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 - Includes the personnel in support of research, including security, financial, administrative, technical, maintenance, and janitorial staff; radiation and chemical safety, including safety training and hazardous waste disposal; advanced research lab equipment; costs of federal, state, and local regulatory compliance, including human and animal safety review boards.

Utilities - ventilation, heat, air conditioning, water, and lighting.

Library and research facilities.