

Cleveland State University

Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Rates

Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, also known as overhead or indirect costs, are those costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project, an instructional activity, or any other institutional activity. F&A costs, then, cannot be specifically allocated as a direct cost to any particular sponsored project but are assessed as a percentage of direct costs. F&A costs are real and reimburse the University for costs incurred in the conduct of research, education, or outreach projects. Examples of F&A are utilities, maintenance and upkeep of facilities, and library costs. Sponsored Programs and Research Services (SPRS) is charged by the University with the responsibility of recovering all allowable F&A costs on research and sponsored programs. Every grant or contract proposal from Cleveland State University to an external sponsor is expected to request support for F&A.

The University’s Federal F&A rate is negotiated approximately every four years with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The rate is calculated using a Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) base.

The current (7/1/20 – 6/30/24) Federal F&A rates are: On-Campus: 48.5%
Off-Campus: 16.0%

In addition, the University maintains the following rates based on Sponsor and Program type:

Sponsor or Program Type	Rate & Base
Student Intern/Fellowship Support	0%
*Fine/Performing Arts	0%
**Local/State Government	20% TDC
Non-Profit	20% TDC
Profit (Industry)	On-Campus Federal Rate

*The University will waive F&A for projects involving the performance of poetry, music, theater and dance or the creation of exhibition of visual arts, unless sponsors allow F&A for these activities in their written policies, funding program descriptions or proposal preparation guidelines.

**If a Local or State Government program allows a higher F&A rate as documented in a particular program announcement or opportunity, that higher rate will be used.

If a sponsor’s written policy (as applied to all applicants) prohibits or restricts F&A, then the request is limited to the allowable amount. Documentation of sponsor restrictions must be provided to SPRS as it reviews the proposal.