Costs of Federally Sponsored Research

The total cost of federally sponsored research includes a combination of both direct expenditures and facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, also known as indirect costs. Both types of expenditures are essential to an institution's ability to conduct cutting-edge research. F&A costs consist of the construction and maintenance costs of laboratories and high-tech facilities; energy and utility expenses; and safety, security, and other government-mandated expenses. Research is impossible without the infrastructure investments that F&A costs create and sustain.

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F&A costs: Secure data storage, internet, telecommunications, and high-speed computing and data processing

F&A costs: Radiation, biological, and chemical safety, including safety training and hazardous waste disposal

F&A costs: Personnel in support of research, including security, financial, administrative, technical, maintenance, and janitorial staff

Direct costs: These expenses cover the salaries and stipends for **researchers and graduate students**; **project-specific lab supplies** and equipment; travel costs for conducting, sharing, and publishing research results; and other related activities **No federal funds used**: Upkeep of any building space not used directly for federally funded research, such as classrooms or lobbies, is not covered by F&A reimbursement



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Direct costs

F&A costs

No federal funds used

F&A costs: Utilities, including ventilation, heat, air conditioning, water, and lighting

F&A costs: Library and research facilities

F&A costs: Specialized core facilities and shared research lab equipment

F&A costs: Costs of federal, state, and local regulatory compliance, including research security requirements, conflicts of interests reporting, and human and animal safety review boards





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