

Gift vs. Grant Quick Reference

Factor	Gift	Grant
Source	Individuals Non-Profit Organizations Corporations Corporate Foundations Other Organizations (Donor-Advised Funds) Family or Individual Foundations	Government Agencies Non-Profit Organizations Corporations Corporate Foundations Other Foundations
Purpose/Benefit	The donor may specify an area of interest or a goal to be funded with their gift; serves philanthropic or personal interest	The sponsor specifies how the funds should be used and seeks implementation of a specific research or education plan, with well-defined objectives, strategies, and/or deliverables as outlined in supporting documentation (proposal or grant agreement); serves the primary business or mission interest
Value Exchange	Essentially no implicit or explicit value other than intellectual satisfaction; no deliverables	Funder expects and receives implementation of, and a report of, the University's funded activities; funder's own mission and/or research agenda is advanced through the funded activities; deliverables provided
Reporting	Little or no obligation to report on w the gift is used, but rather uses the opportunity for donor stewardship. Required reporting is limited to details of how, when, and to whom funds were disbursed	The sponsor requires performance of specific duties such as research, budget reports, progress reports, and return of unused funds
Budget	Budgeting is general in nature and terms; funder pre-approvals are not required	Budgets are specific, and variances from proposed budgets (within designated parameters) may require funder pre-approval
Deadline/Terms of Funding	Typically no time period is associated with the use of funds	Typically requires a specific time period for conducting projects
Excess Funds	N/A	May be required to return to sponsor if specific research or project plans have not been implemented
Penalty for Non-Performance	No penalties for failing to use the funds	Penalties may exist for failing to use the funds or to deliver the items/ meet milestones on a timely basis