(a) **Agency head or head of the agency**, unless otherwise stated, means the Secretary of Health and Human Services or specified designee.

(b) **Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)** is a Federal employee designated in writing by a contracting officer to act as the contracting officer's representative in monitoring and administering specified aspects of contractor performance after award of a contract or order. In accordance with local procedures, operating divisions (OPDIVs) or staff divisions (STAFFDIVs) may designate CORs for firm fixed-price contracts or orders. COR’s responsibilities may include verifying that:

1. The contractor’s performance meets the standards set forth in the contract or order;

2. The contractor meets the contract or order’s technical requirements by the specified delivery date(s) or within the period of performance; and

3. The contractor performs within cost ceiling stated in the contract or order. CORs must meet the training and certification requirements specified in 301.604.

(c) **Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA)** is an official having overall responsibility for managing a contracting activity, *i.e.* the organization within an OPDIV or STAFFDIV or other HHS organization which has been delegated broad authority regarding the conduct of acquisition functions.