

Waiver FAQs

Why Does My Proposal Need to Include Full F&A?

Insufficient funding for our approved facilities and administrative costs will reduce the UA's capacity to maintain our current negotiated indirect cost rate and could affect our ability to attract and/or increase external support. When the indirect costs of a project are not recovered from the sponsor, they are deferred, and the university is essentially choosing to subsidize these costs from other funding sources. Therefore, any request to reduce F&A will be thoughtfully analyzed to ensure the project significantly benefits the UA's overarching mission.

Will a Reduction in F&A Impact an Investigators' Department(s)/College(s)?

Absolutely. Do not confuse this with investigators' level of effort - percent level of effort is not relevant when accepting a waiver. No F&A revenue distribution will be issued for projects with full F&A waivers. Additionally, the unit distribution will be significantly impacted by choosing to accept a reduced rate. Requests for F&A reduction should take into consideration the current F&A allocation model, which enables colleges to retain recovered indirect costs *along* with the responsibility for any deficits or subsidies incurred.

The Department Chairs, Deans and Associate Deans for Research charged with determining when to waive recovery understand and should be able to defend the immediate impact of those decisions. These approvers should have appropriate processes in place to support the PI in the review and approval of a waiver request before the UAR proposal begins routing and should possess sufficient knowledge and accountability to properly weigh the benefits of the proposed project against the financial costs to the University and department.

How Long Should It Take for a Determination from RII?

The review process is not instantaneous and will vary according to how early the initial proposal is routed and the application has sufficient time for review. We strongly encourage you not to wait until the last minute. RII is the only authorized office to grant waivers, but a full proposal must accompany a completed (link) waiver template and be pre-reviewed by SPCS in order to have any requests considered. We recommend that a fully-routed proposal/template be received at SPCS for review five full business days in advance of any deadline.

Please note: RII will not consider a request unless and until all PIs, Chairs, and Deans have agreed to the reduction and have signed the waiver template. The route log will no longer be used in place of college level or chair approvals.

How Will I Know if I Need to Request a Waiver - Is the Sponsor on a List of Reduced F&A Rates?

If the sponsor is included on the [Standard F&A Rate Table](#), then no waiver or additional documentation is needed. If the sponsor is not listed, an exception from the policy of charging full F&A costs will be permitted for those non-profit sponsors and governmental agencies that have a published policy or [stipulation \(RFP\)](#) for all applicant organizations limiting their F&A cost rate. Principal Investigators will automatically be granted this reduction provided proof of the published rate is available on-line, in the program announcement, or in the [written guidelines for the agency](#) and included and attached as supporting documentation in the UAR proposal.

What is The University of Arizona's F&A Cost Policy?

All proposals for grants, contracts, and other sponsored agreements submitted by The University of Arizona must include the [allowable federally negotiated F&A cost rates](#) or otherwise outlined applicable rates according to the [Standard F&A Rate Table](#) which are listed on the [University Research Gateway \(RGW\)](#).