



Michael E. Zwick
Senior Vice President for Research

To: All faculty and staff

From: Michael E. Zwick, Ph.D., Senior Vice President for Research and Institutional Official

Date: May 16, 2025

Subject: Research Updates and Guidance

Dear Rutgers Community,

I take immense pride in Rutgers' cutting-edge research and innovation. Our researchers have a long and illustrious history of advancing the research university mission of teaching, research, and service. Rutgers is, most importantly, a place for learning and a beacon of discovery and progress. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in the groundbreaking work being done across our campuses. Whether we develop novel treatments and pharmaceuticals for diseases, create new drought, pest, and disease-resistant plant varieties, achieve new engineering and material science breakthroughs, or pursue greater understanding and accomplishments in the humanities, social sciences, and the arts, Rutgers' contributions to society are unquestionable.

I am writing to provide some updates, guidance, and reminders as you conduct your important work.

Recent Updates

In the past few weeks, several federal agencies announced changes to lower their indirect rates (i.e., F&A rates) to 15%. Indirect rates cover everything from research space maintenance to utilities and the support needed to comply with the increasing burden of federal regulation. This would have caused a great deal of harm and loss to our research and innovation enterprise since our current federally negotiated rate is 57%.

I am thrilled to share that, thanks to the concerted efforts of the Association of American Universities (AAU), and close coordination between the Office for Research, the Office of General Counsel, and many dedicated Rutgers colleagues within our schools, our request for a preliminary injunction to temporarily halt the change in the indirect rate proposed by the Department of Energy was granted. This victory underscores our collective dedication to supporting and advocating Rutgers' research endeavors. This would not have been successful without the collaborative efforts of all involved.

Rutgers also played a pivotal role in supporting the request for a temporary injunction against the same change made by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to its indirect rate, alongside the AAU and other partners. We continue to work diligently with our AAU colleagues to explore additional actions that can be pursued to safeguard our research interests.

Guidance for Principal Investigators

While we await the judge's ruling on our legal challenge against the NSF, we will only use Rutgers' federally negotiated rate for NSF submissions. I will keep you apprised of any changes.

Reminders

- Send all notices regarding federal stop work orders or terminations to federal-tracking@rutgers.edu.
- For questions or updates relating to the changes at the federal level and their impact on Rutgers research, please visit our [Rutgers Research FAQs](#) page.
- The Office for Research is a part of your team and will assist ALL Rutgers faculty seeking funding for their research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. Seeking funding from new research sponsors helps Rutgers faculty pursue their important work and helps Rutgers make its research ecosystem more robust to address changes at the federal level. As a reminder, the Office for Research is the signatory on all research and technology transfer contracts and agreements and is ready to help you.

Looking Ahead

As we navigate these changes, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering an environment where research and innovation thrive. Rutgers' research is not just about meeting today's challenges; it is about envisioning and creating a better tomorrow. Together, we will continue to push the boundaries of knowledge and make impactful contributions to society.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to Rutgers and its mission.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Zwick, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Research and Institutional Official