

FDP Subaward Forms Frequently Asked Questions

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General Template Questions

1. I'm an FDP member institution. Am I required to use the FDP Subaward Templates?

The FDP templates offer institutions many benefits. The FDP Subaward Template has been developed and vetted over many years by member institutions and agencies for federal awards. The result is a streamlined, standard set of terms and conditions that have been widely accepted, that comply with federal regulations and policies, and that enable expedited review and negotiation of routine subawards between member institutions. Because of these widely recognized benefits, the FDP subaward templates are used by both member and non-member institutions.

FDP members must meet certain common organizational standards. For example, FDP Phase VI members have affirmed, via their execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that they adhere to federally-compliant management and administrative procedures and systems. They also affirm that they are not suspended, debarred or otherwise excluded from federal programs. These shared characteristics among member institutions allows for the use of the simplified FDP templates. Via the MOU, members have agreed to “participate actively in...new or ongoing FDP demonstrations and pilots” and to “continue efforts to reengineer and streamline internal processes...” toward the overarching goal of reducing administrative burden. The FDP Subaward Template represents a tremendously successful and ongoing demonstration project of the FDP.

For these reasons, use of the subaward templates is an expectation of FDP membership. Specifically, the templates must be used between FDP member institutions when the federal award is from an FDP federal agency. Use of the templates is also highly encouraged between FDP member institutions when the federal award is from a non-FDP federal agency.

While FDP members should use the FDP subaward templates when collaborating with other FDP member institutions on routine subawards, it is recognized that there may be limited circumstances where the PTE may need to add specific

provisions when subrecipients are deemed high risk or when the award contains special provisions that need to be flowed down. Attachment 2 allows for this flexibility.

2. May I use the FDP Subaward Template with non-FDP members? - REVISED

Yes. As outlined on the FDP website, any FDP or non-FDP member may use the Subaward Templates, subject to their institutional practices and FDP guidance.

For non-member institutions, you may use the Templates appropriately by using them as-is. If you choose to modify the Templates, then we ask that you respect the Template language, and remove the FDP moniker so that it is clear the FDP Standard Template language was altered. Adding pages of additional terms and conditions in Attachment 2 that may conflict with other terms or sections of the FDP Template language is not an appropriate use of the Templates. (See FAQs 5 and 37).

3. Is the FDP Subaward Template permissible to use for non-federal awards?

The FDP Subaward Templates were designed to expedite review among FDP member institutions under *federal assistance awards*. Therefore, referenced terms and conditions would likely not be appropriate or applicable to non-federal awards. As noted on the FDP Subaward Forms page on the FDP website, “the FDP makes no representation or warranties regarding the suitability of these forms for use on any Federal or non-Federal sponsored projects. It is the pass-through entity’s responsibility to ensure all required terms and conditions flow down to a subrecipient. All users utilize these forms at their own risk.”

As an option, PTEs can review the **FDP Subcontract Template** as a guide in the development of customized templates. These templates contain a full listing of clauses, such as intellectual property (IP) and indemnification, which may be helpful. As noted in question 5 below, if the PTE chooses to modify these templates for non-federal awards, the templates should not be presented as FDP templates. Federal contract terms should be removed, and the PTE may choose to include a copy of the Notice of Award as an attachment.

4. Our legal counsel would like to make a change to the FDP template terms and conditions. May we do this?

The FDP Subaward forms should not be changed by member institutions, beyond the editable parameters of the templates (i.e., Attachment 2), when issuing subawards to other member institutions. There are two primary reasons for this.

First, the FDP Subaward Template is a collaborative document for which member institutions and agencies have developed, revised, and vetted over many years. This collaboration has resulted in a federally-compliant, and widely accepted, set of standard terms and conditions. Member institutions have come to expect this streamlined standard form of agreement when negotiating routine subawards with other member institutions. This is consistent with the FDP’s mission to minimize administrative burden.

Second, the FDP Subaward Template represents a successful, ongoing demonstration project in which FDP members are expected to take part. As such, use of the templates as published by FDP members represents a condition of their membership, and changes should be limited only to those sections of the template specifically designed for this purpose (i.e., Additional Terms section of Attachment 2). This provides sufficient flexibility to member institutions to allow for

incorporation of essential state-specific laws, special terms and conditions of the federal award that need to be flowed down, or special instructions for high-risk subrecipients.

5. Are there any circumstances where the FDP Subaward Templates may be edited?

Institutions can choose at their own risk to make edits to the FDP Subaward templates for their own purposes and issue their own form of agreement. However, they MUST remove references to FDP anywhere it appears within the template and the agreement should look distinct. This is necessary to facilitate review and make clear to the subrecipient that commonly accepted FDP subaward standards/language have been changed, and that the version is not that which has been agreed upon by the FDP membership.

6. Prior to becoming an FDP member institution, we used our own subaward templates. Our standard templates requested that final invoices be submitted no later than 45 days after the subaward end date, but now it looks like we're stuck to 60 days! Am I allowed to change this? If not, how do I explain this to our financial office and legal counsel? - REVISED

As covered in the invoicing section of these FAQs, the 60 days should not be changed except under rare and extenuating circumstances.

The FDP's position, after significant discussion in previous FDP meetings and on the listserv, is that 60 days is adequate time for the subrecipient to prepare its final statement of costs, while also providing sufficient time for the PTE to meet the Federal sponsor's financial closeout requirements. The participating federal agencies of the Research Terms and Conditions, which were finalized in March 2017, have published as part of the Uniform Guidance §200.343 Closeout provision that unless otherwise specified in the Agency Specific requirements "The non-Federal entity must submit, no later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance, all financial, performance, and other reports required by the terms and conditions of the Federal award."

Many FDP member institutions are unable to submit a final invoice in less than 60 days. It takes time to review final expenditure reports, which may not be received until 10 to 15 days after the end date. If corrections are needed, it will take an additional month to receive the next expenditure report and verify that corrections were properly made. The purpose of the 60-day deadline for the final invoice is to allow time for review, correction, re-review/verification, and invoice preparation/submission. The 60 days also allows for time to liquidate any remaining open encumbrances at the end of the project. Shortening the 60-day time frame would increase the risk that invoice corrections (and potentially revised financial reports) would be needed, which in turn results in more administrative burden and tension between the PTE and subrecipient.

An appropriate exception to the 60-day rule would be for the issuance of 2nd-tier subawards. The 2nd tier PTE may edit the template to a lower number of days for the final invoice, if agreed to by both entities, in order to meet the sponsor's financial closeout requirements.

7. How are the templates built and maintained? - NEW

FDP templates are available through the FDP website at http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_063626, and can be easily accessed using Adobe Reader. The PDF form-fillable documents are built in Adobe Document Cloud (DC) and are the preferred template format utilized by the FDP because they allow members to input information, but are also pre-populated with the standard set of terms and conditions, as noted in "General Template Question #1." The end

user cannot modify the pre-populated information or add new data to the form, except in the fields that are designed to be fillable; therefore, the fillable PDF's comply with the FDP's decision to offer templates that are not meant to be recycled or edited.

Fillable PDF's make the subaward issuance process less burdensome because they incorporate the standard set of terms and conditions and provide consistency. Because the Word document format allows for total document editing; the FDP does not offer templates in Word format.

Information regarding how to complete, save, and print fillable PDF forms can be found at the following link:
<https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/filling-pdf-forms.html#>.

All templates are updated annually through the efforts of an FDP working group. Revised versions are posted to the FDP Subaward Agreement Forms page every September, or as needed to address changes in federal requirements. They are updated annually through efforts of the Templates Working Group with feedback from membership.

8. Can I use these templates with different entity types (ex. non-profit hospitals, for-profit, etc)? - NEW

Yes, you may use these templates with various entity types. One of the reasons the FDP templates is so flexible is because of the Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs) codified by many of our federal agency partners. The RTCs are applicable to many federal agencies and provide consistent guidance across agencies as to applicable regulations and administrative requirements for grants and cooperative agreements subject to the Uniform Guidance. The RTCs also include a matrix outlining applicable cost principles and the applicability of various other regulatory and administrative provisions by entity type. This can be found in Appendix B-Subaward Requirements of the RTCs. NSF chose to host the RTCs on behalf of all the participating federal agencies on their website at <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>.

The RTCs are incorporated within the context of the FDP template. By using the FDP template and selecting the appropriate federal agency, you will incorporate the appropriate RTCs. It is important to keep in mind that not all the participating federal agencies implemented the RTCs on the same effective date nor to all their award types. See the Agency Implementation Statements at <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>.

While Appendix B outlines the applicable cost principles and administrative requirements to various entity types, which can be flowed down appropriately, many of these entity types may not be FDP members, for example, for-profit organizations. When contemplating the use of the FDP templates with non-member institutions, your institution should also consider their comfort level in using the templates with that entity type, as well as the project at hand. For instance, some institutions choose to not use the templates with non-member institutions in order to include additional terms required by their organizations, such as insurance requirements. For clarity, the FDP subaward templates were designed to best fit subawards under federal awards to other academic and research institutions subject to single audit requirements. [See also FAQ #2]

Modifications - Bilateral & Unilateral - NEW SECTION

9. Under what conditions is it appropriate to use the Unilateral Modification instead of the Bilateral Modification template? - NEW

A Unilateral Modification template may only be used when the option is selected on the face page of the original agreement that unilateral modifications may be used to issue non-substantive changes to the agreement. The Unilateral Modification template is to be used only in the following specific situations which constitute a non-substantive change in the agreement:

- A. A standard no-cost extension is approved.
- B. An anticipated funding increment for when an incrementally-funded award is approved (note the affirmation in that section that the PTE affirms the budget was not reduced, nor was reduced by less than 10% of the proposed budget for that increment/year). The increment is captured on the Unilateral Modification under “The total amount authorized for Year ___ is as follows”. Funding increments that represent a cut in the proposed amount by more than 10% will need to be issued via Bilateral Modification; a detailed budget can be added as Appendix A (just check the bottom-most option in the template to note the attachment).
- C. In the instances where automatic carryforward is not allowed, a Unilateral Modification can approve carryover funds to the subsequent funding period. There are boxes to indicate the amount of direct, indirect, and total costs approved for carryover; a detailed budget can be added as Appendix A (just check the bottom-most option in the template to note the attachment).
- D. When additional funding for the current period is provided, the Unilateral Modification can be used to indicate amounts of direct, indirect, and total costs provided in additional funding; a detailed budget can be added as Appendix A (just check the bottom-most option in the template to note the attachment).
- E. Other non-substantive changes, such as a change in subaward number (including multi-year subawards), may be done via Unilateral Modification.

