



8/26/2022

Corporate, Foundation, and Sponsored Programs

Federal Research and Development Contracts Policy

Background

Similar to a grant award, a federal contract is a funding mechanism used by the United States Government to provide funding for research and development projects. However, unlike grant awards, the purpose of federal contract funding is to purchase services for the direct benefit or use of the federal government.

Federal Contracts are subject to a strict set of terms and conditions, including clauses from the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and usually require frequent, detailed reporting and a high level of responsibility to the government. A failure to accomplish the agreed upon reporting and/or contract milestones on time and on budget could result in criminal or civil actions and/or financial consequences to the College and its faculty and staff.

Policy Statement

After careful consideration of the onerous reporting requirements imposed upon federal contractors and the risks of non-compliance, Olin College has determined that it cannot accept new federal contracts of any dollar amount for research and development projects (including subcontracts that include the terms and conditions of a primary contractor's federal contract).

While Olin faculty and staff members may not pursue or collaborate on a federal contract, in some cases it may be possible to accept funding through a mechanism other than a federal contract. In these cases, CFSP will work closely with the PI, sponsor, and/or collaborating institution to explore the possibility of an alternate funding mechanism or source and to ensure that all clauses included in a prospective agreement are acceptable to Olin College.