



# Policy Brief

Last Revised: 8/21/2024

## 7.13 Policy for Consideration of Controversial Funding Offers

Administering Department: Sponsored Programs

### Scope:

- **Summary**

This Policy addresses factors to be considered when evaluating whether to seek funding offers from companies or for projects that may prove controversial or inappropriate.

- **Applicability**

This Policy applies to all faculty, staff, and students at Emory University.

### Policy Guidelines

In considering whether to seek or accept funding from sources (e.g., tobacco companies or firearms companies) or for projects (e.g., weapons research) which might prove controversial or inappropriate, consider the following factors:

- 1) Any consideration of academic freedom;
- 2) The connection between the purpose of the funding the nature of the source;
- 3) The balance between any potential societal benefit of the purpose of the funding and societal harm;
- 4) The benefit to the University community for the purpose of the funding versus the effect of receipt on the reputation of the University, the School or the faculty;
- 5) The appearance of an organization's promoting a commercial purpose on the Emory campus;
- 6) The effect on future fundraising or recruitment;
- 7) Whether criminal conduct or fraud has been committed by the sponsor;
- 8) Accepted national and community practices with respect to applying for and accepting funding from the source for the same or similar purposes; and
- 9) Any issues of safety, order and discipline within the University community.