Effective Strategies for Subrecipient Monitoring

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Learning Objectives

Gain a basic knowledge of how to effectively monitor subrecipients by understanding:

- Subawards in Context
- What is a Subaward
- Prime Recipient Roles and Responsibilities
- Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI)
- Risk Analysis
- FFATA Reporting
- Looking Ahead: OmniCircular OMB A-81

Subawards in Context

In recent years, colleges and universities have seen a dramatic increase in collaborations and large-scale multidisciplinary projects that unite colleagues not only from within, but frequently across institutions and organizations.

Subawards in Context



In this age of national and worldwide collaboration, the subaward mechanism is the vehicle utilized to facilitate these collaborations. and sets forth the expectations of the parties with regard to the work to be completed, and compliance with terms and conditions of the prime sponsor.

What is a Subaward?

- A binding legal agreement that sets forth the expectations of the parties with regard to the scope of work and budget
- Performance measured against whether the objectives of the sponsored project are met
- Subrecipient responsible for the programmatic decision making relative to its portion of the sponsored project
- Subrecipient must adhere to compliance requirements (IRB, IACUC, FCOI, allowable costs, audit, terms/conditions flowed down from the Prime Sponsor)

Vendor Agreement in Contrast

- Usually issued to individuals or companies with specific expertise and service portfolio
- No programmatic decision making relative to its portion of the sponsored project
- No intellectual property or publication rights
- Flow down of Prime Sponsor terms and conditions usually not required (exceptions depend on Prime Sponsor)

Roles and Responsibilities

- Prime Recipient's PI
- Prime Recipient's Departmental Staff
- Prime Recipient's Sponsored Research Office (SRO)
- Prime Recipient's grant accounting office
- Subrecipient responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities: Prime Recipient's PI

 Review of technical and/or performance reports:

Ensure that work being conducted by subrecipient is in accordance with the scope of work as outlined in the subaward agreement, that the subrecipient's obligations are met, that required items, reports, and documents are delivered in a timely manner

Roles and Responsibilities: Prime Recipient's PI

- Formally submit request to SRO for issuance of subaward
- Review and approve subrecipient invoices to ensure expenditures are:
 - allowable, reasonable, allocable
 - within the period of performance
 - consistent with the work completed

Roles and Responsibilities: Prime Recipient's Departmental Staff

- Assist PI with formal request to SRO for issuance of subaward
- Review subrecipient invoices to ensure expenditures are:
 - allowable, reasonable, allocable
 - within the period of performance

Roles and Responsibilities: Prime Recipient's Sponsored Research Office

- Issuance, negotiation, and execution of subaward agreements to Subrecipients
- Conduct risk analysis of Subrecipient entity (this includes gathering information)
- Include additional terms or restrictions within the subaward agreement as needed depending on outcome of risk analysis

Roles and Responsibilities: Prime Recipient's Sponsored Research Office

- Include in the subaward agreement appropriate flow down of Prime Sponsor's terms and conditions
- Verify Subrecipient's compliance with PHS or other Prime Sponsor FCOI requirements (must also flow down FCOI requirements within the subaward agreement)

Roles and Responsibilities: Prime Recipient's Grant Accounting Office

- Review and approve subrecipient invoices to ensure expenditures are:
 - allowable, reasonable, allocable
 - within the period of performance
- Verification with the Prime Recipient PI that charges are consistent with the work completed

Roles and Responsibilities: Prime Recipient's Grant Accounting Office

- Communication with the Subrecipient to gather backup documentation for questionable or unique expenditures
- Request revised/corrected invoices
- Authorize payment of Subrecipient invoices
- Send annual A-133 letters to Subrecipients
- Conduct audit of Subrecipients

Roles and Responsibilities: Subrecipient

- Perform work in accordance with the approved budget and Scope of Work
- Comply with the terms and conditions of the subaward agreement; including terms from the Prime award
- Obtain approvals from their IRB or IACUC if human or animal subjects are used in their portion of the work
- Request approval from Prime Recipient when necessary

Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI)

- An institution applying for or receiving Public Health Services funding from a grant or cooperative agreement must be in compliance with all of the revised regulatory requirements as of August 24, 2012.
- The Federal Regulations that monitor FCOI are Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 50 Subpart F for grants and cooperative agreements.
- At time of proposal, check the FDP Clearinghouse.

Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI)

At proposal time, confirm either of the following:

- Subrecipient Organization/Institution certifies that it has an active and enforced conflict of interest policy that is consistent with the provision of 42 CFR Part 50, Subpart F "Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research."
- Subrecipient does not have an active and/or enforced conflict of interest policy and agrees to abide by Prime Recipient's policy

• A-133, section 525 requires prime grantees perform a risk analysis to evaluate the likelihood that a subrecipient will fail to comply with the requirements of the subaward.

 Institutions implement risk analysis through different approaches



- UMN performs risk analysis for all subrecipients of Federal funding and all subrecipients that receive over \$25K in non-Federal funding.
- The criteria used in evaluating risk:
 - The subrecipient's audit experience
 - The prior oversight and monitoring the subrecipient has received
 - The nature and complexity of the proposed research project
 - The fiscal maturity of the subrecipient
- The risk analysis entails not only reviewing the subrecipient's most recent audit or financial statement, but also the work to be performed under that subaward (ITAR/EAR, IACUC, IRB, etc.)

- NU conducts risk analysis for all subrecipient entities which are foreign, for-profit, other nonprofit non-university research organizations
- Whether a Subrecipient entity has a previous relationship with NU and is in good standing is also a determining factor of whether risk analysis is needed
- A completed Subrecipient questionnaire is collected from these subrecipient entities

- Information assessed through risk analysis:
 - A-133 or audit report on file
 - Domestic or foreign entity
 - Cumulative direct costs = or < \$499K
 - Cost share involved
 - FCOI policy PHS compliant
 - IACUC or IRB approvals on file
 - Maturity of subrecipient
 - Prime Recipient award type

Consider the type of Subrecipient entity:

- Domestic vs. Foreign
- University vs. Non-University
- FDP Institution vs. Non-FDP Institution

Consider the type of Subaward agreement:

- Cost reimbursable
- Fixed Price

- Use Harvester to access subrecipient's audit results: http://harvester.census.gov/sac/
- If audit results show findings, you will need to contact the subrecipient for a copy of their full audit
- If the subrecipient is not subject to A-133, you will need to gather information regarding their financial history and systems through a different method.
 - Both UMN and NU have internally created forms used to gather this data.

Risk Analysis: Debarment - Use SAM (System for Award Management)

Just a refresher:

- SAM created by the GSA to merge existing systems, processes, steps and data to streamline the user experience
- One login links to all the system capabilities
- One database which will eliminate data overlap and improve data quality
- Brings cost savings into the federal data management system by developing only one hosting facility

SAM.gov



USER NAME	PASSWORD	
		LOG IN
Forgot Username?	Forgot Password?	

Create an Account

Need Help?

HOME SEARCH RECORDS DATA ACCESS

GENERAL INFO

HELP

CREATE USER ACCOUNT

Your CCR username will not work in SAM. You will need a new SAM User Account to register or update your entity records. You will also need to create a SAM User Account if you are a government official and need to create Exclusions or search for FOUO information.

Create User Account

REGISTER/UPDATE ENTITY

You can register your Entity (business, individual, or government agency) to do business with the Federal Government. If you are interested in registering or updating your Entity, you must first create a user account.

Register/Update Entity

SEARCH RECORDS

All entity records from CCR/FedReg and ORCA and exclusion records from EPLS, active or expired, were moved to SAM. You can search these records and new ones created in SAM. If you are a government user logged in with your SAM user account, you will automatically have access to FOUO information.

Search Records

WHAT IS SAM?

The System for Award Management (SAM) is a Federal Government owned and operated free web site that consolidates the capabilities in CCR/FedReg, ORCA, and EPLS. Future phases of SAM will add the capabilities of other systems used in Federal procurement and awards processes.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAM Management Moves to GSA FAS and CIO

and Announcements section for the full

Can I use my CCR username in SAM? Click HERE to find answers to this and other top questions.

