



USAID audit services

Helping you succeed

An increasing number of organisations in the UK are in receipt of USAID funding or considering applying for it. But the rules and regulations associated with managing USAID grants are complex and very different to those for similar European funding. Understanding the jargon and regulations at an early stage of the process can ensure success with USAID funding.

How we can help

Occasionally USAID will carry out pre-award visits to assess the strength of the charity's financial management systems and procedures. They will use this assessment when determining whether to grant an award. We can help you prepare by carrying out a mock USAID visit. As part of this, we assess the robustness of your systems, identify any areas where you are not fully compliant and make practical recommendations for improvements.

Our work can include reviews of:

- your financial management and time keeping systems
- policies and procedures
- systems for recording and allocating direct and indirect costs
- systems for identifying and recording unallowable costs

What makes us different?

Whilst a small number of UK audit firms have conditional status and are able to perform USAID audits, Sayer Vincent is one of only three audit firms in the UK that have been granted 'regular' status by USAID following a quality control visit in 2014. This demonstrates our thorough understanding of how USAID awards work and the USAID rules and regulations. It also means that when our reports are submitted to USAID, they are approved promptly and with minimum disruption for you.

Some of our USAID audit clients:



We're here to help

Even though the numerous rules and onerous conditions can be daunting when you are new to USAID, there is plenty of guidance out there and you can often use a common sense approach. It is much easier to comply with the rules and regulations if you know what the rules are at the start. It is much harder to amend your systems subsequently and you do not want to wait until your first audit to find that your systems are not compliant.

The risk of having a large number of expenditure items questioned and potentially disallowed is not one that you should be taking if you can avoid it. Sayer Vincent works with its regular audit clients to ensure their systems, policies and procedures are fully compliant with USAID guidelines.

USAID Training

There are many advantages of receiving USAID funding, not least, the generous contribution that USAID make to indirect costs. However, if you are new to USAID, the prospect of navigating the myriad of rules and regulations, circulars and manuals can be daunting. And the numerous incomprehensible acronyms that are often used don't make your job any easier.

We offer internal training tailored to your organisation to go through the basics and help you prepare for the audit. We cover areas such as the cost principles, indirect cost rate methods and how to avoid common audit findings. We also support you to build your own resource manual with relevant regulations and procedures as a tool to assist you in managing the award. Building the confidence of your team will improve its ability to manage and implement the award successfully.

We also organise a three-day training course with support from an external facilitator to get your team up-to-date for your USAID audit.

Feedback from our training seminars:

"A difficult topic presented in an interesting way. I acquired useful knowledge to take back to the team."

"Very informative and excellently presented"

"Very helpful content- good knowledgeable trainers, thank you!"

Call us on 020 7841 6360 or email svinfo@sayervincent.co.uk if you'd like a partner to call you.

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