

Characteristics of Sponsored Project Award Types

Characteristic	Gift	Grant	Cooperative Agreement	Contract
Basic Purpose	Given to the University for a general or specific purpose ex: endow a chair, set up a scholarship, buy a piece of equipment	Given to the University to assist the institution in fulfilling a particular institutional goal or public purpose; supports further knowledge in a particular subject area or field of research	Given to the University, purpose is to transfer money, property, services, or anything of value in order to accomplish a public purpose	Given to the University so sponsor can procure specific service or product
Solicitation Method	University asks and/or sponsor offers	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
Award Instrument	few terms and conditions on the award	generally short and refers to general terms and conditions	award instrument outlines the involvement of both the sponsor and the awardee	award instrument is detailed and includes specs, clauses, regulations, and outlines required deliverable; typically fairly restrictive administrative requirements
Involvement by Sponsor	little to none	once awarded by sponsor, usually very little involvement other than reporting requirements	sponsor is substantially involved	Sponsor heavily involved in supervision
Rebudgeting	little to none	often flexible/allowed with sponsor approval	typically allowed with sponsor approval	allowed occasionally within restrictions; requires prior approval
Technical Reporting Requirements	no formal requirement that results are reported to the sponsor	typically only yearly and/or summary technical reports are required	usually frequent required technical reports	reports are often required frequently and are very detailed
Financial Reporting Requirements	minimal; usually only a report of how the funds were used	typically only yearly and/or summary financial reports are required	typically only yearly and/or summary financial reports are required	required, typically only receive full payment when deliverable is received; interim payments typically based on milestones
Project Direction	at discretion of University	PI defines the project and develop the Scope of Work, may receive input from sponsor	considered assistance - generally the PI can do what is desired/necessary within the limits of the sponsor solicitation	developed by sponsor
Period of Performance	at discretion of University	PI defines, may receive input from sponsor, period of performance defined	developed by sponsor and recipient	developed by sponsor
Opportunity for Renewal	little to none	varies on the willingness of the sponsor and direction of project	varies on the willingness 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
Quid Pro Quo	nothing of value expected in return to the sponsor, other than recognition	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	yes, benefit to sponsor which anticipates an economic benefit as the result of the research conducted, University receives funds to conduct research
Funding Organization	typically private, non-governmental sources	private organization, governmental agency, or foundation	private organization, corporation, or governmental agency	private corporation or governmental agency
Early Termination possible?	irrevocable	Sponsor retains right to revoke award and/or unused funds	sponsor retains right to revoke award and/or unused funds	sponsor retains the right to terminate the relationship
Fulfillment of award	at discretion of University	Best efforts are used in completing research	best efforts are used in completing the research	deliverable sent to sponsor
Final Deliverable	none	typically only the final technical report	typically only the final technical report	researcher is generally required to produce a deliverable (either item or detailed report)