USER GUIDES/HELPFUL HINTS

Additional information, such as a full User Guide, Ouick Start Guides, Helpful Click on General Info and go to the News Hints, and Webinars are available on the HELP tab.

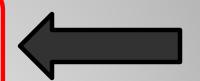
Service Desk

URL: http://www.FSD.gov

FORMER CCR REGISTRANTS

If you had an active record in CCR, you have an active record in SAM. You do not need to do anything in SAM at this time, unless a change in your business circumstances requires updates to your Entity record(s) in order for you to be paid or to receive an award or you need to renew your Entity(s) prior to its expiration. SAM will send notifications to the registered user via email 60, 30, and 15 days prior to expiration of the Entity. To update or renew your Entity records(s) in SAM you will need to create a SAM User Account and link it to your migrated Entity records. You do not need a user account to search for registered entities in SAM by typing the DUNS number or business name into the search box.

Start search here:



Search Screen



USER NAME	PASSWORD	
		LOG IN
Forgot Username?	Forgot Password?	

Create an Account

HOME

SEARCH RECORDS

DATA ACCESS

GENERAL INFO

HELP

Search Records

You can enter a DUNS number, CAGE code or Business Name to search for the entities that you are interested in reviewing. The top search bar allows you to enter any search term. You can also enter exclusion search terms to search for exclusion records. If you want to search for only a CAGE code or a DUNS number you can use the bottom two search bars. Once a search has returned results, use the filters provided to narrow results.

Government employees must create a SAM user account with their government email address. Log in before searching in order to see FOUO information and those registrants who selected to opt out of the public search.

You can only use one search bar at a time

Enter your specific search term

(Example of search term includes the entity's name, etc.)

DUNS Number Search:

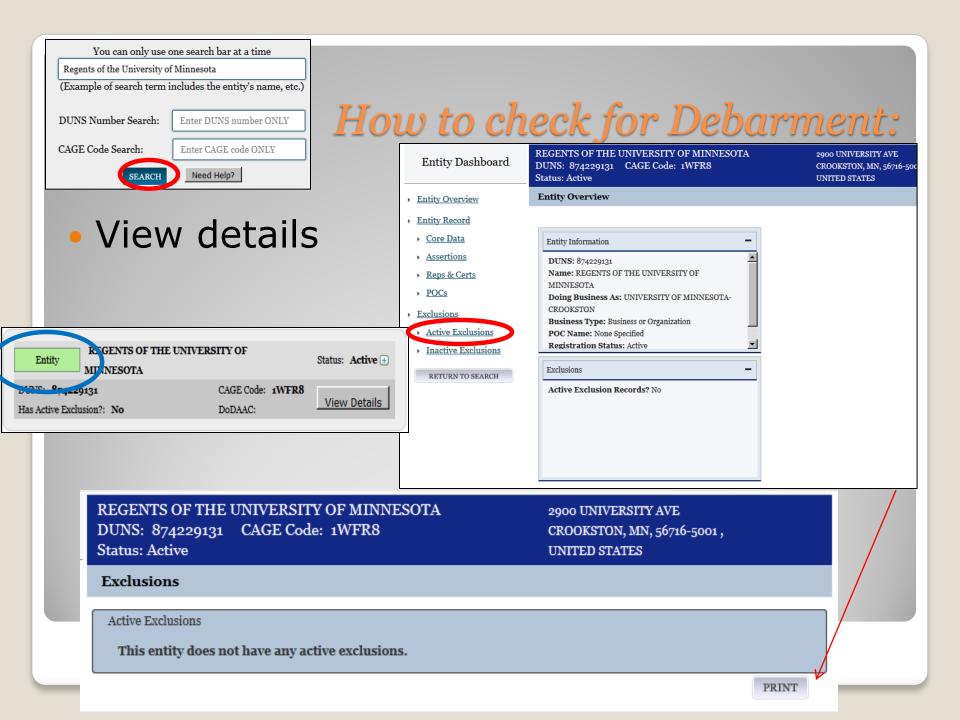
Enter DUNS number ONLY

CAGE Code Search:

Enter CAGE code ONLY

SEARCH

Need Help?



