budget categories; sponsor can restrict certain categories such as foreign travel	Allowed occasionally within restrictions; requires prior approval from the sponsor
Technical Reporting Requirements	No formal requirement that results are reported to the sponsor	Typically annually and/or summary technical reports are required	Frequently required to update sponsor on joint aspects of the project.	Varies by agreement; requirements are detailed and can require frequent reporting
Financial Reporting Requirements	Minimal; usually only a report of how the funds were used	Invoicing and reporting could be monthly or quarterly; final report due 90 days after expiration	Invoicing and reporting could be monthly or quarterly; final report due 90 days after expiration	Varies could be via monthly / quarterly invoices or payments and financial reports due based on completion of tasks or milestones
Opportunity for Renewal	Varies	Varies on the interest of the sponsor and direction of project	Varies on the interest of the sponsor and the direction of the project	Not renewable, sponsor may decide to continue to fund research, typically under new award with new milestones
Final Deliverable	None	Typically only the final technical report, financial report and intellectual property (IP) report if applicable	Typically only the final technical report, financial report and intellectual property (IP) report if applicable	Researcher is required to produce a deliverable (either item or detailed report); financial, equipment & IP reports
Fulfillment of award	At discretion of recipient or per the agreement when donation received	Best efforts are used in completing research	Best efforts are used in completing the research	Deliverable(s) must meet specifications detailed in the agreement

