

# Help Is on the Way: The Federal Demonstration Partnership and Emerging Research Institutions



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# Federal **Demonstration** Partnership (FDP)

- | Goal: Streamline administration related to research
- | Unique Feature: Government and university personnel responsible for research, working hand-in-hand to make difficult problems less difficult. Beta tests (**“demonstrations”**) of new systems, processes, approaches:
  - | Grants.gov
  - | Effort Reporting
  - | Cost Accounting
  - Export Controls
  - Grant Terms & Conditions
  - Audit, IRB, Compliance



# FDP - Background

- | Formed almost 20 years ago as the “Florida Demonstration Project.” Conceived within the National Academies but now quasi-independent.
- | Membership: over 90 universities, hospitals, research institutes + 10 federal agencies, as follows:
  - | EPA
  - | NSF
  - | DOE
  - | ONR, ARO, AFOSR, AMRMC
  - | NASA
  - | NIH
  - | USDA



# Early Demonstration Success Stories (1980s)

- | Received permission for universities allowed to carry over federal grant funds from one year to the next, rather than having to spend all cash by end of fiscal year.
- | Eliminated many required travel & rebudgeting authorizations.
- | Worked with NIH to establish modular grants.
- | Established common set of terms and conditions between major federal agencies that work with universities (T&C's limited to FDP members)



# Recent and Ongoing Success Stories

- | Obtained permission from OMB to allow universities to assess each others' audit compliance directly from an FDP website, rather than through individual letters requesting this information.
- | Developed model subagreement language that condensed university-to-university subagreements to about 2 pages of standardized text.
- | FDP Terms and Conditions now on track to be extended to all universities, nationwide, thanks to their endorsement by OMB and OSTP.



# Recent and Ongoing Success Stories, continued

- | Played key role in NIH's decision to acknowledge multiple PIs on grants
- | Conducted first-ever survey of how faculty spend their "research" time. From 7000 faculty respondents, found that 40% of that time was spent on research-related administrative tasks (and this was for research-intensive universities, where central support is greater!)
- | Now working with NSF to allow streamlined budgets. Concept: you won't be required to prepare a detailed budget unless/until your proposal is actually selected for funding



# FDP - Meetings

- | 3 meetings a year, all in DC (except Sept. 2008)
  - | Highlight best practices in research administration, policies, and processes
  - | Work on new and ongoing demonstrations
  - | Hear latest federal agency news about new programs, upcoming changes to requirements, systems
- | Meeting attendees include (**university**, **federal**)
  - | **Research Administrators**
  - | **Research-Performing Faculty**
  - | **IT staff responsible for grants systems at the university**
  - | **Federal Financial and Grants Accounting Administrators**
  - | **Federal Grants Policy Personnel**
  - | **Scientific Program Officers from Federal Agencies**



# FDP and ERIs

- | FDP established a special “interest group” to look at issues encountered by Emerging Research Institutions. Relatively new group.
- | That group was the genesis of the idea for this workshop.
- | ERI group is motivated to conduct some demonstrations specific to ERIs, but would need additional universities ready to roll up their sleeves and work on these.
- | FDP willing to take on new demonstrations for ERI's, using FDP's relationships with federal agencies and experience with other demonstrations to help make this happen, but we need. . . YOU!
- | New FDP Membership Category: Emerging Research Institutions (free!). Talk to me afterwards if you're interested.



# Potential Ideas

- | Fee For Service – Grant Administration
- | Professor Exchange Program
- | Collaborative Software Purchases
- | Compliance Officer Sharing Program