What does an Exclusion look like?

You can only use one search bar at a time

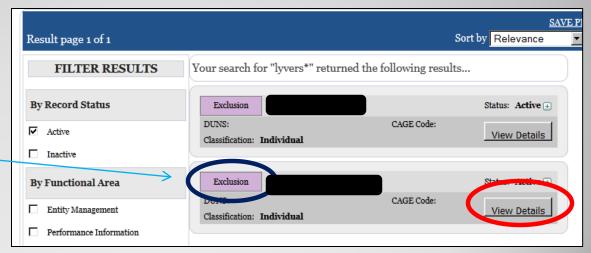
(Example of search term includes the entity's name, etc.)

DUNS Number Search: Enter DUNS number ONLY

CAGE Code Search: Enter CAGE code ONLY

Need Help?

Note the visual clue, the purple Exclusion tab



Exclusion Summary

Exclusion Summary

There may be instances when an Individual or Firm has the same or similar name as your search criteria, but is actually a different party. Therefore, it is important that you verify a potential match with the excluding agency identified in the exclusion's details. To confirm or obtain additional information, contact the federal agency that took the action against the listed party. Agency points of contact, including name and telephone number, may be found by navigating to the Agency Exclusion POCs page within SAM Help.

View Exclusion History

Current Record ▼

VIEW HISTORICAL RECORD

[Expand All] | [Collapse All]

Current Record Details

Exclusion Details:

Exclusion Program: Reciprocal

Classification Type: Individual

Exclusion Type: Prohibition/Restriction

Nature (Cause):

May be subject to sanctions pursuant to the conditions imposed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), or subject to a sanction, restriction or partial denial pursuant to the conditions imposed by the U.S. Department of State (STATE) or Federal agency of the U.S. Government.

Effect:

Exclusions

The View Detail tab with an Exclusion status will open information on the Current Record Detail

You may want to print this screen for your file.

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)



- Signed on September 26, 2006 during assembly of the 109th Congress of the U.S.A.
- Intent is to empower Americans with the ability to hold the government accountable for spending decisions
- Grant recipients awarded Federal grants \$25,000 or greater are subject to FFATA Subrecipient reporting

FFATA Reporting

- Prime awardee is required to file a FFATA sub-award report by the end of the month following the month in which the prime recipient awards any subaward \$25,000 or greater
- Reports are submitted through FSRS.gov and then displayed on USASpending.gov

FFATA Reporting – How to manage?

- FFATA reports are submitted by a central office. At UMN and NU, the Sponsored Research offices are responsible for submission
- Do not pre-sign subawards. This gives prime grantee control to meet the FFATA deadline to submit the report by the end of the following month.

Looking Ahead: OmniCircular OMB A-81

Proposed OMB Uniform Guidance: Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards

- Proposed by federal government January 31, 2013
- Intended to streamline language from eight existing OMB circulars into one document

Looking Ahead: OmniCircular OMB A-81

Impact on Subaward Issuance

- Audit Requirements: Increased threshold for a single audit from \$500K to \$750K
- Cost Principles: Flat F&A rate of 10% for recipients not having a federally negotiated rate
- Administrative Requirements: Proposal review include review for merit and financial risk

Resources

- http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA 070596
- https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/
- https://www.fsrs.gov/
- http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D
 =OMB-2013-0001-0002

APPENDICES (in order of appearance)

- FDP Clearinghouse screenshots
- UMN FCOI forms (Forms 1 and 2)
- UMN Risk Analysis form
- NU Risk Assessment form
- FSRS screenshots for FFATA reporting



LOGIN

FDP Institutional Clearinghouse

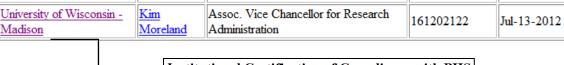
Institution Name
Primary DUNS Number

Search

Partial name is allowed in the Institution Name
field

The list of institutions displayed below contains the institutions whose authorized official have certified that they are compliant with the PHS Financial Conflict of Interest rules and regulations. There are 109 institutions currently participating.

