SUBAWARD, SUBCONTRACT, CONSULTANT, VENDOR  
HOW TO TELL THEM APART

SUBAWARD:  The agreement to an eligible subrecipient made under a grant or cooperative agreement to carry out a research project.
• Indicative characteristics
  o Performance is measured against its portion of the scope of work of the Washington University prime grant;
  o Has responsibility for programmatic decision making;
  o Uses the funds to carry out a research scope of work under the direction of the PI as compared to providing goods or services for a program;
  o Is responsible for adhering to applicable program compliance requirements (i.e., OMB Circulars, agency regulations, etc.); and
  o 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:
• Indicative characteristics
  o Provides the goods or services within normal business operations;
  o Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers;
  o Operates in a competitive environment;
  o Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the research project; and
  o Are not subject to monitoring or reporting requirements of the prime award.

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