10. I need to change the CFDA # or other data element required per §200.331 (a) on a current subaward. May I do this through a unilateral modification? - NEW

No, you must use a bilateral modification to change a key required data element such as the CFDA #. Because the CFDA # and FAIN are used in reporting for the Single Audit, it is crucial that the PTE obtains the concurrence from the subrecipient that they understand and have recorded the change in these key data elements.

Invoicing and Final Statement of Cumulative Costs

11. What constitutes a proper invoice? - NEW

A proper invoice is one that meets the requirements of 2 CFR 200.305, includes the required invoice elements from Terms and Condition #2 of the Agreement Terms and Conditions on the face page, is submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the Agreement, contains costs that are deemed allowable, allocable, reasonable, and in line with scope of work progress to date, and includes a certification, as required in the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.415 (a) and described in FAQ 17.

12. What is the risk to the subrecipient if not submitting timely invoices to the PTE? - NEW

The risk of submitting untimely invoices is that the PTE may elect to not pay invoices if they are submitted after the contractually required invoicing timeframes. The PTE needs to pay invoices before the sponsor’s required reporting/payment timeframe and within the PTE’s accounting closeout timeframe to ensure recoupment of sponsor funds. Untimely invoicing may also result in the increase of the subrecipient’s risk level.

13. Why was “no less frequently than quarterly” added to the templates? - NEW

This language was added to the Agreement to ensure that PTEs are receiving invoices for costs incurred at a minimum quarterly to ensure the PTE can adequately monitor the subrecipient’s financial progress. Based on PTE experiences, awards that are not being regularly spent down may be reduced by the sponsor in the next year and large drawdowns at the end of the period may raise red flags for audit. If delays in invoicing are anticipated or no expenses have been incurred, then the subrecipient should communicate with the appropriate PTE contacts to ensure the PTE can monitor in accordance with federal award requirements.

14. Do I need to issue an invoice quarterly even if no expenses have been incurred (a zero-dollar invoice)? - NEW

No, the language specifically states that invoices should be submitted “not less frequently than quarterly for allowable costs incurred”, which means that if no costs have been incurred, no invoice needs to be submitted. However, communication with the appropriate PTE contact is recommended if expenses are not being incurred.

15. Should invoices be submitted through email or U.S. Mail? - NEW

Since invoice payment requirements start 30 days from receipt of invoice, email is the preferred method of submission. The FDP templates are also designed to encourage email submission for efficiency of time and resources in Attachment 3A, however the option for U.S. Mail is still available for those institutions who require it.

16. Why is the final statement of cumulative costs submitted to the PTE no later than 60 days? Can I edit this number on the subaward templates to accommodate my institution’s policies?

Except under rare, extenuating circumstances, the 60 days should not be edited. The FDP’s position, after significant discussion in previous FDP meetings and on the listserv, is that 60 days is adequate time for the subrecipient to prepare its final statement of costs, while also providing sufficient time for the PTE to meet the Federal sponsor’s financial closeout requirements. The participating federal agencies of the Research Terms and Conditions, which were finalized in March 2017, have published as part of the Uniform Guidance §200.343 Closeout provision that unless otherwise specified in the Agency Specific requirements “The non-Federal entity must submit, no later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance, all financial, performance, and other reports required by the terms and conditions of the Federal award.” Many FDP member institutions are unable to submit a final invoice in less than 60 days. Some of the reasons include:

- Institutions that distribute to their campuses expenditure reports 10-15 days after the end of month will not be able see their final subaward charges until the end date + 15 days, and then may need to make some corrections. In this scenario, that institution would not be able to verify that their corrections were correctly processed until they receive the subsequent monthly expenditure report – which would already be 40-45 days after the subaward end date. The purpose of the 60 days after subaward end due date for the final invoice is to allow this review, correction, re-review/verification, and then invoice preparation and submission process to properly occur. If sufficient time does not exist, it greatly increases the need for revised invoices and potentially revised financial reports. This in turn results in undue administrative burden and unnecessary tension between the PTE and the subrecipient.

- When a subrecipient receives their first monthly financial expenditure report after the subaward end date, they may recognize that certain costs remain encumbered but a final charge has not yet posted to their financial system. Using a 60-day due date allows the subrecipient to promptly and aggressively follow-up on open encumbrances to make sure that by the next month, costs are properly charged and can be collected from the PTE on the final invoice. An exception to the 60-day rule would be for the issuance of 2nd-tier subawards. The 2nd tier PTE may edit the template to a lower # of days for the final invoice, if agreed to by both entities, in order to meet the sponsor’s financial closeout requirements.

17. What are the elements that are required in an invoice for cost reimbursement subawards?

All invoices must be submitted using the subrecipient’s standard invoice, but at a minimum must include the following:

- Current and cumulative costs (including cost sharing) broken down by major expenditure categories (the names of the expenditure categories may vary depending on your financial system);
- Subaward number (invoices that do not reference the pass-through entity (PTE) subaward number could be returned to subrecipient by the PTE); and
- A certification, as required in the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.415 (a). The certification states: “By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise.” (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812).

The FDP understands that institutions have varying systems that may automate invoicing. The following data elements are recommended in addition to the above:

- Date of Invoice;
- Invoice Number – Identify each payment request by a unique invoice number, which can only be used one time;
- Subaward Period of Performance – as it appears on the subaward agreement;
- Invoice/Billing Period – the beginning and end dates (month, day and year) of the period in which costs were incurred and for which reimbursement is claimed;
- Subrecipient Name, Address, Point of Contact for questions;
- Remittance address – if different from the business address; and
- Program Income (if any).

18. How should the PTE reflect specific instructions for invoicing in the subaward templates? - REVISED

PTEs can reflect invoicing instructions by doing the following:

- Reflect the invoicing address in Attachment 3A under ‘Invoice Address.’ A textbox has been added to this section to include the invoicing address.
- Include any special invoicing instructions in Attachment 4 under ‘Other Special Reporting Requirements’, such as format (electronic PDF or mailed hard copy), number of copies, etc.

- In special and limited circumstances, the PTE may indicate other invoicing instructions to meet sponsor requirements or to address high-risk concerns, if necessary. PTEs should be sure to provide explanation for additional requirements to subrecipients.

19. If the remittance/payment address differs from the business address, where should that be reflected in the subaward templates? - REVISED

Subrecipients should:

- Reflect the remittance address on page one of Attachment 3B under ‘Payment Address.’
- Always include a “remit to” address as part of its standard invoice.

20. If the subrecipient has a cost sharing commitment, how should cost sharing budget information be addressed in the subaward? - NEW

Cost sharing budget information should be addressed in Attachment 5. In the “Cost Sharing” drop down menu, the PTE should select “Yes” and include sufficient budget detail for the cost share. The PTE has the option to include this detail in the “Budget Details” box, or as a separate attachment to Attachment 5 if additional space is needed. Please note that if the subrecipient has a cost sharing commitment, only the Cost Reimbursement Subaward Template should be used.

21. How should the PTE address invoicing for cost sharing in the Subaward when the Subrecipient has a cost sharing commitment? - NEW

When the PTE chooses “Yes” from the Cost Sharing drop down menu in Attachment 5 (where budget information is addressed), then Attachment 4 will automatically be updated to include a space where the PTE can specify reporting instructions for cost sharing. This reporting is necessary to demonstrate that cost sharing obligations of the subrecipient have been met under the federal award. Please note that if the subrecipient has a cost sharing commitment, only the Cost Reimbursement Subaward Template should be used. Use Attachment 4 for additional reporting requirements for cost sharing.

Uniform Guidance (UG) data elements contained in the FDP Subaward Templates

22. How can I ensure that the required UG data elements per §200.331 (a) are included in the FDP Subaward templates?

An FDP working group was formed in the fall of 2014 to interpret the data elements and update the FDP subaward templates to incorporate the required UG data elements. That working group created a document table titled **APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF REQUIRED SUBAWARD DATA ELEMENTS & LOCATION IN UPDATED SUBAWARD TEMPLATES**, which is appended to this FAQ document.

OMB has since issued technical corrections to the Uniform Guidance on September 10, 2015. Some data elements were clarified. The FDP closely monitors revisions to the required data elements and updates as appropriate to ensure the latest information is included in the templates and UG data elements table.

23. What is the definition of *Subaward Period of Performance Start and End Date*, per UG §200.331(v)?

The ***Subaward Period of Performance (Budget Period)*** field on the face page of the FDP Cost Reimbursement, Fixed Price, and Amendment Subaward Templates meets the UG requirement of **§200.331(v) *Subaward Period of Performance Start and End Date***. It is the period for which the subaward is being made, based both on the PTE's prime federal award and PTE's discretion. For instance, if the prime federal award for a multi-year project is authorized in annual increments, then the PTE could authorize incremental periods in the subaward. On the other hand, if funding for the entire project period is authorized in the prime federal award, then the PTE may also authorize the entire period in the subaward. However, the PTE may always elect to award shorter increments than those authorized by the federal award. This would be communicated to the subrecipient on the face page of the template (and amendments as applicable) via the ***Subaward Period of Performance End Date***.

