**Sponsored Project Outgoing Agreement Guide**

Is the Provider a **Subrecipient** or a **Vendor**?

### Sub-Recipients

A **subrecipient** serves as a co-investigator, is responsible for the end results of the research effort equally with the principal investigator where federal funds are being passed through to another entity.

**Subrecipients may have some or all of the following characteristics:**

- Performance is measured against meeting the objectives of the program.
- Authority for administrative and programmatic decisions.
- Authority for determining eligibility for assistance (in programs of assistance).
- They provide on-going research or collaboration for the life of the program.
- They carry out a program of the subrecipient as compared to providing services for a program of the prime recipient.
- They are responsible for applicable program compliance requirements.

### Vendors

A **vendor** provides ancillary goods or services that the principal investigator needs to conduct the research effort. A vendor is not responsible for the research results.

**Vendors have the following characteristics:**

- They provide the service as part of their normal business operations.
- They provide a similar service to many different purchasers.
- They operate in a competitive environment (compete with others who can provide a similar service).
- Their program compliance requirements do not pertain to the service provided.

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**Need Assistance in determining the appropriate relationship between Subrecipient or Vendor?**

Please see the “Sub-Award Questionnaire – Subrecipient or Vendor” on the Business Services Forms website.

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Source: [OMB Circular A-133 § .210](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/a133/a133_revised_2007.pdf)