



FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

*Redefining the Government University
Research Partnership*

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Welcome. The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a unique collaborative national research organization convened by the Government- University-Industry Research Roundtable of the National Academies. Its purpose is to reduce the administrative burdens associated with federal grants and contracts. FDP membership includes federal research agencies, colleges and universities, and independent research institutions. Since its beginning in 1988, the FDP has been structured around six-year phases. The FDP is now preparing to launch Phase VII, which will run from late 2020 through 2026. In Phase VII, the FDP will capitalize on its strengths to create and demonstrate solutions for the systemic implementation of changes in federal guidelines, policies, and requirements aimed at improving the quality, oversight, and effectiveness of the federal investment in research. Members of the FDP work together on activities that are designed to assess changes in federal policy, put measures in place to reduce administrative burdens associated with federal research, and make substantive improvements to the quality and efficiency of the research enterprise. Our overarching goal is to ensure the health of the American research enterprise by striking an appropriate balance between the need to protect federal tax dollars used to support research with the need to freely conduct science and scientific inquiry.

Past accomplishments of the FDP include: the development of the FDP Subaward templates, which standardize inter-institutional research terms; the Expanded Clearinghouse, which reduces burden related to subrecipient entity monitoring; the IRB Wizard, a tool that will assist the researcher in identifying the type of IRB review needed; and the Data Transfer and Use Agreement templates, which are helping to frame the parameters of the rapidly changing environment of data use and exchange between scientists and institutions. In addition to developing these specific tools, the FDP sponsors a number of initiatives aimed at learning more about how administrative requirements impact academic professionals engaged in the conduct of research. The FDP has sponsored the Faculty Workload Survey, which continues to identify specific areas of administrative burden that impact the effort to conduct high quality research. The survey, along with other studies and activities hosted by the FDP, helps to guide the activities of the organization and support the collective interest of FDP members to achieve a state where researchers are doing research, not administration.

The FDP as an organization continues to evolve and is constantly working to improve its operations and effectiveness. In this spirit, the FDP is now led by Co-Chairs who represent both the administrative and faculty components of the FDP. We welcome your interest in the FDP Phase VII, and hope that your organization will consider joining our membership.

Michele Masucci, FDP Co-Chair

Richard Seligman, FDP Co-Chair



MISSION AND GOAL

The mission of the Federal Demonstration Partnership is to streamline the administration of federally-sponsored activities, and to foster collaboration to enhance the national research enterprise while maintaining high standards of stewardship and accountability. The goal of this collaboration is to effectuate appropriate policy development and change through dialogue and the development of best practices and tools. Members evaluate current practices, changes, and proposed changes that impact the federally-sponsored research environment, keeping an eye towards reducing the administrative burdens that are experienced by investigators and institutions as they carry out research supported by federal grants and contracts. .

FDP MEMBERSHIP – Who we are

The FDP is currently ending its sixth phase, which began in 2014, and is encouraging membership for new institutions for Phase VII beginning in late 2020. The interaction among the FDP membership includes over 200



individual organizations, including administrative, faculty, and technical representation, along with 10 participating federal agencies. The members interact and engage in active dialogue during the FDP's three annual meetings and, more extensively, through the many collaborative committees, subcommittees, and working groups that meet often by teleconference in order to develop and implement specific work products. FDP members represent diverse organizations from across the country, and include institutions of higher education from multi-campus research universities to emerging research universities along with hospitals, independent research organizations, and federal agencies. Members are represented by ad-

ministrative staff, including those engaged in research administration, compliance, research technology, and infrastructure support, as well as by faculty from participating institutions and federal agency staff. Members drive the FDP agenda. Through the FDP's meetings, committees, and working groups, members share ideas, evaluate the impact of proposed policies and practices, and propose new initiatives and demonstrations.

THE FDP VISION – Our Picture of the Ideal Future

Researchers doing research, not administration

- The FDP enables researchers to engage in innovative research in an environment that supports accountability, effective stewardship, and business efficiencies.
- The FDP empowers federal and university administrators to demonstrate and implement regulatory changes and process improvements.
- The FDP achieves measurable results in its demonstrations and projects for the benefit of all in the research enterprise.

A model partnership:

- The FDP facilitates collaboration between federal agencies and FDP member institutions, and our cooperation serves as a model throughout the research enterprise.
- All institutional partners -- faculty, research administrators, and technical experts -- and federal program and policy officials are actively engaged with FDP activities..



Federal agency participation is critical to the success of FDP

- Participation encourages partnership and interaction among federal agencies and grantee institutions who are committed to supporting effective research outcomes, awardee accountability, and communication. FDP provides federal agencies access to:
- A unique forum of principal investigators, research administrators, and research information technology specialists with extensive knowledge and experience in managing federal research awards;
- Self-selected, diverse group of institutions devoted to improving research productivity and minimizing administrative burden in an accountable environment;
- Prompt and thoughtful feedback on early-stage proposals for improvements in grants management, and a diverse test bed for implementation of new research award–related requirements, processes, and policies.

