## Gift or Grant?

This table will help you determine whether the funding you are pursuing is a gift or a grant. For assistance with gifts, contact the Office of Development. For assistance with grants, contact the Office of Research. If you are uncertain whether your funding will be a gift or a grant, please contact our offices for guidance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of the...</th>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Grant</th>
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| Donor            | - Individual  
- private foundation or corporation, depending on the nature of the factors below | - governmental or quasi-governmental source  
- private foundation or corporation, depending on the nature of the factors below |
| Solicitation/Proposal | - may or may not include a formal proposal or request for funds | - usually includes a formal request for funds, often in response to a formal “Request for Proposals” (RFP) |
| Funding          | - freely given, with no expectation of benefit for the donor  
- no expectation that any portion of the contribution be returned if not spent by a specified date | - given in support of a specific objective determined either by the donor or the recipient  
- some or all must be returned if the terms of the agreement are not fulfilled, or the funding is not spent, within a specified period |
| Purpose          | - to advance the mission of the recipient  
- may be restricted to a specific purpose  
- may include faculty, student, programmatic, or capital support  
- all contributions to endowments are considered gifts | - to advance the missions of both the recipient and the donor  
- always restricted to a specific purpose  
- may include faculty, student, staff, programmatic, or research support  
- rarely for capital or general operating support |
| Budget           | - a general proposal suggesting the manner in which the funds are to be spent | - a specific and detailed proposal for the manner in which the funds are to be spent |
| Reporting Requirements | - while a report may be required, it is of a narrative nature and includes an informal accounting of budgets or expenditures | - a mandatory formal report that must include details of expenditures, as well as other evaluative criteria, to assure that funds were used as specified in the proposal |
| Ownership of Results | - recipient retains control and ownership of any results associated with the work of the project | - in some cases, donor may assume full or partial ownership of the work accomplished  
- all funded projects with commercial value—including those involving patents, copyrights, advance and exclusive knowledge—are grants |
| Benefit          | - donor does not receive any direct economic or other tangible benefit commensurate with the value of the contribution  
- tax advantages, goodwill, donor clubs, and public recognition do not constitute "benefits" | - donor may receive direct economic or other tangible benefits (e.g., research results, consulting reports, replicable program models, etc.)

1Passage of the Bayh-Dole Act in 1980 allowed universities and other non-profit entities, which had received government research grants and contracts, to retain the title to their inventions.