In contrast to the ***Subaward Period of Performance***, the ***Estimated Project Period*** on the face page is the total project period for which work is *planned* to be performed by the subrecipient. The end dates of these periods may not be the same. For example, if the subaward on a multi-year project is to be incrementally funded by the PTE, the end date of the ***Subaward Period of Performance*** on the face page of the Subaward Template will be prior to the ***Estimated Project Period*** end date. On the other hand, the end dates would match if the PTE elects to authorize the full project period to the subrecipient (consistent with the PTE's prime federal award). However, in no event should the end date of the ***Subaward Period of Performance*** exceed the end date of the ***Estimated Project Period***.

It is important to note that the ***Estimated Project Period*** is not final, since many factors - such as changes in the PTE's prime award or the subrecipient performance - can affect the subaward's future year award amounts and end dates. PTE's will need to monitor these factors throughout the award lifecycle, and issue modifications accordingly.

When issuing an Amendment to a subrecipient to extend the subaward period of performance, see FAQ #24.

24. When issuing an amendment, what should be the *Start Date* under *Subaward Period of Performance*? Is it the start date of this action? Or, the original start date of the agreement? - REVISED

In general, the start date of the ***Subaward Period of Performance*** on the amendment template should **match** the start date of the ***Subaward Period of Performance*** date included on the original subaward, to reflect the start date of the overall subaward. The ***Effective Date*** of the amendment will indicate the date the amendment takes effect. Therefore, if you have a project that is incrementally funded in annual installments, the PTE may choose to use the start date of the annual budget period as the ***Effective Date***. *If there is a need to indicate a "budget period" as defined by the federal awarding agency, this can be reflected in the text of the subaward amendment. For institutions that issue amendments*

for projects that do not have automatic carryforward, the subaward start date does not need to change to reflect the current budget period. For more information on best practices on the management of carryover for subrecipients, see **Appendix 2 - Carryover Guidance**.

25. Are the *Estimated Project Period* and *Incrementally Estimated Total* required fields?

According to OMB, §200.331(viii) *Total Amount of the Federal Award committed to the subrecipient by the pass-through entity* as stated in the UG is a required field, and indicates the amount *planned* to be issued to a subrecipient in the future. This field is captured in the FDP Subaward face page under *Incrementally Estimated Total*. The FDP's position is that these elements should always be completed on the face page in order for subrecipients to track anticipated funds. PTEs and subrecipients should be aware that the information provided in this field is an estimated commitment, since the final obligated amount will be contingent upon actual funding under the prime award (which may be reduced in out years), continued subrecipient performance, and/or budget or program changes that cannot reasonably be anticipated at the time of issuance of the subaward.

26. Can you define the *Incrementally Estimated Total*?

Incrementally Estimated Total was incorporated into the FDP subaward templates to address the UG data requirements §200.331(viii) *Total Amount of the Federal Award committed to the subrecipient by the pass-through entity*, which was clarified by OMB on 9/10/2015. This is a required data element according to UG and should be completed by the PTE. According to OMB, "committed" is the planned, dedicated, or promised amount from the PTE to the subrecipient.

For example, if a PTE plans to issue a three-year research project of \$400,000 to a subrecipient, \$100,000 for first two years and \$200,000 for the third year, the *Incrementally Estimated Total* should be \$400,000. FDP sees *Incrementally Estimated Total* as meeting the requirement for UG as many factors can affect the future year award amounts. For example, the prime awardee's issuance of a subaward is contingent upon the issuance of the federal award to the PTE. A subrecipient's performance can also impact future year amounts. PTEs will need to monitor such contingencies throughout the lifecycle of an award.

27. Can you verify how the subaward templates incorporates UG §200.331 (a) (vi) - *Amount of Federal Funds Obligated by this action by the pass-through entity to the subrecipient*?

This is captured on the face pages of both the Cost Reimbursement (CR) and Fixed Price (FP) subaward templates under the field **Amount Funded This Action**. This is also captured on the **Amendment** templates. For example, if a PTE plans to issue a three-year research project of \$400,000 to a subrecipient, \$100,000 per year for the first two years and \$200,000 for the third year, the amount entered in the "Amount Funded This Action" field for the first (original) subaward agreement would be for \$100,000, the amount for year 2 would be \$100,000, and the amount for year 3 would be \$200,000.

28. Can you clarify how UG §200.331 (a) (vii) - *Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated to the subrecipient by the pass-through entity including current obligation* is captured on the subaward templates?

This is captured in the Amendment templates under **Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated to Date**. For example, a PTE plans to issue a three-year project of \$400,000 to a subrecipient at \$100,000 per year for first two years and

\$200,000 for the third year. In year 2, if an Amendment is issued, \$200,000 would be indicated in this field (for years 1 and 2).

29. Does the subrecipient need the FAIN number?

Yes! The subrecipient needs the FAIN number. It is a requirement per UG in [§200.331 \(a\) \(iii\)](#).

The federal sponsors are required to include the FAIN number in the NoA per UG [§200.210 \(a\) \(3\)](#). PTEs should pay close attention to when the NoA was issued, the terms and conditions included, and if that NoA obligates new or incremental funding subject to UG. If yes, the NoA has to have a FAIN number. If a Federal sponsor did not include the FAIN number or any other required data elements, and they should have (because it is subject to UG) then it is the responsibility of the PTE to contact the sponsor to obtain a corrected NoA.

30. Some of our subrecipients request that we, as the PTE, include a copy of the federal award with our subaward agreement. What should we do? -

The FDP strongly recommends including the full NoA with redacted information as necessary. If your NoA contains information that you do not wish your subrecipient to view (examples include restrictions specific to the primary PI) then you can redact information by blacking out information on the NoA. As a PTE, you have privity with your subrecipients and the prime federal agency. The subrecipient does not have privity with the federal agency. The subrecipient may request the PTE to flow down certain clauses or request that you attach the NoA, but they cannot require it.

31. How are you incorporating the Uniform Guidance (UG) data elements into your lower tier subaward agreements? This would be the situation when your institution receives federal flow through funds from a Pass Through Entity (PTE) and will pass a portion onto a third lower tier institution. I'm not sure how to reflect the required data elements to a third tier entity.

Each PTE, regardless of tier, is responsible for flowing down all required data elements under the UG, plus any other additional elements. See **Attachment 1**, which is appended to this FAQ document.

Some fields, such as the FAIN, CFDA, CFDA Title, Federal Award Number, Federal Awarding Agency, Federal Award Issue Date, and identification of whether the award is R&D should all come from the federal Notice of Award. Other fields, such as the Subaward No., Subaward Period of Performance, Estimated Project Period, Incrementally Estimated Total and dollar amounts obligated and committed to the subaward are specific to the PTE's award to the subrecipient.

32. Can you clarify the checkbox "This Subaward Is: Research & Development" located in Attachment 2? Is it meant to identify the primary award as R&D? Or, the subrecipient's subaward as R&D? - REVISED

PTEs should indicate whether the federal Notice of Award (NoA) made to the PTE is a Research & Development (R&D) award. The definition of R&D is in UG §200.87 is "R&D means all research activities, both basic and applied, and all development activities that are performed by non-Federal entities. The term research also includes activities involving the training of individuals in research techniques where such activities utilize the same facilities as other research and development activities and where such activities are not included in the instruction function." The Federal agencies are required to include whether the award is R&D in the prime NoA. The subaward template has this checkbox pre-selected

by default in order to ensure the PTE flows this data element down to the subrecipient, as required by the Uniform Guidance.

Compliance Related Questions and Attachment 2

33. Please explain how the Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs) and National Policy Requirements are included in the subaward templates to flow-down to subrecipients. How can I ensure I am including all policy requirements? - REVISED

Uniform Guidance 200.300 directs federal agencies to communicate all public policy requirements with which recipients must comply. The Research Terms & Conditions (RTCs) were released on March 14, 2017, and its Appendices continue to be updated as each participating federal agency implements the RTCs at various effective dates. The National Policy Requirements are included as Appendix C with the RTCs.

NSF is hosting the RTCs, Appendices, and individual agency specific requirements on behalf of all the federal participating agencies on their website at <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>. You will see this link in General Term and Condition #4 in Attachment 2.

The RTCs are incorporated into the subaward templates, therefore, making it possible to flow-down all necessary statutory and regulatory requirements to subrecipients when a federal agency participated in the RTCs. However, there are two things to note:

- The participating federal agencies implemented the RTCs at various times, per their Agency Implementation Statements (see <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>). It is recommended to attach the federal NOA for those agencies that have not fully implemented the RTCs.
- Not all federal agencies participated in the RTCs. If issuing a subaward under a federal agency that did not participate in the RTCs, it is recommended to attach a copy of the NOA with the subaward to ensure all applicable terms, conditions and statutes are properly flowed down.
- See FAQ #8 for more information.

34. I noticed that the FDP subaward templates now include IRB / IACUC language and requirements. Could you please clarify: what is the intended scope of this language? Why has this been added? Does this replace anything? - NEW

This section of the templates, called 'Work Involving Human or Vertebrate Animals', contains two parts:

- a. **Language/Certification** - The FDP Subawards Subcommittee seeks to reduce the amount of negotiation time between member institutions by including minimal terms and conditions. Member institutions suggested including language highlighting IRB / IACUC information, when applicable, to ensure compliance for both the subrecipient and the PTE. This language is intended to clearly articulate if human subjects or vertebrate animals will be used in the course of the research project. It includes a certification from the subrecipient to ensure it is responsible for obtaining the appropriate, valid approvals consistent with the project, and will not invoice the PTE for any human or vertebrate animal

related expenses unless approvals are in place. This section is not to replace reliance agreements or other MOUs as may be required by your IRB / IACUC.