Click the link under the *Institution* title for Institutional information



Subrecipient not registered in the FDP Clearinghouse?

University of Minnesota created forms to acquire information needed to be compliance with FCOI if subrecipient is not in FDP Clearinghouse.

- Form 1: Documentation of PHS Subrecipient Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI Policy)
- Form 2: Subrecipient Disclosure of Significant Financial Interests

Form 1 Documentation of PHS Subrecipient Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) Policy University of Minnesota - Office of Sponsored Projects Administration Required when proposing a subaward for a sponsored research project to be funded under a PHS award. A. Proposal Information UMN PRF #: (If known) University of Minnesota PI: Prime Sponsor: Proposal/Project Title: Subaward Period of Performance: From: Proposed Subaward Total: \$ Return Form To: (Email) B. Subrecipient Information Subrecipient Organization Legal Name: Organization's Address: (Include ZIP Code/Postal Code) DUNS #: C. Subrecipient FCOI Policy Statement (1) I will follow the Conflict of Interest policy established and enforced by (Skip to Section D below) (2) I will follow the Conflict of Interest policy established and enforced by the University of Minnesota. Names of individuals working on this project who are responsible for design, conduct, or reporting of the research are shown below (Attach Form 2 for each) To be completed by U of M SPA Form 2 Attached? Disclosure (N/P) Date Subrecipient PI: Investigator/Key Personnel: Investigator/Key Personnel: Investigator/Key Personnel: (Please attach additional pages if needed.) I certify that the information listed above is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that I am an Authorized Organizational Official for my institution. The appropriate programmatic and administrative personnel involved in this disclosure are aware of agency policy in regard to subawards and are prepared to establish the necessary inter-institutional agreements and/or FCOL management plans consistent with those policies. Please return completed form to "Return Form to" email in section A above or Sponsored Projects Administration, 200 Oak Street SE, 450 McNamara Alumni Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

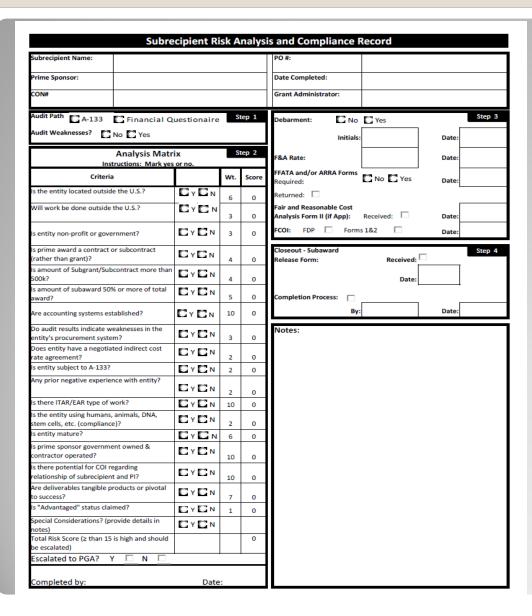
UMN - Form 1

Provides documentation that subrecipient has current COI policy in compliance with PHS regulations or will use the University of Minnesota policy.

UMN – Form 2

If (and only if) the authorized organizational official has checked Box C.2. of Form 1 indicating the University of Minnesota's conflict of interest policy will be followed, then EACH subrecipient investigator must also complete, sign, and return a Form 2 to the University of Minnesota.

