

OMB Circulars and Guidance

§ 230.50

are subject to those Federal cost principles applicable to the particular organization concerned. Thus, if a subaward is to a non-profit organization, this part shall apply; if a subaward is to a commercial organization, the cost principles applicable to commercial concerns shall apply; if a subaward is to a college or university, 2 CFR part 220 shall apply; if a subaward is to a State, local, or federally-recognized Indian tribal government, 2 CFR part 225 shall apply.

(c) Exclusion of some non-profit organizations. Some non-profit organizations, because of their size and nature of operations, can be considered to be similar to commercial concerns for purpose of applicability of cost principles. Such non-profit organizations shall operate under Federal cost principles applicable to commercial concerns. A listing of these organizations is contained in appendix C to this part. Other organizations may be added from time to time.

§ 230.25 Definitions.

(a) Non-profit organization means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization which:

(1) Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;

(2) Is not organized primarily for profit; and

(3) Uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations. For this purpose, the term "non-profit organization" excludes colleges and universities; hospitals; State, local, and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; and those non-profit organizations which are excluded from coverage of this part in accordance with § 230.20(c).

(b) Prior approval means securing the awarding agency's permission in advance to incur cost for those items that are designated as requiring prior approval by the part and its appendices. Generally this permission will be in writing. Where an item of cost requiring prior approval is specified in the budget of an award, approval of the budget constitutes approval of that cost.

§ 230.30 OMB responsibilities.

OMB may grant exceptions to the requirements of this part when permissible under existing law. However, in the interest of achieving maximum uniformity, exceptions will be permitted only in highly unusual circumstances.

§ 230.35 Federal agency responsibilities.

The head of each Federal agency that awards and administers grants and agreements subject to this part is responsible for requesting approval from and/or consulting with OMB (as applicable) for deviations from the guidance in the appendices to this part and performing the applicable functions specified in the appendices to this part.

§ 230.40 Effective date of changes.

The provisions of this part are effective August 31, 2005. Implementation shall be phased in by incorporating the provisions into new awards made after the start of the organization's next fiscal year. For existing awards, the new principles may be applied if an organization and the cognizant Federal agency agree. Earlier implementation, or a delay in implementation of individual provisions, is also permitted by mutual agreement between an organization and the cognizant Federal agency.

§ 230.45 Relationship to previous issuance.

(a) The guidance in this part previously was issued as OMB Circular A-122. Appendix A to this part contains the guidance that was in Attachment A (general principles) to the OMB circular; Appendix B contains the guidance that was in Attachment B (selected items of cost) to the OMB circular; and Appendix C contains the information that was in Attachment C (non-profit organizations not subject to the Circular) to the OMB circular.

(b) Historically, OMB Circular A-122 superseded cost principles issued by individual agencies for non-profit organizations.

§ 230.50 Information contact.

Further information concerning this part may be obtained by contacting the

Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395–3993.

APPENDIX A TO PART 230—GENERAL PRINCIPLES

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. Basic Considerations

1. Composition of total costs. The total cost of an award is the sum of the allowable direct and allocable indirect costs less any applicable credits.
2. Factors affecting allowability of costs. To be allowable under an award, costs must meet the following general criteria:
 - a. Be reasonable for the performance of the award and be allocable thereto under these principles.
 - b. Conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth in these principles or in the award as to types or amount of cost items.
 - c. Be consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally-financed and other activities of the organization.
 - d. Be accorded consistent treatment.
 - e. Be determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
 - f. Not be included as a cost or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federally-financed program in either the current or a prior period.
 - g. Be adequately documented.
3. Reasonable costs. A cost is reasonable if, in its nature or amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the

costs. The question of the reasonableness of specific costs must be scrutinized with particular care in connection with organizations or separate divisions thereof which receive the preponderance of their support from awards made by Federal agencies. In determining the reasonableness of a given cost, consideration shall be given to:

a. Whether the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the organization or the performance of the award.

b. The restraints or requirements imposed by such factors as generally accepted sound business practices, arms length bargaining, Federal and State laws and regulations, and terms and conditions of the award.

c. Whether the individuals concerned acted with prudence in the circumstances, considering their responsibilities to the organization, its members, employees, and clients, the public at large, and the Federal Government.

d. Significant deviations from the established practices of the organization which may unjustifiably increase the award costs.

4. Allocable costs. a. A cost is allocable to a particular cost objective, such as a grant, contract, project, service, or other activity, in accordance with the relative benefits received. A cost is allocable to a Federal award if it is treated consistently with other costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances and if it:

(1) Is incurred specifically for the award.

(2) Benefits both the award and other work and can be distributed in reasonable proportion to the benefits received, or

(3) Is necessary to the overall operation of the organization, although a direct relationship to any particular cost objective cannot be shown.

b. Any cost allocable to a particular award or other cost objective under these principles may not be shifted to other Federal awards to overcome funding deficiencies, or to avoid restrictions imposed by law or by the terms of the award.

5. Applicable credits. a. The term applicable credits refers to those receipts, or reduction of expenditures which operate to offset or reduce expense items that are allocable to awards as direct or indirect costs. Typical examples of such transactions are: Purchase discounts, rebates or allowances, recoveries or indemnities on losses, insurance refunds, and adjustments of overpayments or erroneous charges. To the extent that such credits accruing or received by the organization relate to allowable cost, they shall be credited to the Federal Government either as a cost reduction or cash refund, as appropriate.

b. In some instances, the amounts received from the Federal Government to finance organizational activities or service operations