

## M. SUBRECIPIENT MONITORING

### Compliance Requirements

A pass-through entity is responsible for:

- *Award Identification* – At the time of the award, identifying to the subrecipient the Federal award information (i.e., CFDA title and number; award name and number; if the award is research and development; and name of Federal awarding agency) and applicable compliance requirements.
- *During-the-Award Monitoring* – Monitoring the subrecipient's use of Federal awards through reporting, site visits, regular contact, or other means to provide reasonable assurance that the subrecipient administers Federal awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements and that performance goals are achieved.
- *Subrecipient Audits* – (1) Ensuring that subrecipients expending \$500,000 or more in Federal awards during the subrecipient's fiscal year for fiscal years ending after December 31, 2003 as provided in OMB Circular A-133 have met the audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133 (the circular is available on the Internet at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a133/a133.html>) and that the required audits are completed within 9 months of the end of the subrecipient's audit period; (2) issuing a management decision on audit findings within 6 months after receipt of the subrecipient's audit report; and (3) ensuring that the subrecipient takes timely and appropriate corrective action on all audit findings. In cases of continued inability or unwillingness of a subrecipient to have the required audits, the pass-through entity shall take appropriate action using sanctions.
- *Pass-Through Entity Impact* – Evaluating the impact of subrecipient activities on the pass-through entity's ability to comply with applicable Federal regulations.
- ***Central Contractor Registration*** – Identifying to first-tier subrecipients the requirement to register in the Central Contractor Registration, including obtaining a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, and maintain the currency of that information (Section 1512(h), ARRA, and 2 CFR 176.50(c)).

#### *During-the-Award Monitoring*

Following are examples of factors that may affect the nature, timing, and extent of during-the-award monitoring:

- *Program complexity* – Programs with complex compliance requirements have a higher risk of non-compliance.
- *Percentage passed through* – The larger the percentage of program awards passed through the greater the need for subrecipient monitoring.

- *Amount of awards* – Larger dollar awards are of greater risk.
- *Subrecipient risk* – Subrecipients may be evaluated as higher risk or lower risk to determine the need for closer monitoring. Generally, new subrecipients would require closer monitoring. For existing subrecipients, based on results of during-the-award monitoring and subrecipient audits, a subrecipient may warrant closer monitoring (e.g., the subrecipient has (1) a history of non-compliance as either a recipient or subrecipient, (2) new personnel, or (3) new or substantially changed systems).

Monitoring activities normally occur throughout the year and may take various forms, such as:

- *Reporting* – Reviewing financial and performance reports submitted by the subrecipient.
- *Site Visits* – Performing site visits at the subrecipient to review financial and programmatic records and observe operations.
- *Regular Contact* – Regular contacts with subrecipients and appropriate inquiries concerning program activities.

#### *Agreed-upon procedures engagements*

A pass-through entity may arrange for agreed-upon procedures engagements for certain aspects of subrecipient activities, such as eligibility determinations. Since the pass-through entity determines the procedures to be used and compliance areas to be tested, these agreed-upon procedures engagements enable the pass-through entity to target the coverage to areas of greatest risk. The costs of agreed-upon procedures engagements is an allowable cost to the pass-through entity if the agreed-upon procedures are performed for subrecipients below the A-133 threshold for audit (currently at \$500,000 for fiscal years ending after December 31, 2003) for the following types of compliance requirements: activities allowed or unallowed; allowable costs/cost principles; eligibility; matching, level of effort, earmarking; and reporting (OMB Circular A-133 (§ \_\_.230(b)(2))).

#### **Source of Governing Requirements**

The requirements for subrecipient monitoring are contained in 31 USC 7502(f)(2)(B) (Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-156)), OMB Circular A-133 (§ \_\_.225 and § \_\_.400(d)), A-102 Common Rule (§ \_\_.37 and § \_\_.40(a)), and OMB Circular A-110 (2 CFR section 215.51(a)), program legislation, Federal awarding agency regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award.

#### **Audit Objectives**

1. Obtain an understanding of internal control, assess risk, and test internal control as required by OMB Circular A-133 § \_\_.500(c).

