The FCOI Clearinghouse was conceptualized and developed by the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) in 2012 to reduce the administrative burden for recipients and subrecipients of Public Health Service (PHS) funding. It is a simple database where institutions can confirm their policy meets the PHS requirements. Recipients use the FCOI Clearinghouse to verify whether entities self-certified that they have a complaint PHS FCOI policy instead of issuing and collecting redundant subrecipient forms to comply with the PHS regulations. The database currently contains over 1,400 institutional self-certifications from FDP members and non-members.

The FCOI Clearinghouse has proven to be an ongoing success and is one of the most highly visited FDP web pages. However, this vital resource has not been modernized since its launch over 10 years ago. The FDP’s Conflict of Interest (COI) Subcommittee worked with the Expanded Clearinghouse to recommend essential updates and changes to the FCOI Clearinghouse. To complete an update to the FCOI Clearinghouse, and with FDP's website modernization, FDP launched a new self-certification database that is more flexible and accurately reflects the emerging complexities of various COI requirements by federal funding agencies.

This new database encourages institutions to understand and comply with federal funding agency-specific COI requirements to continue reducing inter-institutional administrative burden. While not all program or funding announcements contain specific statements as to the applicability of the PHS FCOI regulations, agencies do list their award management guidelines on their website, which would include any Conflict of Commitment (COC) and FCOI expectations. Before submitting a proposal, institutions should check their website, which would include any Conflict of Commitment (COC) and FCOI expectations. The updated FCOI Clearinghouse:

1. Aligns with the COI certification language in the FDP Expanded Clearinghouse, which includes allowing certification of policies that comply with the requirements of additional federal funding agencies such as NSF, DOE, and NASA
2. Links directly to the profiles of FDP Expanded Clearinghouse member institutions where the COI certification language can be found
3. Includes new option to add central mailboxes in addition to identifying the authorized representative’s contact information, which will allow institutions to list a generic mailbox for their institution, which is helpful to minimize the risk an issue will go unresolved as people transition roles and institutions
4. Allows users to edit the institutional information as needed (such as a change in authorized representative)
5. Requests periodic recertification of the COI information to ensure it is accurate and current

We hope many FDP and non-FDP members will continue participating in the FCOI Clearinghouse. Here are the action items your institution needs to take:

1. Expanded Clearinghouse and FDP Member: If your institution is in the Expanded Clearinghouse and has already attested to the additional COI certifications for NSF, DOE, and NASA, you do not have to do anything. Your institutional profile on the FCOI Clearinghouse will point to your Expanded Clearinghouse entry. If your institution still needs to attest, your authorized representative must do so now.
2. Registered in the FCOI Clearinghouse: In March 2024, the FDP COI Subcommittee reached out to the contacts on file for institutions registered in the FCOI Clearinghouse to ask them to register in the new clearinghouse. If you are registered in the current FCOI Clearinghouse, we encourage you to re-register your institution.
3. Those who have never registered with the FCOI Clearinghouse: We invite you to register if your COI policy complies with federal funding agency requirements (e.g., PHS, NSF, DOE, NASA).

The new FCOI Clearinghouse was launched in early March 2024. We encourage you to transition to it as soon as possible. The current archival version of the FCOI Clearinghouse will be retired on January 31, 2025, and will no longer be available.