- b. **Verification of IRB and/or IACUC approval** - Options are provided for PTEs to instruct subrecipients on how to provide verification of IRB and/or IACUC approvals. PTEs may choose to request verification 'upon request' or prior to subaward execution (either initially or annually thereafter). They may even forgo requesting it at all by providing a justification. Options became available to alleviate the burden of requesting additional (or providing) paperwork since the subrecipient certifies it will obtain the appropriate approvals in the preceding section.

However, institutional policies, or sponsor requirements, may dictate which option a PTE must select in this section. For example, the Department of Defense (DoD) will issue the PTE an award with a restriction that expenses cannot be incurred for human / animal expenses until their IRB / IACUC oversight body has approved the approval letters of both the PTE and subrecipient. In situations such as this we recommend that you should use the special terms box to alert the subrecipient to the restriction and copy and paste the language directly from the DoD NOA (or attach a copy of the NOA).

35. As a PTE, we want to ensure we meet the subrecipient monitoring requirements under the Uniform Guidance, §200.331 Requirements for Pass-Through Entities. Can I include a subrecipient monitoring plan in my subaward agreement as an additional attachment?

Subrecipient monitoring plans should not be included when working with low risk institutions, as determined by the PTE's internal guidelines for assessing risk and in accordance with the Uniform Guidance. When entering into a contractual relationship with a high risk institution, the PTE may, at its discretion, append or include a subrecipient monitoring plan to set forth additional reporting and compliance requirements for the high risk subrecipient. This should be included in Attachment 2 where additional special terms can be included, and appended as an additional attachment.

PTEs must communicate with the subrecipient institution to let them know of the additional special terms and reasons for the inclusions per the Uniform Guidance [§200.207\(c\)](#). At times, PTEs may need to include special terms to low-risk institutions due to project-specific complexities. PTEs have an obligation to communicate these special terms to subrecipients ahead of the issuance of the subawards, and provide justifications.

36. How should additional terms and conditions for high risk subrecipients be incorporated into the FDP subaward agreement templates? - REVISED

Attachment 2 has space for "Additional Special Terms" which a PTE may use to include special terms and instructions for high-risk subrecipients. Examples include references to an appended subrecipient monitoring plan, special invoicing instructions (such as format, back-up documentation, etc.) and special progress reporting instructions. For additional reporting instructions - use Attachment 4.

As stated earlier, whether including special terms for high-risk subrecipients, or project-specific terms to low-risk subrecipients, the PTE must communicate these terms to the subrecipient ahead of the issuance of the subaward, with justifications.

If planning to issue a subaward to a foreign entity, consider using the FDP Subaward Agreements with International Collaborators, which contains additional terms such as choice of law, and provides additional options for PTEs for reporting instructions.

37. In Attachment 2, what is the intent of the “Additional Terms” box? - NEW

The intended use of the “Additional Terms” box is to include reasonable terms and conditions that the PTE may need to incorporate into the FDP Template, such as state-specific laws, project-specific terms and additional restrictions for subrecipients identified as high risk. FDP strongly discourages the use of this space for generic imposition of additional terms like choice of law, insurance requirements, and indemnification. Additionally, PTEs should not include terms that may conflict with any term in the FDP Template language.

The FDP Subaward Template should not be changed by member institutions when issuing subawards to other member institutions. Use of the Templates, as published by FDP members, represents a condition of their membership and changes should be limited. Using Attachment 2 to modify sections of the FDP Template is a misuse of the Templates and is in direct conflict with the FDP mission (See FAQ 4).

For non-member institutions, you may use the Templates appropriately by using them as-is. If you choose to modify the Templates, then we ask that you respect the Template language, and remove the FDP moniker so that it is clear the FDP Standard Template language was altered. Adding pages of additional terms and conditions in Attachment 2 that may conflict with other terms or sections of the FDP Template language is not an appropriate use of the Templates. (See FAQ 5).

38. How should termination for non-compliance be included in an FDP agreement?

Termination for any reason is addressed in the FDP Cost Reimbursement Research Subaward Agreement face page, Terms and Condition #9, and in the FDP Fixed Price Research Subaward Agreement face page, Terms and Condition #9.

39. I note that neither Attachment 1 nor 2 specifically refers to compliance with regulations governing human stem cell research. How can I ensure a subrecipient is compliant with these regulations? - REVISED

In the Uniform Guidance, §200.300 *Statutory and National Policy Requirements*, federal agencies are directed to communicate all public policy requirements with which recipients must comply and incorporate them either directly or by reference in the terms and conditions of the federal award. *Appendix C - National Policy Requirements* of the Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs) contains the Human Stem Cell Research regulation in accordance with the President's Executive Order 13505 of March 9, 2009, and July 30, 2009 Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies. See NIH Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research, July 7, 2009 at <https://stemcells.nih.gov/policy/2009-guidelines.htm>. Because the RTCs are incorporated into the Subaward Templates, it was not necessary to state this regulation in either Attachments 1 or 2.

In the rare case where a project requires use of human stem cells of a type or in a manner that requires approval as per NIH policy, the PTE may choose to insert language in the subaward Attachment 2 “Additional Special Terms” to mirror

the following language: "This project involves human stem cell research. Subrecipient agrees to comply with the NIH Guidelines on Human Stem Cell Research, effective July 7, 2009. Requests for approval to utilize stem cell lines under this Subaward must be submitted to PTE to be forwarded, as appropriate, to the federal agency for approval."

40. I noticed the 2017 version of the subaward templates now has an option called 'Data Sharing and Access (Check if applicable)'. When should I check this box, and how has this section changed from the 2016 version of the templates? - REVISED

The intent of this section is to provide the PTE with the option of drawing attention to a separate Data Management or Data Sharing Plan that was included in the original proposal by the PTE to the federal agency. If the subrecipient is subject to complying with the PTE's Data Management or Sharing Plan, the subrecipient should be made aware of the contents of the plan. Therefore, the PTE has the option of including a copy of the plan in the subaward, providing additional language that provides the requirements for the subrecipient in the Additional Terms, or stating that the subrecipient may see the plan per their request. The PTE is not required to complete this section.

However, if the PTE knows a plan was included in the proposal but it is not referenced in the NOA, it is preferable to include a reference to it in the Additional Terms to make the subrecipient aware such a plan exists. As a best practice, if a data management plan or data sharing plan is specifically noted in the NOA, it is best to review the plan contained in the original proposal to see if the plan needs to be followed by the subrecipient and flowed down in the subaward. The subrecipient may have been involved in the development of the plan.

This checkbox was NOT intended to be used for policies concerning the public access of publications (for example, the NIH Public Access Policy). Compliance with public access to publications is already covered and referenced in sponsor policy statements and terms and conditions when checking the appropriate sponsoring agency on the first page of Attachment 2. To reduce confusion, the term 'public access' was removed from this section in the 2017 version of the templates.

41. The requirement to comply with and inform all employees of the "Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections" is retroactively effective for all assistance awards and subawards (including subcontracts) issued beginning July 1, 2013. When is Whistleblower protection certification to be included in the subaward? - REVISED

In 2013 the pilot program was enacted, effective until January 1, 2017, to protect employees against reprisal for certain whistleblowing activities in connection with federal grants and contracts.

The pilot phase has completed. The certification language has been moved from Attachment 2 to Attachment 1.

42. When must Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) certification be included in a subaward? - REVISED

Public Health Service (PHS) funded research includes regulations on the Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research (42 CFR Part 50 Subpart F), and part of that is the disclosure and management of Financial

Conflict of Interests (FCOIs) requirement. This requirement pertains to all PHS awarding components, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for grants, cooperative agreements, and research contracts. Attachment 2 includes the FCOI certification.

New to the 2017 version of the Subaward Templates is that 42 CFR Part 50 Subpart F is now pre-populated for all PHS agencies, eliminating the need to include additional language in Attachment 2 for PHS agencies other than NIH.

The subrecipient must select which entity's FCOI policy it will follow (either the PTE's or its own) in the drop down menu in the following term in Attachment 2:

"Subrecipient must designate herein which entity's Financial Conflicts of Interest policy (COI) will apply".

FCOI certification does not need to be included unless it is a term and condition referenced in the awarding agency's Notice of Award (NoA). All federal agencies required to have an FCOI policy, however, the federal agencies vary in their implementation. Read NOA carefully.

43. Export Controls restrictions and regulations may be included in an awarded contract. Where should compliance with those regulations be included in an FDP Subaward? - REVISED

Different situations may arise for the need to include export control regulations in a subaward. Below we'll describe when it may be necessary, and where they should be included in the FDP Subaward Templates.

The Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) explains that, "vigilance is required to ensure that the availability of the fundamental research and other exemptions are not lost due to inadvertent acceptance of contractually imposed restrictions on access to, dissemination of, or participation in research. To the extent the activities of universities involve shipping equipment abroad or teaching or training foreign students on campus or foreign colleagues abroad how to use equipment, export control issues do arise." ([COGR Brochure - Export Controls and Universities - Information and Case Studies, 1/2/2004](#)). In addition, to the extent that the activities of universities involve the receipt (or purchase of) of materials, software, technology or technical information, export control issues may arise to the extent that such items and information do not fall within the fundamental research or other exemption. PTE's should note that the fundamental research exemption does not apply to activity in or with countries subject to OFAC trade sanctions.

