***What is the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)?***

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is an association of federal agencies, academic research institutions with administrative, faculty and technical representation, and research policy organizations that work to streamline the administration of federally sponsored research. It is comprised of 10 federal agencies and 154 institutional recipients of federal funds for its current Phase VI and is funded by the following federal agencies: National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In the summer of 2014 the University of Pittsburgh submitted a competitive application to become a member of the FDP and received acceptance in September 2014.

***What does membership mean for the University?***

The University’s participation as a member of the FDP provides a forum for universities like Pitt and other nonprofits to work collaboratively with federal agency officials to improve the national research enterprise. At its regularly scheduled meetings, faculty and administrators have the opportunity to speak directly with decision-makers from agencies that sponsor and regulate research. Through those interactions they are able to conduct frank discussions, identify problems, and develop action plans for change. Additionally, they are able to work together to test new ways of doing things in the real world before making them official.

Also, members of the FDP have the unique opportunity to be recognized within the larger research community as an active participant in the development of new initiatives and ongoing pilot projects conducted within the membership through participation on workgroups, committees, and task forces.

At a more fundamental level, membership in the FDP allows the member institutions to collaborate more seamlessly and provides an increased confidence level to research collaborations.

Finally, FDP members are afforded access to exclusive resources such as members only listservs, where members can interact, ask questions, and share information in a closed setting.

***How does it affect research administration?***

Because the FDP is a membership organization, there are requirements that each member must agree to upon joining. One requirement is that each member of the FDP is required to identify an institutional representative that is required to attend the quarterly meetings and to participate in subcommittees and other FDP workgroups. Laura Kingsley is the institutional representative for the University. However, the quarterly meetings are open to the public for attendance.

The requirement that affects research administration is the requirement to use the FDP subaward templates ***without alteration*** when issuing subawards where the prime sponsor is a federal agency.

Prior to becoming FDP members we had the latitude to make changes to the template and to customize it when appropriate. Now that we are FDP members we are not permitted to make any changes to the template, otherwise, we will be out of compliance with our membership agreement. This does not mean that we cannot add special terms and conditions to an agreement, only that it must be done via adding terms, when appropriate to the Special Terms and Conditions section of the template Attachment 2.

***More information on the FDP***

For more information about the FDP please feel free to visit their website at: <http://thefdp.org/default/>.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Laura Kingsley at 412-383-4095 or laura.kingsley@pitt.edu.