

The University of Alabama now a member of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)

In September 2008, The University of Alabama became a member of the Federal Demonstration Partnership. The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a cooperative initiative among federal agencies and institutional recipients of federal funds. Its primary goals are increasing research productivity and decreasing administrative burden while maintaining effective stewardship of federal funds. Its current membership includes 9 federal agencies that award research funding (such as the National Science Foundation, NASA and the National Institutes of Health) and 120 institutions that receive federal research funding.

Previous demonstrations of the FDP, tested and nationally implemented during phases 1 through 4, included “expanded authorities,” which allow federal grant recipients to implement one-time, one-year no-cost extensions, rebudgeting of grant funds and carry-forward of funds across continuation years without specific permission from granting agencies, and simplified terms and conditions for research awards.

The current, Phase 5 focus is on “researchers doing science, not administration” through reduction of administrative burden and increased efficiency of procedures and practices. The interaction between FDP’s university and federal members takes place at the FDP’s three annual meetings and, more extensively, in the many collaborative working groups that are tasked with developing specific work products.

Immediate benefits from FDP membership include the more flexible grant terms and conditions that apply to FDP institutions and valuable agency and collegial contacts that are made through networking and participation in project efforts. The University’s participation in Phase V of the FDP will provide the opportunity to work side by side with government agencies in determining the future direction of federally funded research programs and processes.

The University looks forward to using its membership in this respected organization to the benefit of both University faculty and administration. More detailed information about FDP history, organization, and initiatives can be found at <http://thefdp.org/>.