If a project is classified as fundamental research, publication and dissemination of information will be allowed without restriction. Broadly speaking, grants and cooperative agreements will either confirm that the program is considered fundamental research in the program announcement or include standard R&D terms consistent with a fundamental research designation. Sponsors may also include this designation on the NOA. More recently, the Department of Defense (DoD) has begun to use [Technology Readiness Levels](#) (TRLs) associated with a DoD-funded project's Scope of Work as indicative of whether or not the research qualifies as fundamental; TRLs 1 through 4 have been designated as the range in which a PTE is performing fundamental work. If it is not clear whether the project is classified as fundamental research, the university should clarify this with their partners or the sponsor prior to the start of the award.

As between U.S. based entities under a grant or cooperative agreement: Generally, when a PTE receives a grant or cooperative agreement designed as Research & Development on the NOA, then the research is fundamental. In issuing any subaward to domestic entities, the PTE should consider the following to determine whether the research meets the definition of "fundamental research": whether the research results are intended for publication; whether there is a pre-

publication approval process which may restrict publication of research results; whether participation on the project by foreign national students and employees is restricted. If the research is fundamental research, this reduces the risk of noncompliance with export control regulations. However, the PTE should also consider whether any materials under the project will be exported by the subrecipient outside of the U.S, whether any export-controlled items or information will be sent to/received by the subrecipient, and if there is the potential for PTE funds to be used in or in association with a country subject to comprehensive OFAC trade sanctions. If so, this may increase the export control risk and should be reviewed carefully. Ultimately, if the subaward is to a domestic entity, fewer export control issues are likely to arise. However, in instances when they do arise, the export control risks may be addressed in Attachment 2 of the FDP Subaward template under Special Terms and Conditions.

When the subrecipient is a foreign entity under a grant or cooperative agreement: the PTE should first conduct a Restricted Party Screen to ensure that the subrecipient and their principals are not identified on US trade sanctions lists. The PTE should also consider reviewing the foreign subrecipient's scope of work to determine what, if any physical materials, such as virus samples or equipment, are anticipated to be exported to the foreign entity. The PTE should conduct an export license assessment for physical materials to be shipped internationally to ensure that they do not require a license. While the work under the grant or cooperative agreement would still be deemed fundamental research, if the physical materials are controlled under U.S. export control regulations, a license may still be required for export. If any export controlled materials are to be exchanged with a foreign entity, the FDP recommends using the Foreign FDP Subaward template and detailing the exchange in the export control attachment.

When the award is a federal contract: Federal contracts are where the written determination as to the classification of a project as fundamental research is vital to determining how to move forward with any potential subrecipient. Often the Request for Proposals (RFP) will include information indicating if the federal government considers the contract fundamental research, but sometimes the RFP may indicate some wiggle room to make a determination at a later date. Ensure that this determination is made in writing by the federal agency program officer. This will ensure that publication and dissemination of information will be allowed without restriction. .

Even when research is "fundamental research", institutions can run into export control issues because of international shipping, or receipt of export controlled items from 3rd parties. The universities must identify these risks and comply with the legal requirements of the export control regulations.

44. My institution has very specific requirements concerning IRB protocol submissions to determine a project as exempt or non-exempt from IRB review. Can you clarify the expectations of the PTE to confirm the subrecipient's work with human and animal subjects?

The Compliance Terms and Conditions attachment is meant to provide flexibility for PTEs and subrecipients to meet the needs of their respective institutional policies, while ensuring subrecipients agree to comply with all applicable state and federal laws concerning human subjects and/or animal research.

Many institutions require a submission to the IRB in order to determine if a project is exempt or non-exempt. However, this may differ in formality and extent from institution to institution. As it relates to the performance of a subaward, the PTE must permit the subrecipient to follow its own process and make its own determination as to exempt / non-exempt research projects. However, the PTE must obligate the subrecipient to maintain current IRB and IACUC approvals as applicable, and certify that the non-exempt, approved protocol is consistent with the subaward (see attachment 2 of the

Subaward Template). Subrecipients should continue to follow and comply with all institutional policies and procedures regarding the submission of protocols for review and approval from IRB and/or IACUC, whether the research is exempt or non-exempt.

FDP members will have an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions on this language in future iterations.

45. What is the intent of the ‘Human Subjects Data’ Section in Attachment 2? – REVISED

The purpose of this section is to give the parties the opportunity to incorporate terms and conditions that may otherwise be included in a separate Data Transfer and Use Agreement (DTUA) within the subaward to alleviate the need for the parties to execute a separate agreement, with the understanding that many institutions may still require a separate DTUA due to their institutional policies, procedures and/or structure. This section is intended to prompt institutions to consider whether a DTUA or incorporation of special language in the subaward at the time that the initial subaward is issued, as this could help alleviate delays in the transfer of human subjects data needed to perform the project. The FDP Data Stewardship Subcommittee has issued several guidance documents to assist organizations in determining whether human subjects data will be exchanged, and whether a DTUA (or additional terms in the subaward) may be necessary. See the FDP website at http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_170894 for more information. If you plan to issue a separate DTUA, there is no need to include additional terms here.

Three options are provided in the drop-down menu for ‘Human Subjects Data’:

- Not Applicable - to be selected when it has been determined that a DTUA or additional terms are not necessary.
- Applicable - to be selected when it has been determined that either a DTUA or additional terms will be necessary to address the transfer of human subjects data.
- Human subjects data will not be addressed in this agreement - if it cannot be determined at the time of the subaward issuance whether a DTUA or additional terms will be necessary, or if the PTE and subrecipient agree to address human subjects data separately from the subaward, then this option can be selected.

46. Do I need a DTUA for non-human subjects data? - NEW

Your institution may elect to have a DTUA or additional terms in Attachment 2 for transferring non-human subjects data. The subaward templates do not specifically call out this option. For more information, refer to the DTUA Guidance Chart and other guidance materials from the FDP Data Stewardship Subcommittee at http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_170894.

47. How does the ‘Human Subjects Data’ section relate to the ‘Data Rights’ Section of Attachment 2? - REVISED

The ‘Data Rights’ language included in the Special Terms and Conditions section of Attachment 2 provides the Pass-through Entity (PTE) with the right to use the data created during the performance of the subaward. This is different from the ‘Human Subjects Data’ section of Attachment 2, which provides both parties with options to address in the agreement how the data is to be exchanged. For example, the subrecipient may be required by law or regulation (for example, HIPAA) to include additional terms in an agreement (either in the subaward or a separate DTUA with the PTE prior to transferring the data to the PTE. The ‘Human Subjects Data’ section provides these options.

48. What types of data are included in ‘Human Subjects Data’? - REVISED

Refer to the FDP Tool for Classifying Human Subjects Data at http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_170894. For the purposes of this section in Attachment 2, human subjects data can include a pre-existing data set or data created in the performance of the subaward.

Special Terms & Conditions

Copyright FAQs - NEW

49. What is the difference between *Grants* vs *Shall Grant* in the copyright language in Attachment 2 of the subaward templates? - NEW

Grants means present assignment. The subrecipient is granting a copyright license to the PTE upon execution of the subaward. *Shall grant* means future assignment. The subrecipient plans to grant a copyright license to the PTE at some point in the future.

50. Why is there an option to select *Grants* vs *Shall Grant* in the subaward templates? - NEW

The main reason for having the option to select *Grants* vs *Shall Grant* has to do with institutional policies and office structure. Sometimes the office that accepts and executes subawards does not have the authority to grant a copyright license. Sometimes that authority is designated to a technology transfer office or the General Counsel. In addition, offices that don't have the authorized signature to assign the copyright upon the execution of the subaward agreement cannot easily make internal adjustments to obtain that signature. *Shall grant*, therefore, informs the PTE that the subrecipient intends to provide the copyright to the PTE 'solely for the purpose of and only to the extent required to meet PTE's obligations to the Federal Government under its PTE Federal Award.'

51. What are some other reasons for having the *Grants/Shall Grant* options? - NEW

- Some of the other institutional policies driving the need for the two options are:
 - Policies wherein the institution owns everything created by their faculty.
 - Policies that allow faculty to own what they create, if that creation falls within certain categories, typically:
 - No University resources were used (i.e. made something at home); and/or
 - Publications, written reports, abstracts and other presentation materials summarizing or presenting research results.
- The *Shall Grant* option may be important under an institution's policies if copyrightable works are created or developed *outside* what is given to a PTE for a progress report or deliverable. Examples include modifications to software, database code, or other copyrightable works with a potential commercial value.
 - Complicating this area is that sometimes the subrecipient has relied on an existing version of a copyrightable work that involves a third party, this may mean they need to work with that third party to ensure an appropriate license for the PTE.

52. When are copyright licenses necessary, separate from the subaward agreement? - NEW

The FDP's assessment is that the need for a separate license is rare.

A vast majority of the copyrightable works in question are reports. A separate copyright license is not required when a subrecipient PI provides information to the PTE PI to include in a progress report, such as written data analysis and charts, or provides a deliverable to the PTE to provide the federal agency. The copyright is transferred to the PTE when the subrecipient PI provides that information or deliverable for the purposes of meeting the PTE's obligation to the federal agency. In addition, when PIs write papers resulting from sponsored projects to be published in journal articles, the journal will have its own copyright agreement and copyright policies that may be negotiated.

Thus, separate licenses may be required for a small number of cases, most likely software or database code. The need for a subrecipient to issue a separate copyright license to a PTE, regardless of whether the subrecipient selects *Grants* or *Shall Grant*, should be rare, but can happen.

