**Uniform Guidance**

The Uniform Guidance is due to be implemented starting December of 2014. The document represents the most significant changes to the regulations for grants since the 1980s. The Uniform Guidance (aka Omni-circular or UG) was developed after a public comment period and combines eight circulars that governed various activities and entities into one combined, uniform circular. As stated in the document the goal is "To deliver on the promise of a 21st-Century government that is more efficient, effective and transparent, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is streamlining the Federal government’s guidance on Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal awards."

This final guidance supersedes and streamlines requirements from OMB Circulars A–21, A–87, A–110, and A–122 (which have been placed in OMB guidance); Circulars A–89, A–102, and A–133; and the guidance in Circular A–50 on Single Audit Act follow-up. Future reform efforts may eventually seek to incorporate the Cost Principles for Hospitals in Department of Health and Human Services regulations.

Methods of Procurement (according to Section 200.320):

1. Micro-Purchase - The acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed $3,000.
2. Small Purchase – Simple and informal procurement methods of securing services, supplies, or other property that do not exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold ($150,000) must obtain price or rate quotations from adequate number of qualified sources.
3. Sealed Bids – Bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed price contract is awarded to a reasonable bidder with the lowest price.
4. Competitive proposals – Requires publicized solicitations from multiple sources, and evaluation according to written criteria.
5. Noncompetitive proposals – Sole source awards are allowable when item is only available from a single source, exigent circumstances require immediate acquisition, sponsor expressly authorizes sole source pursuant to a written request, or competition is determined to be inadequate after solicitation of a number of sources.

**WVSU Research & Development Corporation Impact (following WVSU standards)**

* **Purchases less than $3,000, use your own judgement in identifying potential suppliers.**
* **Purchases between $3,001 and $9,999 will require one quote from vendors including documentation in the form of website printouts, copies of published price lists and advertised pricing in established magazines or journals.**
* **Purchases between $10,000 and $49,999 will require three quotes of vendors.**
* **Purchases of $50,000 or greater will be made using the formal bidding process.**
* **Formal bidding specifications will be forwarded to Business and Finance Services, along with a written request with appropriate signature approvals. B&FS will then prepare all necessary forms for advertising, award, and encumbrance. Both B&FS and originating department will make the selection of vendor based on bid documents and other criteria. Allow sufficient time (approx. 45 days) for purchase order to be processed.**
* **Sole Source: In cases where there is a sole vendor, a memorandum addressed to the R&D Corporation’s Executive Director explaining why no other vendors are available must be attached to the Purchase Order.**

For further information, please see OMB Uniform Guidance: 2 CFR 200.320