

whether the proposed contract is or is not subject to review under GAM Chapter 18-10 requirements. If the contracting officer has any questions regarding the determination of applicability or nonapplicability, or if the required statement is missing, the program office submitting the request for contract should be contacted and the situation rectified. If the issue cannot be resolved with the program office, the contracting office shall refer the matter to the CICO for a final determination. The HCA is responsible for ensuring that contracting activities are in full compliance with FAR Subpart 7.3.

307.307 Appeals.

The review and appeals procedure discussed in FAR 7.307 are addressed in GAM Chapter 18-10.

Subpart 307.70—Considerations in Selecting an Award Instrument

307.7000 Scope of subpart.

This subpart provides guidance on the appropriate selection of award instruments consistent with 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308. This subpart explains the use of the contract as the award instrument for acquisition relationships, and the grant or cooperative agreement as the instrument for assistance relationships. This subpart provides guidance for determining whether to use the acquisition or assistance process to fulfill program needs.

307.7001 Distinction between acquisition and assistance.

(a) 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 requires the use of contracts to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Government and grants or cooperative agreements to transfer money, property, services, or anything of value to recipients to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute.

(b) A contract is to be used as the legal instrument to reflect a relationship between the Federal Government and a recipient whenever:

(1) The principal purpose of the instrument is the acquisition, by purchase, lease, or barter, of property or

services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government; *or*

(2) The Department determines in a specific instance that the use of a type of contract is appropriate. That is, it is determined in a certain situation that specific needs can be satisfied best by using the acquisition process. However, this authority does not permit circumventing the criteria for use of acquisition or assistance instruments. Use of this authority is restricted to extraordinary circumstances and only with the prior approval of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grants and Acquisition Management (DASGAM).

(c) A grant or cooperative agreement is to be used as the legal instrument to reflect a relationship between the Federal Government and a recipient whenever the principal purpose of the relationship is the transfer of money, property, services, or anything of value to the recipient to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute.

(1) A grant is the legal instrument to be used when no substantial involvement is anticipated between the Department and the recipient during performance of the contemplated activity.

(2) A cooperative agreement is the legal instrument to be used when substantial involvement is anticipated between the Department and the recipient during performance of the contemplated activity.

(d) As a general rule, contracts are to be used for the following purposes:

(1) Evaluation (including research of an evaluative nature) of the performance of Government programs or projects or grantee activity initiated by the funding agency for its direct benefit or use.

(2) Technical assistance rendered to the Government, or on behalf of the Government, to any third party, including those receiving grants or cooperative agreements.

(3) Surveys, studies, and research which provide specific information desired by the Government for its direct activities, or for dissemination to the public.

(4) Consulting services or professional services of all kinds if provided to the Government or, on behalf of the Government, to any third party.

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(5) Training projects where the Government selects the individuals or specific groups whose members are to be trained or specifies the content of the curriculum (not applicable to fellowship awards.)

(6) Planning for Government use.

(7) Production of publications or audiovisual materials required primarily for the conduct of the direct operations of the Government.

(8) Design or development of items for Government use or pursuant to agency definition or specifications.

(9) Conferences conducted on behalf of the Government.

(10) Generation of management information or other data for Government use.

307.7002 Procedures.

(a) OPDIV program officials should use existing budget and program planning procedures to propose new activities and major changes in ongoing programs. It is the responsibility of these program officials to meet with the HCA and the principal grants management official, or their designees, to distinguish the relationships and determine whether award is to be made through the acquisition process or assistance process. This determination should be made prior to the time when the annual acquisition plan is reviewed and approved so that the plan will reflect all known proposed contract actions. The cognizant contracting officer will confirm the appropriateness of the use of the contract instrument when reviewing the request for contract.

(b) Shifts from one award instrument to another must be fully documented in the appropriate files to show a fundamental change in program purpose that unequivocally justifies the rationale for the shift.

(c) OPDIVs must ensure that the choice of instrument is determined in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 and applicable departmental policies. If, however, there are major individual transactions or programs which contain elements of both acquisition and assistance in such a way that they cannot be characterized as having a principal purpose of one or the other, guidance should be obtained from the DASGAM, through normal channels,

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before proceeding with a determination.

(d) Any public notice, program announcement, solicitation, or request for applications or proposals must indicate whether the intended relationship will be one of acquisition or assistance and specify the award instrument to be used.

Subpart 307.71—Requests for Contract

307.7100 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes the format and contents of the request for contract (RFC) and provides procedures for its preparation and submission.

307.7101 General.

The program office's preparation of the RFC and submission to the contracting office completes the presolicitation phase of the acquisition planning process and commences the solicitation phase. The RFC is the formal document which initiates the preparation of the solicitation by the contracting office and sets the acquisition process in motion. It is the result of the planning by the project officer and contracting officer and contains much of the pertinent information necessary for the development of a sound, comprehensive solicitation.

307.7102 Procedures.

The program office should submit the RFC to the contracting office no later than the date agreed to by the contracting officer and the project officer in the milestone schedule (see 307.104(h)), unless a revised due date has been established by mutual agreement.

307.7103 Responsibilities.

(a) It is the responsibility of the project officer to prepare the RFC so that it complies with the requirements of this subpart and any OPDIV guidance issued in accordance with this subpart.

(b) Prior to the submission of the RFC to the contracting office, the head of the program office sponsoring the project shall review the RFC to ensure