53. A subrecipient wants to select *Shall Grant* in the copyright section of Attachment 2 of the subaward templates. However, I'm concerned that as the PTE, we won't be able to meet our obligations to the Federal government unless we have the subrecipient select *Grants* and provide the assignment of copyright upon execution of the subaward. How can I ensure we will obtain what we need to meet our obligations? - NEW

After extensive discussion with FDP membership, the following language was added to the copyright section of the templates:

"Subrecipient grants to PTE the right to use any written progress reports and deliverables created under this Subaward solely for the purpose of and only to the extent required to meet PTE's obligations to the Federal Government under its Federal Award."

This added sentence grants up front for a PTE to use any written reports and deliverables created under the award for the PTE to meet the sponsor's requirements. Use is not the same as granting a copyright license. The language was added to help PTEs feel more comfortable executing a subaward with subrecipients that cannot grant the copyright up front due to their institutional policies and structure.

Cost Reimbursement vs Fixed Price

54. What is the difference between cost reimbursable and fixed price subaward agreements?

A *cost reimbursable* subaward agreement is used to pay for actual expenses incurred in the performance of the statement of work. The risk associated with this type of agreement is typically borne by the pass-through entity (PTE), as there is no guarantee of an outcome or deliverable. Cost reimbursable agreements include a detailed line-item budget with a not-to-exceed amount, which the subrecipient must follow closely depending on the terms of the agreement. In a cost reimbursable agreement, any funds remaining at the end of the project cannot be collected by the subrecipient and any advanced funds must be returned to the PTE if there are no corresponding actual expenses. Generally, a final invoice is required detailing all cumulative costs incurred.

A *fixed price* subaward is one where a price or rate is determined up front for a specific deliverable and is only paid if the deliverable is met. The risk associated with this type of agreement is borne by the subrecipient, since a deliverable is required to obtain payment even if the cost to meet the deliverable exceeds the agreed-upon rate. Fixed price agreements will have a payment schedule instead of a detailed budget and should include specifics on the deliverable

and corresponding payment amount. Fixed price payments are generally inclusive of all costs, including F&A. The payments are not tied to actual expenses or costs incurred, do not require financial reports, and any residual balance should remain with the subrecipient institution. However, the subrecipient must certify in writing (Certificate of Completion) to the PTE at the end of the award that the project, activity, or service was completed. For most fixed price agreements, this would include a statement that personnel service was delivered as specified in the scope of work, or a product was completed. If the required deliverables were not carried out, the amount of the subaward must be adjusted, as per Uniform Guidance [2 CFR 200.201\(b\)\(3\)](#).

55. When should I use a fixed price subaward agreement?

Fixed price agreements are appropriate when the work to be performed is specific and can be priced with a reasonable degree of certainty. Samples of appropriate mechanisms to establish an appropriate price include the subrecipient past experience with similar types of work for which outcomes and their costs can be reliably predicted or the subrecipient can easily obtain price estimates for significant cost elements. Under the Uniform Guidance, fixed price subaward agreements must be approved by the sponsor prior to issuance up to the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$150,000). Prior approval requirements vary by federal agency and may be subject to change, so it is important to verify the current policy directly with the sponsor. Payments are generally based on meeting specific requirements or deliverables of the subaward scope of work. Accountability and payment are based on performance and results. It is important that the PTE principal investigator monitor and approve progress on deliverables for payments.

Most of the subaward agreements between FDP institutions utilize the cost reimbursable methodology. However, there may be some occasions where a fixed price agreement is appropriate, even though the prime agreement is cost reimbursable to the PTE. Some institutions prefer to issue fixed price subaward agreements to foreign entities, or entities identified as high-risk. Fixed price subaward agreements cannot be used in programs that require a mandatory cost-share or match.

It is not appropriate to issue a cost reimbursable agreement utilizing a payment schedule/deliverable type budget in order to circumvent the Uniform Guidance prior approval requirement. Refer to additional guidance on the use of fixed price subaward agreements for the FDP Foreign Subaward Agreement and the Clinical Trial Agreement templates.

Consortium Agreements and NIH Awards Containing Multiple PIs

NIH awards that include Multiple PIs from multiple entities require close collaboration and communication. The PTE (contact MPI) should include the Subrecipient PI in the development of the proposal MPI Leadership Plan, and any revisions to the Plan prior to finalization of award. The following FAQs address how MPIs should be addressed in the subaward agreements.

56. If the NIH Notice of Award includes Multiple PIs (MPIs) and names the Subrecipient PI as one of the MPIs, should this be reflected in the subaward agreement? - REVISED

Yes. The PTE should select the appropriate dropdown in Attachment 2 to make this designation. If the subrecipient PI is one of the MPIs stated on the NOA, then the subrecipient subject to MPI Plan, therefore select “This subaward is subject to an MPI Leadership Plan. Both parties will follow the finalized MPI Leadership Plan.”

57. Should the MPI Leadership Plan, as accepted by NIH, be included as part of the Subaward Agreement between the two parties? - REVISED

PTEs have the option of attaching the finalized MPI Leadership Plan to the subaward agreement, if both parties agree. However, this is not required.

The PTE has two options in the drop down menu in the subaward, by selecting either: a) The PTE will make the MPI plan available upon request; or b)The MPI plan is attached as part of Attachment 2.

Whether MPI Leadership Plan is included in the subaward agreement or not, close collaborations and discussions should take place between the PIs and two institutions if revisions to the Plan are necessary. Amendments may be necessary if there is a change in the Leadership Plan impacts the scope of work and/or there is a change in roles and responsibilities of the MPIs.

58. What if the PTE has an NIH Multiple PI (MPI) award, but the MPIs are only at the PTE institution? Which box should I check? The MPIs are not at the subrecipient institutions. - REVISED

The default option in the drop-down menu is “This subaward is not subject to an MPI Leadership Plan.” Therefore, the PTE can leave this section alone if one of the MPIs is not at the subrecipient institution.

59. Can the PTE include dispute resolution language as additional special terms in the subaward agreement?

It is not necessary to add additional dispute resolution terms in the subaward agreement. Including ‘conflict resolution’ in the MPI Leadership Plan is a requirement from NIH.

Other Subaward Questions - REVISED

60. Have you had a situation where 30-45 days has passed for an award subject to FFATA, and the award is not available on the FSRS site? What are suggestions for getting the information posted in FSRS so that a report can be filed? Do we call the agency and remind them to report?

Always check USASpending.gov first to verify if the award is issued to the current correct institution. If it is correct in USASpending.gov, then we recommend contacting the Federal Service Desk (FSD) to report it. Demonstrate to FSD that the award is correct in USASpending.gov but is not available in FSRS in order for you to submit a FFATA report.

If the award is not issued correctly in USASpending.gov, then contact the Grants Management Specialist or Contracting Officer at the sponsoring agency. The sponsor will need to update their systems to have the award accurately reflected in USASpending.gov first. Then contact FSD if the problem still exists. Make sure to document everything to demonstrate the steps you have taken to correct the issue.

61. Could you clarify what address needs to be included in *Place of Performance Address* for FFATA reporting on the top of Attachment 3B? - REVISED

The *Place of Performance Address* should indicate where the actual work is being performed. It is not intended for the subrecipient’s main administrative offices or institutional address. This address must be provided by the subrecipient in the subaward because every project is distinct. It cannot be determined by reviewing information included in the FDP Expanded Clearinghouse. Some subrecipient entities choose to use the PI’s lab as the *Place of Performance Address*,

and that may be appropriate depending on the nature of the work being done. This address will be used by the PTE to complete required data fields for FFATA reporting.

Subrecipients may use the Legal Address on the bottom of Attachment 3B to distinguish the legal institutional address.

If the PTE completes any of the other information on Attachment 3B on behalf of the subrecipient, the subrecipient should make sure to review this Attachment for accuracy.

62. When a federal agency is an FDP subrecipient of federal funds, are they required to provide the certification statement from §200.415 (a) and detailed itemization of expenditures produced from subrecipient’s accounting system (e.g., names/amounts of persons paid from the award, vendor payee name, date of payment, item description and amount) on their invoices/bills? - NEW

A subrecipient, as defined in 2 CFR §200.93, “means a non-Federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency.”

Therefore, if a situation arises when a federal agency (often a federal laboratory) is collaborating with a non-federal entity on work funded by a federal sponsored project, it is best to first communicate with that federal agency regarding options. If intellectual property is involved a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) may be necessary. A CRADA provides a way for the federal government to enter into research and development agreements when collaborating with non-federal entities. The PTE should discuss this option with the federal entity, and they may provide the PTE with the appropriate template.

It may be determined that the federal entity is providing a good or service as a contractor to the non-federal entity’s sponsored program. Again, discuss the options with the federal entity.

2 CFR part 200 does not apply to federal agencies. Any instrument used with a federal agency cannot reference to 2 CFR part 200, such as the §200.415 Required certifications (a), is not a requirement for federal agencies.

APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF REQUIRED SUBAWARD DATA ELEMENTS & LOCATION IN SUBAWARD TEMPLATES

| Required Information per 200.331(a) | FACE PAGE OF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT | | ATTACHMENTS | | | | | | | AMENDMENTS | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|----|------------|------------|---|---|------------|------------|
| | Cost Reimbursement | Fixed Price | 1 | 2 | 3A | 3B, page 1 | 3B, page 2 | 4 | 5 | Bilateral | Unilateral |
| 200.331(1)(i) Subrecipient Name | x | x | | | | x | x | | | x | x |
| 200.331(1)(ii) Subrecipient's DUNS number | | | | | | x | | | | | |
| 200.331(1)(iii) Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) | | | | x | | | | | | | |
| 200.331(1)(iv) Federal Award Date (see §200.39 Federal award date) of award to the recipient by the Federal agency | | | | x | | | | | | | |
| 200.331(1)(v) Subaward Period of Performance Start and End Date | x | x | | | | | | | | x | x |
| 200.331(1)(vi) Amount of Federal Funds Obligated by this action by the pass-through entity to the subrecipient | x | x | | | | | | | | x | x |
| 200.331(1)(vii) Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated to Subrecipient by the pass-through entity including the current obligation | | | | | | | | | | x | x |

| Required Information per 200.331(a) | FACE PAGE OF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT | | ATTACHMENTS | | | | | | | AMENDMENTS | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|----|------------|------------|---|---|------------|------------|
| | Cost Reimbursement | Fixed Price | 1 | 2 | 3A | 3B, page 1 | 3B, page 2 | 4 | 5 | Bilateral | Unilateral |
| 200.331(1)(viii) Total Amount of the Federal Award committed to the subrecipient by the pass-through entity | x | x | | | | | | | | | |
| 200.331(1)(ix) Federal award project description | x | x | | | | | | | x | x | x |
| 200.331(1)(x) Name of Federal awarding agency | x | x | | | | | | | | x | x |
| 200.331(1)(x) Name of pass-through entity | x | x | | | X | | | | | x | x |
| 200.331(1)(x) Contact information for awarding official of the pass-through agency | | | | | x | | | | | | |
| 200.331(1)(xi) CFDA Number and Name | | | | x | | | | | | | |
| 200.331(1)(xii) Identification of whether the award is R&D | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| 200.331(1)(xiii) Indirect cost rate for the Federal award | | | | | | | | | x | | |

APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF REQUIRED SUBAWARD DATA ELEMENTS & LOCATION IN SUBAWARD TEMPLATES (CONTINUED)

| | FACE PAGE OF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT | | ATTACHMENTS | | | | | | | AMENDMENTS | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|----|------------|------------|---|---|------------|------------|
| | Cost Reimbursement | Fixed Price | 1 | 2 | 3A | 3B, page 1 | 3B, page 2 | 4 | 5 | Bilateral | Unilateral |
| 200.331(2) Requirements imposed by pass-through entity on subrecipient | x | x | x | x | | | | X | | | |
| 200.331(3) Any additional requirements imposed by pass-through entity on subrecipient | x | x | | x | | | | x | | | |
| 200.331(4) Approved federally recognized indirect cost rate, negotiated indirect cost rate, or de minimis indirect cost rate | | | | | | | | | x | | |
| 200.331(5) Requirement that subrecipient permit pass-through entity and auditors access to records and financial statements | | | x | | | | | | | | |
| 200.331(6) Appropriate terms and conditions concerning closeout of the subaward | x | x | | x | | | | | | | |

CARRYOVER GUIDANCE

This document was created by two working groups working under the FDP Subawards Subcommittee: the Guidance Document Working Group and a special working group dedicated to this topic. This document will evolve over time as this complex topic continues to be evaluated and discussed among FDP member institutions.

[Part I: Glossary with Examples](#)

[Part II: Carryover Guidance](#)

[Part III: Options for Issuing Subawards](#)

Part I: Glossary with Examples

Carryover / Carry Forward¹- Unobligated federal funds remaining at the end of any budget period that, with the approval of the Grants Management Officer (GMO) or under an automatic authority, may be carried forward to another budget period to cover allowable costs of that budget period (whether as an offset or additional authorization). Unliquidated obligations are not considered carryover (see below for further detail).

Example:

- Federal awarding agency grants Pass-through Entity (PTE) an award with the following budget, Year 1 = \$500,000 (carryover is restricted).
- End of Year 1, PTE spent \$200,000, fully obligated and expended.
- PTE also has invoices from a vendor (\$50,000) and from the subrecipient (\$50,000) in hand, but not paid out (unliquidated obligation).
- The unliquidated obligation for the PTE would be \$100,000 (\$50k+\$50k), total obligated amount would be 300k (\$200,000 the PTE fully obligated and spent + \$100,000 pending invoices), leaving \$200,000 (40% of the Year 1 budget) to request as carryover.

Carryover is called “**automatic**” when the prior approval requirement is waived in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.308(d)(4). Many federal agencies allow automatic carryover. However, some agencies do require that prior approval be obtained either for all awards issued by that agency or for specific award types. The terms and conditions regarding carryover are outlined in the award document and/or the federal awarding agency’s regulations.

Unliquidated obligations² -for financial reports prepared on a cash basis, obligations incurred by the non-federal entity that have not been paid (liquidated). For reports prepared on an accrued expenditure basis, these are obligations incurred by the non-federal entity for which an expenditure has not been recorded. For example, an invoice is received but not fully paid.

¹ NIH Glossary: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#Carryover>

² NIH Glossary: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#UnliquidatedObligation>

Example (using the same details from the above example):

- The PTE has received, but not paid out invoices from a vendor (\$50,000) and from the subrecipient (\$50,000).
- The PTE has invoices in hand verifying the expenses and validating that the funds were expended during the period of performance.
- While the PTE may not yet have cut the check (liquidated), those invoices may be reported as unliquidated obligations.

Unobligated balance - means the amount of funds under a federal award that the non-federal entity has not obligated, nor encumbered. Per the NIH definition³, it is the amount of funds authorized under a federal award that the non-federal entity has not obligated. The amount is computed by subtracting the cumulative amount of the non-federal entity's unliquidated obligations and expenditures of funds under the federal award from the cumulative amount of the funds that the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity authorized the non-federal entity to obligate.

Example (using the same details from the above example):

- Amount of award (\$500,000) – unliquidated obligations (\$100,000) – actual expenditures (\$200,000) = **Unobligated balance (\$200,000)**

Offset - refers to a reduction to the amount of new federal funds to be authorized in a subsequent budget period by the unobligated balance from the prior budget period.

Example:

- Federal awarding agency grants PTE an award with the following budget, Year 1 = \$500,000 (carryover is automatic).
- End of Year 1, PTE obligated \$300,000 (60% of the budget). The PTE has a \$200,000 unobligated balance (40% of the budget).
- The committed award amount for Year 2 is \$550,000. The federal awarding agency elects to offset Year 2 due to lack of spending in Year 1 and a lack of sufficient justification in the progress report.
- The federal awarding agency instead elects to award \$350,000 as the Year 2 budget. The PTE still has \$550,000 to spend in Year 2, but they lost \$200,000 in *new*, obligated funding.

As it relates specifically to NIH and other HHS awards: when a PTE reports a balance of unobligated funds in excess of 25% of the total amount awarded for the budget period, plus any approved carryover of funds from prior year(s), the federal awarding agency will review the circumstances resulting in the balance to ensure that these funds are necessary to complete the project, and may request additional information from the PTE, including a revised budget, as part of the review.

If the federal awarding agency determines that some or all of the unobligated funds are not necessary to complete the project, the federal awarding agency may restrict the PTE's automatic carryover authority,

³ NIH Glossary: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#UnobligatedBalance>

use the balance to offset funding for a subsequent budget period, reduce future year's funding, or use a combination of these actions.

Note: In rare circumstances, the federal awarding agency may elect to do an NCE midway through a non-competing project period (i.e. year 2 becomes an NCE instead of adding additional funding). This may impact the issuance of any subawards. If the PTE receives a mid-project NCE, the PTE may issue NCEs to subrecipients. The FDP suggests reaching out to subrecipients in advance to discuss in further detail.

Deobligation – a downward adjustment of federal funds committed on an award. There are various reasons why deobligations may be necessary in managing subawards, such as early termination of a subaward, the subrecipient PI transfers to another institution, or there is a change in scope.

Example: The federal awarding agency decided to deobligate funds as a result of monitoring the award and determining the award recipient did not need all of the originally committed funds.

Restriction⁴ – Special term and condition in a Notice of Award or article in a contract that limits activities and expenditures. It may be lifted or adjusted if the requirements are met.

This is different to a deobligation in that a deobligation indicates the funding is no longer available. A restriction indicates that the money may not be spent until prior approval is received.

Example: The federal award restricts carryover. The PTE restricts the unobligated balance of its subrecipients until they receive prior approval to expend those funds from the federal awarding agency.

⁴ NIH Glossary: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#Restriction>

Part II: Carryover Guidance

General Carryover Guidance for FDP Member Institutions Issuing Subawards

According to [2 CFR § 200.308\(d\)\(4\)](#), a recipient of a federal award that supports research may carry forward an unobligated balance to a subsequent period of performance without prior approval from the federal awarding agency, unless the federal awarding agency provides otherwise as a term and condition of the federal award.

In the interest of FDP's goal to reduce administrative burden wherever possible, the FDP strongly recommends that PTEs flow-down automatic carryover if provided in the federal award. However, the PTE, as the award recipient, has the authority to require a subrecipient to obtain prior approval to use carryover, even if carryover is automatic under the terms and conditions of the federal award.

This may be considered an 'additional prior approval' per [2 CFR §200.207 \(b\)\(6\)](#). A PTE might choose to use this authority if, for example, the subrecipient is deemed to warrant additional oversight (high risk) or if the project is complex, in accordance with the requirements to monitor subrecipients, as stated in 2 CFR 200.331.

The PTE should be prepared to discuss with the subrecipient the rationale for not flowing down automatic carryover if provided in the federal award. In accordance with [2 CFR § 200.207\(c\)](#), the PTE must notify the subrecipient the reason why the additional requirements are being imposed. In having these discussions, PTEs should be mindful of the fact that a requirement to obtain prior approval to use carryover can represent a significant burden for many subrecipients as many institutions have financial systems that require a full financial close-out to be performed in order to obtain the unexpended balance for a carryover request (or other similar process/system limitations). PTEs should be prepared for subrecipients to request a strong rationale for their decision.

What has to happen when carryover requires prior approval?

