

Engaging with Federally Funded Research and Development Centers and Government Entities

Doing Business With ARPA-H Industry Day
Breakout Session

November 13, 2024



Why You Are Here

- Understand ARPA-H's policy and approach to working with:
 - Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)
 - Government Entities (GEs)

- Learn more about:
 - Overlapping interests
 - Complementary capabilities
 - Conflict of interest and unequal access concerns
 - Clear lines for engagement



Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)

Introduction

FFRDCs are unique organizations sponsored by the U.S. Government to meet specific long-term technical needs that can't be met as effectively by the government or private sector alone.

They operate as strategic partners, providing expert advice and technical expertise in research and development.

<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/#ffrdc>



FFRDC Characteristics



Government-sponsored



Public-interest Focused



Long-term Relationships



Comprehensive Expertise

Benefits

Impartial expertise: provide unbiased, high-quality research and development support tailored to the sponsor's needs.

Stability and continuity: maintain long-term stability and institutional knowledge, which is crucial for projects requiring sustained attention over many years.

Access to cutting-edge technology: often have access to advanced technologies and capabilities that might not be readily available in the private sector.

Flexible collaboration: can work in close partnership with their sponsors, adapting to evolving requirements and priorities and has access, beyond that which is common to the normal contractual relationship.

Types of FFRDCs

Research and Development Laboratories

Focused on applied research, development, and engineering

Study and Analysis Centers

Provide objective analysis and assessment to inform policy and decision-making

Systems Engineering and Integration Centers

Offer systems engineering and integration capabilities

Governance

Sponsorship and Oversight: Each FFRDC is sponsored by a specific government agency which provides oversight to ensure alignment with federal objectives and efficient use of resources.

Contracting Mechanism: FFRDCs operate under long-term contracts or agreements with their sponsoring agencies, which are periodically reviewed and renewed.

Regulatory Compliance: They adhere to federal regulations and policies, including those concerning security, intellectual property, and financial management.



Governmental Entities

- Government Entities (GEs) include Government agencies and employees, and business concerns or other organizations owned or controlled by one or more Government employees.
– E.g. – NIH Institutes or Centers
- GE is a permanent or semi-permanent Federal organization (including support contractors) established by the executive or legislative branches of the government responsible for oversight and administration of a specific government function.
- GEs can also include gubernatorial and legislative offices from state governments, local governments and tribal governments.
- Examples of GEs include the Department of Homeland Security, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Governor Office, NIH Institutes and Centers, appropriately cleared OGE support contractors.



ARPA-H Policy

- Issued by ARPA-H Director, Dr. Renee Wegrzyn:
 - ARPA-H’s position is that FFRDCs and Government entities are not allowed to participate in ARPA-H awards under research and development (R&D) Other Transactions or Cooperative Agreements as either a prime or sub-performer, except in rare and special circumstances
- Specifically:
 - FFRDCs were established to produce thorough, independent analysis without competing interests that could lead to bias or the misuse of information. Due to the long-term relationship between an FFRDC and a sponsoring federal agency, as well as the nature of the work and services provided by the FFRDC, FFRDCs may often have access to Government employees, equipment, data, and property beyond what is typical for a contractor. **The Government’s position is that FFRDCs should not be able to leverage this access to compete with the private sector and should not be assigned work that could be carried out effectively by for-profit companies, except on a very limited basis.**
 - Government entities are prohibited from being awarded federal contracts due to:
 - conflicts of interest between employee interests and their Governmental duties,
 - organizational conflicts of interest, and
 - the appearance of favoritism or preferential treatment.



Solicitation Language

PROHIBITION OF PERFORMER PARTICIPATION FROM FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (FFRDCs) AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

ARPA-H is primarily interested in responses to this solicitation from commercial performers, academia, non-profit organizations, etc. In certain circumstances, FFRDCs and government entities will have unique capabilities that are not available to proposing teams through any other resource. Accordingly, the following principles will apply to this solicitation.

- a) FFRDCs and government entities, including federal government employees, are not permitted to respond to this solicitation as a prime or subperformer on a proposed Performer team.
- b) If an FFRDC or government entity has a unique research idea that is within the technology scope of this solicitation that it would like considered for funding, submit research description to this e-mail address: ARPA-H [Mission Office] ISO@arpa-h.gov.
- c) If an FFRDC or government entity, including a federal government employee, is interested in working directly with the government team supporting the research described by this solicitation, that party should contact the ARPA-H [Mission Office] ISO@arpa-h.gov.
- d) If a potential prime Performer believes that an FFRDC has a unique capability without which its solution is unachievable, the potential prime Performer should be aware that it will have to provide documentation as part of its proposal submittal showing that it has exhausted all other options for ARPA-H to consider the inclusion of the FFRDC in the proposed solution.



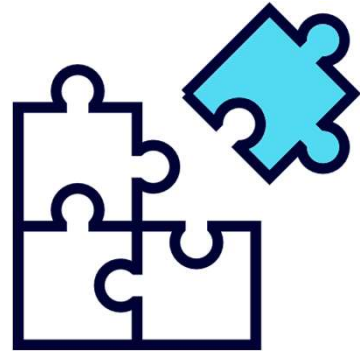
ARPA-H Policy Exception

A Program Manager can request a waiver:

- Must justify how FFRDC or Government Entity contributions can't reasonably be met by a private sector capability
- Must be approved in writing by Director of ARPA-H, or Deputy Director as delegated

Key Takeaways

ARPA-H's position is that FFRDCs and Government entities are **not** allowed to participate in ARPA-H awards under research and development (R&D) Other Transactions or Cooperative Agreements as either a prime or sub-performer, except in rare and special circumstances.





Q&A



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