

Applicability

This applies to all externally sponsored projects administered by The Research Foundation for SUNY at Binghamton University.

Background

The total cost of a sponsored program consists of both direct and indirect costs. Direct costs are clearly identifiable and specific to a sponsored project, i.e. salaries and wages, equipment, travel, laboratory supplies, etc. Indirect costs cannot be related precisely to any specific or single project and include such items building maintenance, central support services and facilities, such as the libraries, and the administrative costs of procurement, human resources, accounting and other units that provide services to sponsored programs recipients. Indirect costs are real costs and necessary to ensure the maintenance of the infrastructure necessary for carrying out sponsored program activity.

Sponsors recognize the need to reimburse universities for the indirect costs associated with projects they support. To facilitate this reimbursement, the federal government negotiates facilities and administrative cost (F&A) rates with The Research Foundation for SUNY on behalf of Binghamton University.

Policy

It is Binghamton University's policy to require the inclusion of full F&A cost recovery, in accordance with our federally negotiated agreement, on all proposals for external funding. If a funding agency has a published rate that differs from our federally approved rates, the funding agency's rate will be used.

During the proposal development process, Grant and Contract Administrators will work with Principal Investigators to ensure appropriate costs, both direct and F&A, are included on all proposals for external funding. Binghamton University's federally approved F&A rates can be accessed [here](#).

Waivers or partial reductions of F&A costs are rarely granted and only considered in extraordinary situations. Requests must be discussed with the Grant and Contract Administrator and approved by the department chair and dean prior to being routed for consideration by the Operations Manager. The decision whether to grant or deny an F&A waiver request is at the sole discretion of the Operations Manager or designee.

In the event a request for waiver is approved, any F&A costs generated from a resulting award will ***NOT*** be credited to the PI, department, or dean for purposes of their annual infrastructure award allocation.

Contact

Any questions regarding this information should be directed to your assigned Grant and Contract Administrator, x7-6136.