If the Federal Award Requires Carryover Approval: The subrecipient's expenses must be incurred within each budget period, as defined by the subaward. The subrecipient must submit to the PTE a final statement of cumulative costs at the end of each annual budget period as indicated in Terms and Condition #3 on the face page and Attachment 4.

When submitting the final statement of cumulative costs, the subrecipient should indicate whether or not it intends to request carryover of any unobligated balance. The formal carryover request should be submitted to the PTE in a timely manner after submission of the final statement of cumulative costs, and prior to the deadline established by the federal award, as applicable. The PTE should be prepared to provide guidance to the subrecipient on the requirements for the request, especially if a particular format is required by the federal awarding agency.

Once the approval has been received from the federal awarding agency by the PTE, the PTE may issue an amendment to the subrecipient to provide formal approval of the carryover. The PTE has various options for approving the carryover request to the subrecipient (see below for additional guidance).

If the PTE (as opposed to the federal awarding agency) Requires Carryover Prior Approval: the PTE should be prepared to provide guidance to the subrecipient on the PTE's requirements for the carryover request. The FDP encourages PTEs to request a minimal amount of information from subrecipients to validate progress on the project and plans to spend the carryover funds. The FDP strongly encourages all PTEs to require no more information than is required by a federal awarding agency for a carryover request, particularly when such request is related to a federal award.

Why is it so important to submit a timely carryover request to the PTE when the federal awarding agency requires annual Federal Financial Reports (FFRs)?

When carryover is not automatic in the federal award, the PTE must first obtain prior approval from the federal awarding agency before the PTE is authorized to allow a subrecipient to carryover an unobligated balance from one budget period to the next. The PTE must report expenditures, unliquidated obligations and unobligated balances to the federal awarding agency by the agency's deadline in the FSR.

This report must include any unobligated balance of funds allocated to subrecipients, which information is obtained from the final statement of cumulative costs referenced above. Typically, the subrecipient's final, annual invoice is due 60 days after the end of the budget period and the PTE must submit their interim FSR within 90 days of the end of the budget period. After the FFR is submitted, the PTE may move forward with the carryover request.

If the PTE determines that it is appropriate to request carryover of the unobligated balance, the PTE is responsible for the submission of such request to the federal awarding agency. The information provided by subrecipients is vital to making a case to the federal awarding agency that those funds are necessary for the project.

While the carryover request may not be approved by the federal awarding agency until after the FFR has been accepted, submitting the carryover request close to the time of FFR submission may expedite the process. The longer subrecipients wait to submit their carryover requests to the PTE, the longer the PTE must wait to submit that information to the federal awarding agency, thereby delaying carryover approval.

If the subrecipient's carryover request is approved by both the federal awarding agency and the PTE, the PTE should issue an amendment to provide formal approval (further guidance below).

Note: During a subrecipient's approved no-cost extension, the period of performance has been extended. Therefore, additional approval is not needed in order to expend funds remaining unobligated as of the original end date.

What is included in a typical carryover request?

Exact requirements may vary by federal awarding agency, but typically, PTEs and subrecipients should expect to provide:

- Budget for the carryover amount.
- Justification of how the funds will be used.
- Explanation as to why the funds were unexpended.

If the carryover prior approval requirement comes from the PTE (as opposed to the federal awarding agency), the PTE should request additional back-up materials only as necessary (based on a monitoring issue) in assessing whether to approve a carryover request from a subrecipient.

Part III: Options for Issuing Subawards

How should the PTE issue a subaward that does not allow automatic carryover?

Initial Budget Period: Attachment 4 of the FDP Cost Reimbursement Research Subaward Agreement template allows the PTE to indicate the terms and conditions of carryover. The PTE should select “**Budget Period end date**” in Term and Condition #3 of the face page of the template to ensure the submission of annual, final invoices.

Subsequent Non-Competing Budget Periods: The FDP recommends issuing amendments, as opposed to new agreements, for each budget period. This reduces administrative burden for those entities that must create new accounts in their financial systems for every new agreement, despite the fact that the agreement falls under the same federal award. PTEs can utilize one of the following approaches:

Option 1: Issue a unilateral amendment. PTE may choose to issue an amendment using the *FDP Research Subaward Agreement Amendment* unilateral template. This template contains options for the PTE to issue the amendment for a new authorized amount that does not include the prior year’s carryover, to authorize carryover funds, or to authorize both.

Option 2: Issue a bilateral amendment.

There are two ways the PTE can issue amendments using the bilateral amendment template.

- 1) The PTE may consider using similar language as in the unilateral template:
“The Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated stated above may not reflect the actual balance available. The Subrecipient is responsible for tracking unobligated balances and subsequent carryover approvals from prior budget periods. In the event that funding was not fully expended by the Subrecipient during the prior budget period, the authorized amount for the prior period is hereby reduced to equal the Subrecipient’s final invoice. Submit carryover requests in writing to PTE’s Administrative Contact.”

By using this suggested language, the “Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated to Date” is:

- *Amount Funded This Action, PLUS+*
- *Amount Funded This Action* from prior budget period (if prior budget period was the original agreement) **or** *Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date* (if prior budget period was an amendment).

Example for using this bilateral option:

Original agreement: Amount Funded This Action - Budget period 1: \$100,000
Unobligated from budget period 1: \$25,000
Amendment #1: Amount Funded This Action – Budget period 2: \$100,000
Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date: **\$200,000**

When subrecipient submits carryover request and PTE approves the \$25,000 through a subsequent amendment for budget period 2:

Amendment #2: Amount funded this action = \$0

Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date: **\$200,000**

2) As another bilateral amendment option, PTEs may choose to state the *exact* unobligated balance and amount of carryover funds restricted until the subrecipient submits a request for carryover to the PTE. Some PTEs choose to state the exact balance under special circumstances, such as working with foreign subrecipients where currency fluctuations or other financial matters necessitate additional detail, or other high-risk entities. Consider the following language for stating the amounts and completing the Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated to Date field:

“The remaining unobligated balance from the previous budget period in the amount of [amount awarded from previous budget period (b) - final invoice cumulative total = unobligated balance (c)] is hereby restricted. The subrecipient may submit a carryover request to the Administrative contact.”

The “Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated to Date” should be:

- *Amount Funded This Action, PLUS+*
- *Amount Funded This Action* from prior budget period (if prior budget period was the original agreement) **or** *Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date* (if prior budget period was an amendment).

Example for using this bilateral option:

Original Agreement: Amount Funded This Action - Budget period 1: \$100,000

Unobligated from budget period 1: \$25,000

Amendment #1: Amount Funded This Action – Budget period 2: \$100,000

Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date: **\$200,000**

The FDP suggests that when PTEs are working with foreign or higher risk subrecipients and exercise the option of stating the exact unobligated balance and amount of carryover funds restricted, PTE should provide the definition of a restriction versus deobligation as stated in Section I of this Appendix. This will ensure the subrecipients understand the restriction being imposed. The FDP recommends communicating this to subrecipients during the issuance of the amendment restricting carryover to avoid confusion.

When subrecipient submits carryover request and PTE approves the \$25,000 through a subsequent amendment for budget period 2:

Amendment #2: Amount funded this action = \$0

Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date: **\$200,000**

In both situations outlined above, the Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date comes to \$200,000 after the PTE authorizes the carryover funds.

If applicable, the PTE should also highlight any changes to the subaward number, or other important data elements:

“The Subaward Number has changed to [PTE-issued subaward no.]. This Subaward Number must be included on all invoices submitted for the current budget period.”

Option 3: Issue a new subaward agreement. This methodology allows for a clean break from one budget period to the next, making it clear that each budget period of the federal award must be treated as a separate award. The PTE should select “**Budget Period end date**” in Terms and Condition #3 of the FDP Cost Reimbursement Research Subaward Agreement template, to indicate that the subrecipient must submit a final invoice at the end of each budget period. The PTE should consider further clarifying in Attachment 4 the frequency and type of scientific and other required reports (i.e. invention reports do not need to be submitted at the end of the budget period, but rather at the end of the competitive segment).

PTEs should consider communicating with subrecipients the need to issue new agreements every year.

FAQ: I already issued new agreement authorizing the current budget period. How do I authorize carryover to the current budget period?

If the PTE chose Option 3 outlined above, then an amendment can be issued to add carryover to the current budget period with the following suggested language:

“This Amendment authorizes carryover in the amount of \$[approved carryover amount] from a previous budget period. The revised amount available for the budget period [start date of current budget period] to [the end date of current budget period] is \$[total funding amount authorized for the budget period from prior agreement + approved carryover amount].

Expenses incurred outside of the budget period dates or in excess of the amount available for this period are not allowable.”

The “Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated” should be the same as the “Amount Funded This Action” from the prior agreement issued, and the “Amount Funded this Action” should be \$0. The action of the amendment does not award new funds. It authorizes prior approval to expend previously awarded funds.

FAQ: Automatic Carryover is allowed by the federal award. I want to do something to encourage active subrecipient monitoring by my PIs and invoicing from my subrecipients. I am not sure I want to restrict automatic carryover. Do I have any other options?

Yes, there are other options. First, it may be worth examining how many carryover requests you receive and the justifications behind them. Are they routine carryover requests from a particular subrecipient due to non-performance? Or is the progress on the project moving along, but the invoices are not being sent in a timely fashion?

For institutions that are doing the work, but slow to invoice: it may be worth talking about potential barriers.

For institutions that are not performing their work in a timely fashion: federal awarding agencies reserve the right to offset future budget periods (offsetting is defined in the Glossary) by the amount of the unobligated balance. If you have a subrecipient with slow progress, it may be worth considering the option of offsetting future budget periods by the amount of unobligated balances. The PTE should discuss this with the subrecipient.