



FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

Redefining the Government University
Research Partnership

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Phase VI of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP). Since its beginning in 1986 as the Florida Demonstration Project, the FDP has successfully worked to reduce administrative burden while accommodating continuous changes to the policies and regulations most significant to research administration. Through the unique forum provided by the FDP, federal agency officials work collaboratively with administrative, faculty, and technical representatives from a broad range of academic research institutions to identify and assess unnecessary burden resulting from policies and processes that can be addressed only through cooperation among our partners.



Phase VI of the FDP began in 2014 during a time of momentous challenges, including implementation of Federal Uniform Guidance. With a shared vision—researchers doing science, not administration—we are approaching these challenges as promising opportunities for improvement.

As chair, I am honored to represent and serve the FDP as it continues to successfully work to reduce the administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts.

Cynthia Hope

Cynthia Hope
FDP Chair

MISSION

The FDP is an association of federal agencies, academic and nonprofit research institutions, and research policy organizations that work together in a collaborative initiative to streamline the administration of federally sponsored research. The interaction among the FDP's 400 plus participants, including administrative, faculty, and technical representation, takes place during the FDP's three annual meetings and, more extensively, through the many collaborative working groups and task forces that meet often by teleconference in order to develop specific work products. The FDP is currently in its sixth phase, which began in September 2014, and is composed of 10 federal agencies and 154 institutional recipients of federal funds.

The FDP's main goals include:

- Exchange thoughts, ideas, and feedback on current and proposed research administration policies and processes.
- Reduce the administrative burdens associated with federal research grants and contracts.
- Identify potential improvements and initiatives and demonstrate possible solutions.



LEADERSHIP

The Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine serves as secretariat for the FDP. The current FDP Chair is Cynthia Hope, Administrative Representative, The University of Alabama. The Vice Chair is Dr. Sandra Schneider, Faculty Representative, University of South Florida. An executive committee oversees the activities of the FDP. Serving along with others on the executive committee is David Wright, FDP Executive Director, who is responsible for the administrative management of the FDP.

PARTICIPATION

Members are active participants in the evaluation of changes that may impact the administration of federally sponsored research at their organizations. They represent federal agencies and faculty members and administrative staff from diverse organizations across the country, including large, established research institutions, emerging research institutions, and both public and private institutions. Members are encouraged to share ideas, including proposals for new initiatives and demonstrations.

WHY FEDERAL AGENCIES SHOULD SUPPORT/PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

- Allows for partnership and interaction with other federal agencies committed to supporting effective research outcomes, awardee accountability, and clear communication.
- Provides access to:
 - a unique forum of principal investigators, research administrators, and research institution information technology specialists with extensive knowledge and experience in managing federal research awards;
 - a self-selected and diverse group of institutions that are devoted to improving research productivity and minimizing administrative burden in an accountable environment;
 - a range of research institutions from throughout the nation: large, small, public, private, research-intensive universities; emerging research institutions; minority-serving institutions; hospital affiliates; independent research labs; and statewide systems;
 - prompt and thoughtful feedback on early-stage proposals for improvements in grants management and a diverse test bed for implementation of new research grant-related requirements, processes, and policies; and
 - a group of affiliate organizations that share the FDP's goals.



SUCCESS STORIES

Expanded Authorities—Agencies confer operating authorities to the grantee for cost-related and other prior approval requirements for many activities and expenditures.

FDP Subaward Agreement—A model subaward agreement that may be used by any institution.

Standard Government-Wide Terms and Conditions

Piloted as the FDP Terms and Conditions, these applied to grants made by federal awarding agencies to educational and nonprofit organizations, prior to the implementation of Uniform Guidance.



Michelle Bulls, National Institutes of Health, and Jean Feldman, National Science Foundation



Richard Seligman, California Institute of Technology; Cynthia Hope, FDP Chair, The University of Alabama; and Alexandra McKeown, Johns Hopkins University

Public Health Service (PHS) Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) Clearinghouse—In 2012, the PHS issued new regulations concerning the oversight of FCOIs in research. The result was increased administrative workload in ensuring that each institution and all of its subrecipients were in compliance with the new rules. In response, the FDP created the PHS FCOI Clearinghouse. This is an online system where any institution can easily certify that it is compliant with the regulations and search to confirm the compliance of other institutions.

