

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY DAVIS IRVINE LOS ANGELES RIVERSIDE SAN DIEGO SAN FRANCISCO



Joyce Freedman, Director
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-5940

Sponsored Projects Office

March 19, 2001

Attn: PL 106-107 Comments
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 517-D
Washington D. C. 20201

Dear Colleagues,

The University of California, Berkeley is pleased to provide our response to the request for comments on Public Law 106-107. We endorse the letter dated March 13, 2001 from the University of California Office of the President, which is a central authority governing all nine campuses of the UC system, and concur fully with the recommendations provided therein; our specific responses to the questions can be found in that letter.

We are encouraged by the federal government's commitment to improve its business relationship with recipient institutions. The Berkeley campus received more than \$430M in total funding in its last fiscal year, \$251M of which was federal. The impact of federal initiatives on this campus is, therefore, potentially dramatic. We take this opportunity to offer a few brief suggestions from our experiences as a research partner with the federal government, as follows.

- \$ Keep it simple. For electronic initiatives, use technologies readily available on the average desktop wherever possible. Text, for example, can be transmitted quickly and easily across platforms.
- \$ Re-think business processes to improve them before implementing electronic systems. Avoid simply automating paper processes.
- \$ Acknowledge the efforts of the Inter-Agency Electronic Grants Committee (LAEGC) and the Federal Commons towards developing a "common face of government" in research proposal and award processes. Use a single set of application forms & formats for proposals. Build on the work of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) by using a single set of terms and conditions for all research grant awards.
- \$ The hard work of so many over the years, on both FDP and Commons activities, is still of great value in this endeavor. Much of this work does not need to be re-done, but rather revisited.

We thank you for this opportunity to once again undertake efforts to streamline and improve our business relationship with the federal government. We are hopeful and eager to participate. With kind regards,

Joyce Freedman
Director

Cc: David Mears, UC Office of the President
Barbara Siegel, Federal Demonstration Partnership
Kate Phillips, Council on Governmental Relations