		FORM 2
	Subrecipient Disclosure of Significant Financial Interests	
Unive	ersity of Minnesota PHS supported project title:	
Name	of Subrecipient Entity:	
Name	of Subrecipient Researcher Completing this Form:	
Defin	itions:	
Remu	neration includes salary and any payment for services not otherwise identified as salary (e ulting fees, honoraria, paid authorship).	·g.,
Equit	y interest includes any stock, stock options, or other ownership interest as determined thro	ough
refere	ence to public prices or other reasonable measures of market value.	
tr q	o you (and your spouse and dependent children) have a significant financial interest in a raded entity that when aggregated exceeds \$5,000? When determining your response to usestion, please add the value of any equity interest as of the date of this disclosure to an emuneration received from the entity in the twelve months preceding this disclosure.	this
	No Yes (if yes, provide name of business entity):	
in	o you (or your spouse and dependent children) have the following significant financial in na non-publicly traded entity? . Remuneration that when aggregated exceeds \$5,000.	terests
	No Yes (if yes, provide name of business entity):	
b	. Any equity interest. No Yes (if yes, provide name of business entity):	
ti	ave you (and your spouse and dependent children) received income in excess of \$5,000 d he twelve months preceding this disclosure that is related to intellectual property rights a hterests (e.g., patents, copyrights)?	
	No Yes (if yes, provide name of business entity):	
4. н	as any organization sponsored or reimbursed you for any travel you have taken that is re	lated to
	our work for the University of Minnesota? Note: You are not required to disclose to travel that	
de	imbursed or sponsored by a Federal, state, or local government agency, an Institution of higher educ efined at 20 U.S.C. 1001(a), an academic teaching hospital, a medical center, or a research institute t ffiliated with an Institution of higher education.	
	No Yes If yes, report the name of sponsor/organizer, purpose, destination, and duration	of trip):
5. A	dditional details about reported financial interests:	
	Investigator Certification	
certify	r, to the best of my knowledge, that the information reported herein is complete and acco	ırate.
ignatu	re of Investigator Date	



UMN created this form for its risk analysis procedures. This form is completed for each subaward under Federal Funding.

Northwestern University Subrecipient Risk Assessment Form

Collegia						_			
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Very High = or > 84 Monitoring and	High 51-83	additional monitoring that should be put in place such as more detailed invoices, more frequest/detailsed financial and/or programmatic reporting, etc. including how and by whom the monitoring will be done.							
	Very High = or > 84	Monitoring and							

Signature and Date

Risk assessment form must be completed each time a new subaward is issued to a foreign, for-profit, or other non-University organization

ransmittal to subrecipient for review and execution.

The weighted score will determine actions required.

Financial threshholds are cumulative. Therefore, modifications may trigger the need to reassess risk.

Current audit reports are considered each time risk assessment is conducted.

OSR is responsible for gathering initial information to determine whether or not a subrecipient requires additional monitoring. This does not include

reviewing A-133 audits and Independent Auditor's Reports.

ASRSP is responsible for requesting and reviewing annual A-133 audit reports. ASRSP will review all audited statements with material findings,

ASRSP and OSR will make determinations on how to address any issues and work closely on these matters.

Any circumstances not covered on the risk assessment form may be indicated in the Notes section of this form

The circumstances may increase the risk of the subaward.

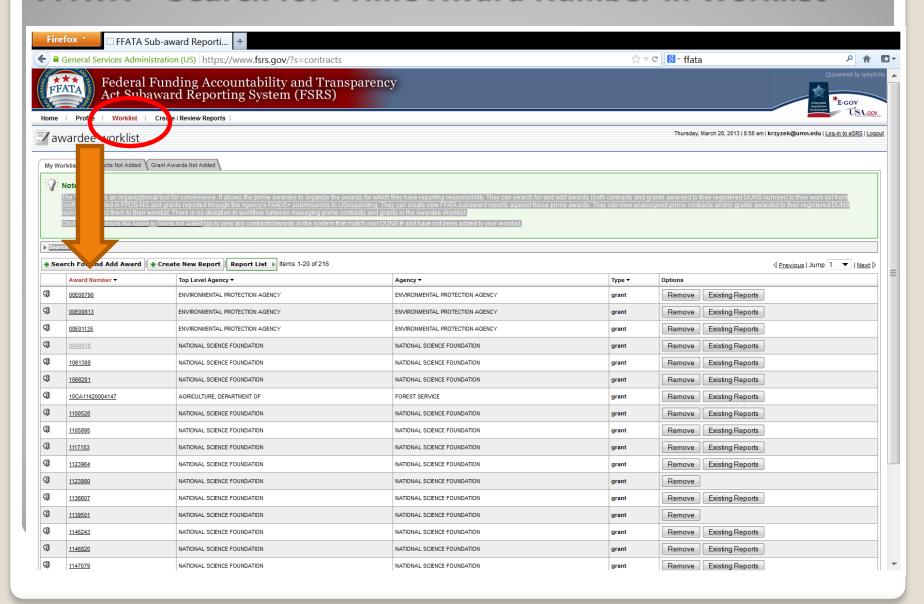
Subrecipient annual audit review: ASRSP will notify OSR if after review of an A-133 audit any action is required