Faculty Workload Survey

The FDP conducted two surveys of faculty researchers at the FDP member institutions located nationwide. The first survey received more than 6,000 responses and the second more than 13,000. The data from both surveys clearly indicate that the various administrative responsibilities associated with managing federal research grants significantly reduce the amount of time available for faculty to actively engage in research.



Project Certification—The project certification pilot provided a practical alternative to the traditional method of salary certification, known as “effort reporting.” The pilot demonstrated that certification of salaries at the project level, rather than the individual level, can be a more efficient and effective approach to salary certification. Project certification can now be implemented under the cost principles that are part of the Uniform Guidance.



FDP PHASE VI COMMITTEES

- Executive Committee
- Operational Standing Committees:
 - Membership
 - Finance
 - Communications
- Programmatic Standing Committees:
 - Faculty
 - Emerging Research Institutions
 - Enhancing Faculty Involvement
 - Faculty Workload Survey
 - Research Pipeline
 - Electronic Research Administration (eRA)
 - Data Act
 - Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap
 - Integrated Acquisition Environment
 - Streamlining Proposal Submission
 - 21st Century Tools for the FDP
 - Research Administration
 - Contracts
 - Open Government
 - Subawards
 - Expanded Clearinghouse
 - Federal Research Terms and Conditions
 - Finance, Costing, and Audit
 - Administrative Costs
 - Payroll Certification
 - Uniform Guidance Procurement Requirements
 - Research Compliance
 - Animal Subjects
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Data Stewardship
 - Export Controls
 - Human Subjects
 - Lab Safety



SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS



- Address Uniform Guidance requirements for procurement
- Examine common issues in 2012 Faculty Workload Survey and the National Dialogue: Improving Federal Procurement and Grants Processes
- Conduct third Faculty Workload Survey
- Develop data repository for streamlined subrecipient monitoring
- Participate in the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) pilot

Debbie Rafi
Office of Naval Research

Charisse Carney-Nunes
National Science Foundation

Ed Calimag
Grants.gov

The FDP is a unique forum for individuals from universities and nonprofits to work collaboratively with federal agency officials to improve the national research enterprise. The FDP is currently in its sixth phase, which began in September 2014, and is composed of 10 federal agencies and 154 institutional recipients of federal funds.

EVOLUTION OF THE FDP

1985—Pre-FDP

Hearing and report by the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) on “Reducing Bureaucratic Accretion in Government and University Procedures for Sponsored Research.”

1986—FDP

Creation of the Florida Demonstration Project to develop and test new grants management procedures. Founding members are five major federal research and development agencies (U.S. Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Office of Naval Research, U.S. Department of Agriculture), the Florida State University System, and the University of Miami.

1988—FDP II

Expansion through a competitive process to include 45 institutions in 14 states and 10 federal agencies; renamed the Federal Demonstration Project, Phase II.

1996—FDP III

Designated the Federal Demonstration Partnership, Phase III. Membership broadens to include an additional 20 institutions, 1 federal agency, and 7 professional associations. Increased faculty participation is realized, bringing an exciting new dimension to the partnership.

2002—FDP IV

Federal Demonstration Partnership, Phase IV. Target efforts were to increase the participation of minority-serving institutions and emerging research institutions. On the institutional side, the activities of the faculty representatives were more focused and more closely interwoven into the fabric of the FDP. On the federal side, more federal auditors and costing officials were involved in task forces and committees working to reduce administrative burden.

2008—FDP V

Federal Demonstration Partnership, Phase V. Projects included the Science and Technology for America’s Reinvestment: Measuring the Effect of Research on Innovation, Competitiveness and Science; (STAR METRICS) pilot; A-133 subrecipient monitoring; project certification pilot; Grants.gov; Joint Application Design (JAD) team; Faculty Workload survey; and allocating administrative cost.

2014—FDP VI

Federal Demonstration Partnership, Phase VI. There is plenty to do during the current phase. The newly issued Uniform Guidance on Administrative Requirements, a rewrite of several Office of Management and Budget Circulars, is the source for several projects. Also slated for Phase VI is an expansion of the PHS FCOI Clearinghouse to include more types of data in order to streamline subrecipient monitoring. Deeper analysis of the Faculty Workload Survey is also providing inspiration for several projects.

For more information about the FDP, please visit our website at www.thefdp.org

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