



Guiding Principles for Considering Gift and Grant Agreements with Companies

The Gillings School of Global Public Health is committed to our mission to improve public health, promote individual well-being, and eliminate health inequities across North Carolina and around the world. The Gillings School accepts grants, gifts, and sponsorships from companies (including multinational corporations, corporate foundations, and other private enterprises) in support of this mission and in keeping with our strongly held values.

When considering agreements with companies, we always will be guided by our commitment to public health ethics, integrity, transparency, diversity and inclusion, quality student experiences and ensuring the excellent reputation of the Gillings School. At times we may decline agreements that do not align with these values, if we do not have the necessary capacity or expertise to execute the agreement, or due to other considerations.

All staff and faculty members shall use their best professional judgment when evaluating a potential engagement on behalf of the Gillings School. In some instances, further assessment may be required and chairs (or their designees) of the involved departments will confer with each other and with relevant review committees (e.g. COI) to discuss their concerns. If agreement cannot be reached, the chairs shall refer the matter to the dean for a final decision.

Related Policies

The following policies of the University of North Carolina and the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health are potentially applicable to grants, gifts and sponsorships from companies.

- UNC faculty and students will maintain freedom to pursue and publish research and findings in accordance with UNC Policy Manual, Section 500.1: [University Research Relations with Private Enterprise](#).
- UNC Gillings will not accept funds from companies that sell tobacco and related products (Gillings School [Policy on Funds from Tobacco Companies](#)).
- UNC faculty, staff and students do not have signatory authority to enter into legal commitments – including Memorandums of Agreement and confidentiality agreements – involving grants, contracts and cooperative agreements on behalf of the University in accordance with Office of Sponsored Research Policies and Procedures, Section 200.2: [Signatory Authority](#).
- UNC faculty, staff and students will disclose potential conflicts of interest and commitment in accordance with the UNC Policy Manual, Section 300.2.2: [Conflict of Interest and Commitment](#) to facilitate review and management. When providing consultation to corporations outside of their University responsibilities, faculty and staff members are expected to comply with associated requirements for [External Professional Activities for Pay](#).