New Uniform Guidance Procurement Standards for Federal Research and Grant Purchases – Effective July 1, 2018

Uniform Guidance (“UG”) is a set of federal regulations that impacts research administration and significantly reforms federal grants to focus resources on improving performance and outcomes. It is a compliance requirement to follow the Uniform Guidance Procurement Standards when procuring goods and services using federal funds.

The purpose for the Uniform Guidance is to reduce administrative burden for grant applicants and recipients, as well as to reduce the risk of waste, fraud and abuse. Procurement Standards for UG is specifically located in sections e-CFR 200.317 to 200.326 and concentrates on increased competition and transparency in the purchasing process. The new procurement requirements of the Uniform Guidance go into effect on July 1, 2018. These requirements define three purchase types (and associated thresholds) for the acquisition of goods and services. At UCI, these purchase types and thresholds are identified by the following terms:

- Micro-Purchase (≤$10,000) (UG Procurement Standards requirements do not apply)
- Small Purchase (>10,000 and <100,000 for California)
- Competitive Bids Purchase (≥$100,000 for California)

The following requirements apply for all Small and Competitive Bid Purchases, except when UC or UCI contracted suppliers are used:

- A minimum of three comparison quotes must be secured and documented, and the conflict of interest section VII of the Source Selection & Price Reasonableness Justification form must be completed, signed, and attached.

  OR

- For competitive bidding exemptions, the entire Source Selection & Price Reasonableness Justification form must be completed, signed and attached.

Competitive biddings exemptions are:
- Sole Source or no known competition
- Emergency (not in lieu of time management)
- Awarding Agency approval (email/written correspondence directly from agency)
For KFS requisitions:

For any purchases above Micro-Purchase threshold, if there is federal funding >$10,000 involved, there will be messages in KFS that will be flagged listing the above requirements.

For any purchases above the Micro-Purchase threshold if there is any intent to do a General Error Correction (“GEC”) and transfer >$10,000 amount to federal funds after the original purchase, the above referenced documents need to be attached to the original KFS requisition. If the proper documentation is not attached, transferring purchases to federal funds at a later date cannot occur and the KFS Procurement Reviewer will not approve the GEC.

SSPR form section VII – Equipment must be purchased 90 days in advance of funding expiration date unless there is appropriate written approval of Equipment Purchasing Award End Date form attached.

procurement.uci.edu