DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN A SUBCONTRACTOR, CONSULTANT AND VENDOR

Subcontractor (aka Sub-recipient or Sub-awardee)

A subcontractor is another term for a sub-recipient on a sponsored award, also called a sub-awardee. An entity receiving a portion of the funds from a grant award is considered a subcontractor, sub-recipient or sub-awardee if it:

- Has programmatic involvement in the project identified by a separate scope of work, a separate budget and separate organization approval;
- Has a director of the sub-award who considered the PI for the sub-award and who may be considered a co-PI on the sponsored project with the PI at the home institution;
- Has its performance measured against the objectives set for the sub-award of the project;
- Has responsibility for programmatic decision-making;
- Has responsibility for adherence to applicable program compliance requirements;
- Uses the sponsored funds to carry out the project at their institution as compared to providing goods or services for fee for the project at GSU;
- Has the right it publish project results or serve as a co-author;
- Has the option to develop patentable technology and to share in IP resulting from the project.

Consultant

A consultant (individual or company) receiving a portion of the funds from the grant is considered a consultant if they:

- Are an expert advisor;
- Are paid for time spent on a fixed hourly / daily basis, which includes travel expenses, supplies, overhead, etc.;
- Are an individual using their own equipment and materials, not equipment or materials from their institution, for the work on the project;
- Are considered as being paid a “fee for service” whose work and IP belong to GSU;
- Pay their own taxes on earnings from the project;
- Are not employed by GSU in any other capacity;
- Are not involved in programmatic work on the project; including project deliverables such as reports.

Vendor

A vendor (individual or company) receiving a portion of the funds from a grant award is considered a vendor if they:

- Provide goods and/or services ancillary to the project;
- Are paid a flat fee;
- Provide similar goods or services to many different customers;
- Are not involved in programmatic work on the project; including project deliverables such as reports.