Costs of Federally Sponsored Research

The total cost of federally sponsored research includes a combination of both direct and facilities and administrative (F&A) costs. Both types of expenditures are key to an institution’s ability to conduct cutting-edge research. F&A consists of the construction and maintenance costs of laboratories and high-tech facilities; energy and utility expenses; and safety, security, and other government-mandated expenses. These costs are real and research cannot be conducted without them.

Direct costs - These expenses solely cover research and include lab supplies and equipment; salaries and stipends for researchers and graduate students; and travel costs for conducting and sharing research.

Upkeep of any building space not used directly for federally funded research, such as classrooms or lobbies, is not covered by F&A reimbursement.

F&A costs - These expenses cover the costs of facilities and administration, including personnel in support of research, research facilities, advanced research lab equipment, library and research facilities, secure data storage, internet, telecommunications, and high-speed data processing, utilities – ventilation, heat, air conditioning, water, and lighting, radiation and chemical safety, including safety training and hazardous waste disposal, costs of federal, state, and local regulatory compliance, including human and animal safety review boards.