



Education | Healthcare | Public Services

Sample FOIA/Info Request Language for NIH Grant Indirect Cost Rate

Below is information to include in a union information request or a FOIA request to help you better understand how your institution is using the negotiated NIH indirect cost rate and to understand the impact on the faculty and staff on your campus.

1. Indirect Cost Rate and Allocation

- The current negotiated indirect cost rate for NIH grants at [Institution Name] before the policy change.
- A breakdown of how indirect costs are allocated, including specific line items (e.g., general administration, departmental administration, facilities, student services, utilities, maintenance, security, etc.).
- Historical indirect cost recovery rates for the past five fiscal years.

2. Current NIH Grants and Impact Analysis

- A list of all active NIH grants at [Institution Name], including:
 - Principal investigators (PIs)
 - Grant titles and awarded amounts
 - Previously negotiated indirect cost rates for each grant
- The projected financial impact of the new 15% cap on existing NIH grants, including any anticipated shortfalls.
- Any internal assessments or reports on how this policy change will affect ongoing and future research projects.

3. Personnel and Budget Implications

- The number of faculty, staff, and student employees funded (fully or partially) through indirect cost allocations.
- Any planned or potential reductions in workforce, layoffs, hiring freezes, or program cuts as a result of this funding change.
- Any impact on graduate assistant funding, research assistantships, or postdoctoral positions.
- Any potential changes to workload expectations, reassignment of duties, or other impacts on working conditions.

4. Institutional Response and Mitigation Plans

- Any contingency plans the administration is considering to offset the loss of indirect cost funds.
- Any communications with NIH, HHS, or other federal agencies regarding this policy change.
- Any discussions with peer institutions, consortia, or professional organizations regarding collective advocacy or legal challenges to the cap.

The AFT is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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