

## OVPR SPS

### GUIDELINES/ FAQs:

#### REDUCTION OF F&A TO 20% ON PROJECTS HAVING A TOTAL COST OF \$50K OR LESS

#### **Purpose:**

In the current climate of declining federal funding and reductions in state support, the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is taking measures to provide faculty with critical additional assistance to guarantee that UConn proposals have the best chances of success.

To allow for more buying power on small sponsored projects and to help foster smaller awards which may lead to additional funding, F&A on new awards received after October 1, 2017 with total costs of \$50,000 or less, will be reduced to 20% or the difference between the full F&A rate and 20% will be distributed to the investigators F&A account.

#### **When is this program effective?**

- *This program is effective October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2020.*
- *The program will be assessed in the Summer of 2020 for continuation.*
- *The program will continue for all eligible funded awards and eligible proposals submitted from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2020.*

#### **What projects are eligible?**

- *All Projects except for clinical trials.*
- *Projects having a total budget, including F&A, of \$50k or less.*
- *Awards received on or after 10/1/17 for as long as this program is effective and to all awards funded for proposals submitted under this program.*
- *Proposals submitted on or after 10/1/17 for as long as this program is effective*

#### **What does "awards received on or after October 1, 2017" mean?**

*This means all awards, including contracts, that were sent to/received by SPS on or after October 1, 2017.*

#### **Must I participate in the program?**

- *No, you may elect to submit your proposal at sponsor allowable rates*
- *No, you may elect to have an award that was proposed before this program was announced be setup at the rate that was proposed at the time of proposal submission.*

#### **What if my project is for 3 years but each year is under a total cost of \$50k, does my project fall under these guidelines?**

*The project would only fall under these guidelines if the combined total budget across all three years is \$50k or less (direct and F&A costs combined).*

#### **When calculating the total costs should I use total direct costs (TDC) or modified total direct costs (MTDC) as the base?**

*The base should be either TDC or MTDC as required by that specific sponsor or solicitation.*

**How do I calculate the \$50K total costs to determine if my project will qualify for this program?**

*This program is limited to those projects for which the total costs are \$50,000 or less. Total costs include both direct and indirect (F&A) costs. You should calculate your budget using the direct costs which are required and add to that amount the 20% F&A. If the total amount is \$50k or less, then the project falls under this program and should be budgeted per the [chart below](#).*

*Example of project that would fall under this program:*

	<b>Budget at 59.5%</b>	<b>Budget at 20%</b>
Direct Costs	\$40,000	\$40,000
F&A	\$23,800	\$8,000
Total	\$63,800	<b>\$48,000</b>

*Since the total cost (direct + F&A) is less than \$50k if the 20% rate is applied, this project qualifies for this program.*

*Note if this is a federal sponsor and not in response to either an SBIR or STTR solicitation (see [table below](#)), the project should be submitted at full F&A and the OVPR will distribute the difference between the full F&A rate and the 20% to your faculty F&A account. When the sponsor allows, you may cost share an equivalent amount to the project. In such cases, contact SPS Pre-award for additional guidance.*

**I thought the project would be under \$50k but I was able to get additional funding which increased the project over \$50k total cost. Now what?**

*Projects which were planned to be under \$50k total cost but exceeded this amount through a supplement will carry full F&A on the supplement and any additional project funding from the sponsor exceeding the initial budget when that increment increases the total cost over \$50k. Amounts that increase the total amount over the \$50k total cost may be established in a separate new award.*

**I am submitting a one-time supplement that will increase the total project over \$50k, do these guidelines apply to the supplement?**

*No, since supplements are funding an existing project, they do not fall under these guidelines when the total project funding (including the supplement) exceeds \$50k. However, supplements that don't increase the total project over \$50k will fall under this program. Supplements that increase the total amount over the \$50k total cost may be established in a separate new award.*

**I am submitting a proposal and my total budget is \$200k. Does the first \$50k fall under these guidelines?**

*No, these guidelines only apply to projects with a total budget of \$50k or less.*

**Does the normal campus F&A distribution apply to eligible awards?**

*Please refer to the chart below for information regarding distribution for awards under this program.*

**What rate should I include when preparing a budget for a proposal that is eligible for this program?**

<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>PROPOSAL BUDGET GUIDANCE</b>
State, Foundation or Federal which require an F&A rate of 20% or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Use Sponsor published (policy) rate</li> <li>•Regular distribution of F&amp;A to Deans, Departments and PIs.</li> </ul>
State, Industry & Foundation with F&A greater than 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prepare a requested budget using the 20% F&amp;A rate</li> <li>•Regular distribution of F&amp;A to Deans, Departments and PIs <b>will not</b> occur.</li> </ul>
Federal (including pass through other than SBIR and STTRs) with F&A greater than 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prepare a requested budget at the full negotiated rate.</li> <li>•The difference between 20% and the allowed sponsor F&amp;A rate will be returned to your PI F&amp;A account at time of award.</li> <li>• Regular distribution of F&amp;A to Deans, Departments and PIs <b>will not</b> occur for the 20%.</li> </ul>
SBIR and STTR Proposals	<p><b>NSF (see FAQ below):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prepare a requested budget at the full negotiated rate.</li> <li>•The difference between 20% and the allowed sponsor F&amp;A rate will be returned to your PI F&amp;A account at time of award.</li> <li>• Regular distribution of F&amp;A to Deans, Departments and PIs <b>will not</b> occur for the 20%.</li> </ul> <p><b>All Other Sponsors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prepare a requested budget using the 20% F&amp;A rate</li> <li>•Regular distribution of F&amp;A to Deans, Departments and PIs <b>will not</b> occur.</li> </ul>

**Why must I use the full F&A rate on a NSF SBIR and STTR proposal?**

*The NSF prohibits cost share in proposals unless specifically required in the proposal solicitation. The NSF states that the voluntary waiver of part or all of the University's negotiated F&A rate is considered cost share. The following FAQ is from the NSF's Frequently Asked Questions on NSF's revised cost sharing policy:*

*"Can our institution voluntarily waive part or all of the indirect costs we are entitled to on a proposal or would that be considered voluntary committed cost sharing?"*

*Waiver of any indirect costs to which the institution is entitled would be considered voluntary committed cost sharing and is therefore prohibited by NSF."*

**What if I want to cost share the difference in F&A on my federal proposal?**

*Contact SPS pre-award for guidance.*

**I have a question about this program, who should I contact?**

*Please contact SPS pre-award or your SPS post award team for additional guidance on this program.*

***Last Updated 12/1/2017***