Participant Support Costs & Payment Processing Guidance

Policy Statement

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance (UG) defines Participant

- Prizes and awards (Account Code 6742)
- Honoraria for guest speakers (Account Code 6743)
- Expenses for the Principal Investigator (PI), project staff or collaborators to attend project meetings, conferences, or seminars
- Conference support costs such as facility and audio/visual equipment rental
- Subaward to a provider for multiple training events
- Agreements with employers (e.g., public school system) to reimburse the employer for the costs related to sending an employee to a conference or workshop.
- Service or independent contractor agreements (Account Codes 6252 and 6253)
- Payments made to research subjects or study participants as an incentive for recruitment or participation in a research project (Account Code 6585)

Budgeting & Payment

Questions
Please direct any questions pertaining to this policy

Participant Support FAQs

1. What types of sponsored projects and sponsors may include Participant Support Costs?

   Participant Support Costs (PSCs) are typically incurred for projects that include an educational o
   outreach component. Participant support costs are allowable as long as they are requested with the
   original Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and, in general, are allowable with prior sponsor
   approval, in accordance with Uniform Guidance. These types of costs are most commonly included in
   National Science Foundation (NSF) grants, such as the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)
   and Research Experiences for Teachers (RET).

   Generally, the NSF in one of the few agencies that specifically allows for PSCs. In some circumstances
   the NIH will allow for PSCs only if they are explicitly identified in the FOA. Other Federal or non-federal
   agencies that may allow PSCs under some circumstances. It is imperative that you consult the

Yes, PSCs must be explicitly identified in the preparation and submission of the budget and budget justification. PSCs are excluded from the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) base