



FDP Faculty Workload Survey 2018

Next week the Federal Demonstration Project (FDP) will begin conducting a survey of federally-funded principal investigators. A message outlining the details of this initiative was sent to WUSTL principal investigators identified as having federal grants or contracts. Should you be asked about the FDP Faculty Workload Survey, please encourage your PI to support this initiative, as it serves to benefit investigators in administrative workload. Below you will find the message that was distributed earlier today.

Dear Colleagues:

You may soon have an opportunity to provide input that may help streamline the administrative workload associated with federally-funded research. Please be on the lookout during the week of **January 30** for an email message inviting you to participate in the **FDP Faculty Workload Survey**.

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP; thefdp.org) is a cooperative initiative hosted by the National Academy of Sciences. FDP is conducting a national survey of federally-funded principal investigators (PIs) to learn how new and continuing federal research requirements (e.g., granting agency rules and regulations) influence the amount of time faculty/researchers allocate to active research. The survey will build on the 2012 faculty workload survey, and re-assess estimates of federally-funded researchers' administrative workload. It will extend the 2012 survey findings by (1) determining the time required for administrative workload, as well as assessing the areas of the workload that could feasibly be reduced or streamlined, (2) comparing administrative workloads as a function of institution characteristics and funding sources, (3) elaborating information on time commitments and burdens associated with proposal submission, and (4) increasing attention to perceived research climate and support within the institution.

If you are a PI on a federal grant or contract, you may be contacted and asked to complete the online **FDP Faculty Workload Survey**. FDP needs the information to work effectively with federal agencies to increase the efficiency of research administration and reduce the workload of PIs. This is an opportunity for you to provide information which may reduce your workload and improve your future, and that of your colleagues. We strongly encourage and ask you to participate, and to respond candidly to the survey questions.

Thank you in advance for your participation and contribution.

Regards,
Jennifer K. Lodge, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research

Joseph M. Gindhart
Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Sponsored Projects

Additional Information

Washington University in St. Louis is an active member of the FDP. FDP is comprised of 10 federal agencies and 170 institutions receiving federal funds, working together to reduce the administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts. The FDP is a unique forum for universities and nonprofits to work collaboratively with federal agencies to improve the national research enterprise.

The 2005 & 2012 FDP Faculty Workload Surveys provided estimates of the proportion of federally-funded research time spent on administrative workload compared to active research. The 2018 Faculty Workload Survey will update these data to see whether the workload has changed and will extend earlier findings by exploring specific areas of administrative workload as well as new sources of research workload. The study will provide a better understanding of how to streamline faculty/researcher administrative workload to make research more efficient. The results from this study will be used to inform the future directions and projects of the FDP.

Estimated time to complete the upcoming survey is 15-30 minutes. Information gathered will contribute to the national effort to streamline administrative processes in federally-funded research.

Please note the following protections: This activity is IRB-approved. All response information will be kept confidential in as much as possible. Unless required by law, only the study investigator, members of the study investigator's staff, representatives from the Federal Demonstrative Partnership (FDP), the University of South Florida Institutional Review Board, and representatives from the Office for Human Research Protections (DHHS) will have authority to review study records.

If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Joe Gindhart at 935-7089, or jgindhart@wustl.edu.