

Breaking Down the Costs of Federal Research at Universities

The historic partnership between the federal government and research universities has produced tremendous return on investment through improvements in human health, the best research workforce. The federal government has long sponsored research at universities because innovations and new technologies help our country prosper and enhance our national security. The Internet, GPS technology, touchscreen phones, and treatments for cancer and heart disease are just a few examples of the country's innovati

process that helps ensure the best projects receive support. Federal research grants awarded to a university comprise two essential parts: Direct Costs and 2) Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs, often referred to as Indirect Costs.

1. Direct Costs These solely support research and include costs for
 - o laboratory supplies such as test tubes and beakers
 - o research equipment such as microscopes;
 - o salary support for the scientists and engineers conducting the research
 - o stipends for graduate students working on the research
 - o travel that may be necessary for conducting research or sharing research results.

The bulk of federal investment is spent on direct costs and the government provides