SUCCESS STORIES

Based on the work of its committees, subcommittees, and working groups, the FDP has a long history of developing and implementing successful collaborative initiatives, tools, and outcomes. Some of the FDP's recent accomplishments include:

- FDP Subaward Agreement and FAQs. The FDP has created and continually improves multiple model subaward agreement templates that may be used by any institution to streamline and standardize inter-institution award terms.
- Faculty Workload Survey. The FDP conducted its third survey of faculty researchers at FDP member institutions nationwide. The data from all the surveys clearly indicate that administrative responsibilities associated with managing federal research grants significantly reduce the amount of time available for faculty to actively engage in research.
- Expanded Clearinghouse for Subrecipient Monitoring. Following the release of the Uniform Guidance in 2014, the FDP initiated the development of a single web-based repository of entity information. This repository enables pass-through entities to obtain and review all necessary subrecipient entity information and conduct subrecipient monitoring and risk assessment activities in a timely and streamlined fashion.
- Procurement micro-purchase threshold data collection and analysis. Uniform Guidance also brought changes in the procurement sector. FDP's working group focused on interpretation of the Uniform Guidance (e.g., the micro-purchase threshold), and continues to discuss these changes with all of our members.



- Data Transfer and Use Agreement (DTUA). A pilot was conducted to test whether a standardized, streamlined DTUA template would meet the needs of the FDP membership, and whether such a template helps to reduce the administrative burden associated with data sharing for research. It further seeks to ensure good stewardship of the data and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

FDP COMMITTEES

The FDP is a dynamic and unique volunteer organization which operates by standing Operational and Programmatic Committees under which subcommittees and working groups research ongoing and emergent issues facing the research administration community. The results of the research done by these groups often results in pilot demonstration projects aimed at relieving administrative burden. Successful demonstration projects provide tools which are made available to the membership.

FDP Operational Committees

- [Finance Committee](#)
- [Membership Committee](#)
- [Communications Committee](#)
- Infrastructure Committee

FDP Programmatic Committees

- [Faculty Committee](#)
 - [Faculty Administrator Collaboration Team \[FACT\]](#)
- [Electronic Research Administration Committee](#)
 - Joint Application Design with Grant.gov Working Group
 - SciENCv Working Group
 - Agency System Matrix Working Group
- [Finance/Audit/Costing Policy](#)
 - [Administrative Cost Working Group](#)
 - Procurement Working Group
 - Letter of Credit/Payment Working Group
- [Research Administration](#)
 - [Contracts Subcommittee](#)
 - Other Transaction Authority Working Group
 - Troublesome Clauses
 - [Subawards Subcommittee](#)
 - Subaward Templates Working Group
 - Guidance and FAQs Working Group
 - Subaward Delays Working Group
 - [Expanded Clearinghouse Subcommittee](#)
 - [Open Government Subcommittee: Research Administration Data](#)
- [Research Compliance](#)
 - [Animal Subjects Subcommittee](#)
 - [Conflict of Interest Subcommittee](#)
 - [Export Controls Subcommittee](#)
 - [Human Subject Subcommittee](#)
 - [Data Stewardship Subcommittee](#)



JOIN US

You can only join the FDP at the beginning of a new phase -
Applications are now being accepted for Phase VII.

Applications for Phase VII are available at: <http://thefdp.org/default/fdp-phase-vii-application/>

For more information or if you have questions, contact David Wright at DWright@nas.edu

See why joining the FDP has benefitted some of our members

"I participated in the FDP since the late 1990s, it has had an incalculable impact on my work and the service and information I have been able to provide to my home institution. Meetings are lively, fun, and take place over a day and a half making them doable in terms of time away from the office. The FDP is not only a fantastic way to learn about the changing federal grant and contract landscape, but it is also a way to work with peers and other institutions and with the federal agencies to effectuate change and engage in creative problem-solving. Most of all, it is a way to give back to the larger research community through service on the many topical Committees and Subcommittees."

Sarah J. White, MA, Ed.M.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Tennessee Health Science Center



"My university joined FDP for Phase VI just as Uniform Guidance was being implemented. From subrecipient management to procurement purchase thresholds, there were a lot of changes to consider. The collegial interaction with federal and fellow university partners, and exposure to best practice discussion, is invaluable. Exchange of ideas and concerns with colleagues through meeting attendance has been an excellent ongoing resource."

Annie Publow, MFA, CRA

Director of Sponsored Programs-Government/Non Profit Support
Office of Research and Innovation
Virginia Commonwealth University

"For me, the FDP represents a philosophy that has inspired me throughout my career in research administration. It's all about being smarter in how we support the research enterprise and finding creative ways to reduce burden. What we do at FDP helps researchers focus on their research, while letting administrators engage in meaningful research support, not paper pushing."

Michael Joseph Kusiak

Research Policy Manager
The University of California
Office of the President



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

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