



Participant Support

FEDERAL UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Participant support costs means direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects.

- Speakers and trainers generally are not considered participants and should not be included in this section of the budget.
- if the primary purpose of the individual's attendance at the conference is learning and receiving training as a participant, then the costs may be included under participant support.

DETERMINE PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Would they have attended the conference if they were not invited to present?
- Were they attending most of the sessions as a participant, or a trainer?

FOOD

- If you are giving the participants money to walk to the food court to get food, put them on the participant support line.
 - *A large conference feeding a lot of people where we work with a hotel for a contract?* That cannot be on participant support line, it must be in a different category and incur F&A. Similarly, cannot use participant support for general supplies, room rental costs, etc.

SUPPLIES

- If the supplies are for something being given directly to the participant for the activity, such as a packet or binder, program, training supply to take away from the program, that can be budgeted as participant support.
- Participant support is being counted against the student's financial aid cap. What do we do?
- Unfortunately, this is not a NSF or agency issue, this is a general issue of how federal financial aid is calculated and what gets counted in that.

STUDENT EMPLOYEES

Student employees also being participants, is this possible? Yes, as per guide. Ok if the individual's work is completely different from the participation in the program. Example: Student who works in the student union who participates in a research participant program. Ok to do.

BUDGETING

- Can we rebudget participant support? No you can't move it out, but you can use parent funds to supplement participant support.
- When the PI gets Program officer email ok for participant support issues, is that enough? No, budget needs to go through research.gov for NSF, or other portals for other sponsors.

