

F&A at USF

What are F&A costs?

Facilities and administrative costs, also called F&A, are the human labor, lab infrastructure, and building utilities costs required to conduct research.

Examples of F&A

Facilities:

- Internet and data storage
- Utilities
- Labs
- Safety practices
- Hazardous waste disposal



Administrative:



- Compliance activities to meet federal, state and local regulations, including national security protections
- Payroll, accounting and purchasing

Without Sufficient F&A Funds

Lab facilities and equipment will quickly become obsolete, impacting the amount and quality of research the university will be able to perform.

Thorough compliance with federal regulation will become difficult with insufficient administrative personnel.

USF may have to forego larger biomedical research awards if available funding is insufficient to fund the infrastructure requirements of the research. This can lead to fewer clinical trials, new drug therapies, new medical technologies, and the jobs associated in the Tampa Bay area.

Taken in aggregate, the U.S. would lose its edge in science and innovation as university research suffers.

F&A at the University of South Florida

USF and the federal government work to renegotiate F&A rates every three to four years. A negotiated rate is in place because it is too burdensome to assign each associated research cost with each specific grant.

U.S. research institutions pay for 25% of their own research and development funds - \$27.7 billion in FY23, including \$6.8 billion to cover what federal F&A funding does not.

Facilities costs have increased because of the need to update the laboratories and equipment required to conduct cutting-edge research.

Federal research grants provide funding for F&A to help reimburse universities for costs they have already incurred to conduct federal scientific research.

Federal guidelines limit administrative costs to 26% despite the growing overhead costs related to increases in federal compliance requirements.

The actual indirect cost of a specific project varies based on the amount of space occupied, heating and cooling costs of the building and renovations to support certain types of research.

**Research expenditures at USF are up 38% over last 4 years (2020-2023).
\$461 million – FY23**

Impact of 15% cap on NIH awards

USF relies on our negotiated F&A rate to support the infrastructure to conduct federally sponsored research. Without these dollars, the pace of medical research will slow.

If the 15% cap is enacted on all NIH grants, USF will lose:

Impact on USF projects:

- University of South Florida continues landmark dementia prevention research with NIH award
- USF Health receives \$3.75 million NIH award to research whether Long Covid may contribute to Alzheimers disease and dementia
- Landmark AI project led by USF Health harnesses voice to diagnose disease, releases first data