(Rev. 10/9/2012)

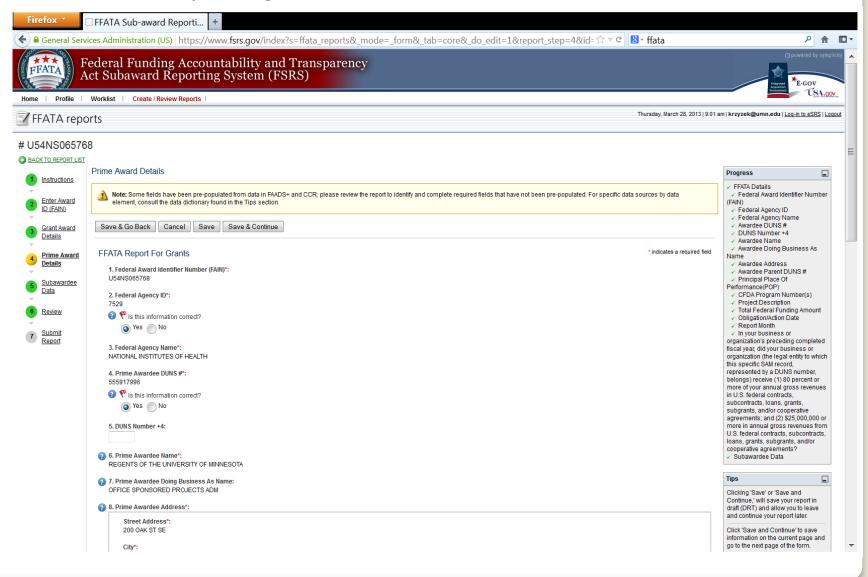
Risk Analysis

NU Subrecipient Risk Assessment form is used as a tool to assess and score information gathered from Subrecipients for certain risk elements

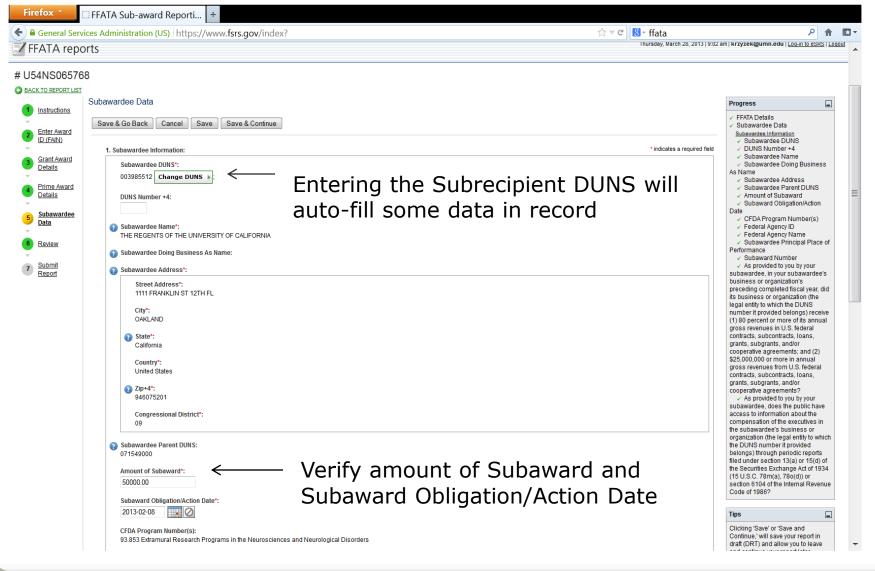
FFATA - Search for Prime Award Number in Worklist



FFATA Reporting – Review Prime Award Details



FFATA Reporting – Review Subawardee Data



FFATA Reporting – A Successful Submission

