

# Subaward, Subcontract, Consultant, Vendor How to Tell Them Apart

## SUBAWARD

**Subaward**  
(N) the agreement to an eligible subrecipient made under a grant or cooperative agreement to carry out a research project.

### Indicative characteristics

- Performance is measured against its portion of the scope of work of the Washington University prime grant;
- Has responsibility for programmatic decision making;
- Uses the funds to carry out a program within the organization as compared to providing goods or services for a program;
- Is responsible for adhering to applicable program compliance requirements (i.e., OMB Circulars, agency regulations, etc.); and
- Subawardee’s PI may be a co-author on publications or may seek patent protection for inventions.

## SUBCONTRACT

A term used to refer to the subagreement when the prime award is a contract.

## VENDOR

**Vendor**  
(N) a dealer, distributor, merchant, or other seller providing goods or services that are required for the conduct of a research program

### Indicative characteristics

- Provides the goods or services within normal business operations;
- Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers;
- Operates in a competitive environment;
- Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the research project; and
- Are not subject to monitoring or reporting requirements of the prime award.

## CONSULTANT

**Consultant**  
(N) Categorized as a vendor-type relationship. An individual or company retained to provide professional advice or services on a project for a fee.

### Indicative characteristics

- A company or an individual who is clearly a bona fide consultant (expert advisor) who pursues this line of business for him/herself.
- Are paid for their time at a daily or hourly fixed rate.
- A consultant is considered a “work for hire” thus all intellectual property and copyrightable information is assigned to Washington University.