2. Determine whether the pass-through entity properly identified Federal award information and compliance requirements to the subrecipient, and approved only allowable activities in the award documents.
3. Determine whether the pass-through entity monitored subrecipient activities to provide reasonable assurance that the subrecipient administers Federal awards in compliance with Federal requirements.
4. Determine whether the pass-through entity ensured required audits are performed, issued a management decision on audit findings within 6 months after receipt of the subrecipient's audit report, and ensures that the subrecipient takes timely and appropriate corrective action on all audit findings.
5. Determine whether in cases of continued inability or unwillingness of a subrecipient to have the required audits, the pass-through entity took appropriate action using sanctions.
6. Determine whether the pass-through entity evaluates the impact of subrecipient activities on the pass-through entity.
7. **Determine whether the pass-through entity determined that subrecipients have current CCR registrations prior to making subawards and performed periodic checks to ensure that subrecipients are updating information, as necessary.**

#### **Suggested Audit Procedures – Internal Control**

1. Using the guidance provided in Part 6 – Internal Control, perform procedures to obtain an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan the audit to support a low assessed level of control risk for the program.
2. Plan the testing of internal control to support a low assessed level of control risk for subrecipient monitoring and perform the testing of internal control as planned. If internal control over some or all of the compliance requirements is likely to be ineffective, see the alternative procedures in §\_\_\_.500(c)(3) of OMB Circular A-133, including assessing the control risk at the maximum and considering whether additional compliance tests and reporting are required because of ineffective internal control.
3. Consider the results of the testing of internal control in assessing the risk of noncompliance. Use this as the basis for determining the nature, timing, and extent (e.g., number of transactions to be selected) of substantive tests of compliance.

#### **Suggested Audit Procedures – Compliance**

(Note: The auditor may consider coordinating the tests related to subrecipients performed as part of Cash Management (tests of cash reporting submitted by subrecipients), Eligibility (tests that subawards were made only to eligible subrecipients), and Procurement (tests of ensuring that a subrecipient is not suspended or debarred) with the testing of Subrecipient Monitoring.)

1. Gain an understanding of the pass-through entity's subrecipient procedures through a review of the pass-through entity's subrecipient monitoring policies and procedures (e.g., annual monitoring plan) and discussions with staff. This should include an understanding of the scope, frequency, and timeliness of monitoring activities and the number, size, and complexity of awards to subrecipients.
2. **Test the pass-through entity's subaward review and approval documents to determine whether, before award, the pass-through entity checked CCR to determine whether subrecipients were registered.**
3. Test award documents and agreements to ascertain if: (a) at the time of award, the pass-through entity made subrecipients aware of the award information (i.e., CFDA title and number; award name and number; if the award is research and development; and name of Federal awarding agency) and requirements imposed by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contract or grant agreements; and (b) the activities approved in the award documents were allowable. (See R 3 under N, Special Tests and Provisions, for additional requirements for major programs with expenditures of ARRA awards.)
4. Review the pass-through entity's documentation of during-the-award monitoring to ascertain if the pass-through entity's monitoring provided reasonable assurance that subrecipients used Federal awards for authorized purposes, complied with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, and achieved performance goals.
5. Review the pass-through entity's follow-up to ensure corrective action on deficiencies noted in during-the-award monitoring.
6. Verify that the pass-through entity:
  - a. Ensured that the required subrecipient audits were completed. For subrecipients that are not required to submit a copy of the reporting package to a pass-through entity because there were "no audit findings" (i.e., because the schedule of findings and questioned costs did not disclose audit findings relating to the Federal awards that the pass-through entity provided and the summary schedule of prior audit findings did not report the status of audit findings relating to Federal awards that the pass-through entity provided, as prescribed in OMB Circular A-133 § 320(e)), the pass-through entity may use the information in the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC) database (available on the Internet at <http://harvester.census.gov/sac>) as evidence to verify that the subrecipient had "no audit findings" and that the required audit was performed. This FAC verification would be in lieu of reviewing submissions by the subrecipient to the pass-through entity when there are no audit findings.
  - b. Issued management decisions on audit findings within 6 months after receipt of the subrecipient's audit report.

- c. Ensured that subrecipients took appropriate and timely corrective action on all audit findings.
6. Verify that in cases of continued inability or unwillingness of a subrecipient to have the required audits, the pass-through entity took appropriate action using sanctions.
7. Verify that the effects of subrecipient noncompliance are properly reflected in the pass-through entity's records.
8. Verify that the pass-through entity monitored the activities of subrecipients not subject to OMB Circular A-133, using techniques such as those discussed in the "Compliance Requirements" provisions of this section with the exception that these subrecipients are not required to have audits under OMB Circular A-133.

Note: The suggested audit procedures above for internal control and compliance testing may be accomplished using dual-purpose testing.