



## CureSearch Budget Expenditure and Indirect Costs Policy

### I. Purpose

To outline the budget expenditures and indirect cost guidelines for grant applications submitted to CureSearch for funding. This policy specifies allowable expenses for proposed budgets and defines the indirect costs policy applicable to each award.

### II. Scope

Applies to all grant applications submitted to CureSearch for funding through the Young Investigator, Acceleration Initiative, and Catapult Award mechanisms.

### III. Definitions

Direct Costs: Direct costs are expenses directly attributable to a specific research project or activity, contributing directly to its execution. Examples include salaries for key personnel and research staff, project-specific equipment and supplies, travel expenses related to project activities, participant incentives, and publication costs for disseminating project results.

Indirect Costs (IDC): Indirect costs, also known as facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, are expenses necessary for the overall operation of the institution but cannot be directly assigned to a particular project. Examples include salaries for administrative or non-project staff, utilities, office supplies for general administrative use, and facilities maintenance.

### IV. Budget Guidelines

#### i. Allowable Expenses

##### **Personnel Costs:**

Salary support for Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, research assistants, and other staff directly involved in the research project are allowable. CureSearch adheres to the current NIH salary cap for Principal Investigators and other Key Personnel. Fringe benefits may be included at the institutional rate. Percent effort related to the project must be provided for all personnel in the budget with corresponding salary and fringe amounts. For projects requesting support of \$500,000 or greater, the PI must commit a minimum of 10% effort.

Salary support for predoctoral or postdoctoral fellows is allowable and should align with the current NIH guidelines for these roles.



Tuition, visa expenses, and professional membership dues for graduate and postdoctoral fellows are not allowable under this policy.

**Consultant Costs:**

Fees for consultants who provide expertise necessary for the project's success are allowable. Consultant costs should be reasonable, justified, and based on the scope of the work provided.

**Equipment:**

Equipment expenses integral to the project may be budgeted up to 20% of total direct costs. Requests exceeding this cap require prior approval from CureSearch.

**General Supplies:**

Supplies directly related to the project are allowable, including laboratory supplies, reagents, and other consumables essential to the research.

**Animal Costs:**

Costs associated with the use of animals in research, including animal purchase, housing, care, and veterinary services, are allowable when these expenses are directly related to the project. All animal research must adhere to institutional and federal ethical guidelines, and these costs should be justified within the project proposal.

**Travel:**

National and international travel related to the project is allowable, limited to \$5,000 per year. Costs associated with presenting project findings and disseminating results, including publication fees, are allowable.

**ii. Indirect Costs (IDC)**

**Indirect Cost Rate:**

CureSearch allows a maximum IDC rate of 10% of total direct project costs. This rate covers reasonable administrative and facilities-related expenses that support research activities. The total award amount for each grant mechanism is inclusive of the 10% IDC rate.

Institutions with an IDC rate below 10% should apply their institutional rate and may not increase their IDC beyond this rate.



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**Subcontracts and Subawards:**

The total IDC for any award, inclusive of the primary institution's and subaward institutions' indirects, must not exceed the 10% maximum. Each subaward budget must include IDC in such that the combined total with the primary awardee remains within the overall 10% allowable rate.

**iii. Compliance and Reporting**

A detailed expenditure report must be submitted within 60 days of project completion. CureSearch reserves the right to request additional financial documentation to ensure compliance with this policy. Any unobligated funds at the end of the award period, as detailed in the final expense report, must be returned to CureSearch within 60 days of the submission of the final expense report.

For questions or further information, please contact: [researchgrants@curesearch.org](mailto:researchgrants@curesearch.org).