



INDIRECT COST POLICY FOR APPLICANT ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND

As a champion of cognitive aging research to help improve brain health, the McKnight Brain Research Foundation supports research and educational outreach in age-related cognitive decline and memory loss as well as scholarship programs that align with the [McKnight Brain Research Foundation priorities](#). Proposals from domestic public charities, universities, or colleges may be considered for funding at the invitation of the foundation; unsolicited requests are not accepted.

POLICY

The McKnight Brain Research Foundation is committed to maximizing the amount of grant funding directly supporting the projects it has agreed to fund. As such, the policy of the Foundation is to fund the specific costs of a project identifiable as direct costs. The Foundation does not generally reimburse the indirect costs of any entity receiving grants funding from the Foundation. Whenever possible, specifically allocable costs of an applicant organization's project should be requested and justified in the proposal as direct costs (further definitions are provided below).

Requests for exceptions to this policy may be submitted to the Executive Director for routing to the board for review. The decision by the board of directors of the Foundation is at their sole discretion. Such exceptions must be specifically set forth in writing.

DEFINITIONS

Direct Costs are the expenses required to execute a project that are directly attributable to and can be reasonably allocated to the project. Costs that would not be incurred by the grantee if the project did not exist are often indicative of direct costs. Examples of direct costs include, but are not limited to: academic and support staff salaries and related costs (payroll taxes and benefits); meals, transportation, and lodging costs for project participants and attendees; supplies, equipment, and facilities acquired for the project; and project advertising, recording, printing, and publishing costs.

Indirect Costs are general overhead and administrative expenses that typically support the entire operations of a grantee and that may be shared across projects and/or functions. (Indirect costs are sometimes referred to as "overhead costs" or "facilities and administrative costs.") Expenses that would be incurred by the grantee regardless of whether the Foundation funds the project are often indicative of indirect costs. Examples of indirect project costs include, but are not limited to: facility occupancy and rental costs; utilities; and general administrative functions not directly attributable to a project such as executive and administrative management, clerical services, facilities support, procurement, human resources, finance, accounting, technology, and legal services.