



# Protect NIH F&A Costs

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides critical funding for cutting-edge research that drives advancements in healthcare and strengthens the U.S. economy. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs, also known as indirect costs, are essential for conducting research and supporting the infrastructure that makes these discoveries possible. Maintaining full recovery of F&A costs is vital for universities and research institutions to continue their life-saving work. Since 2017, Congress has included language prohibiting the use of funds to modify NIH F&A costs, but the agency released guidance in February capping these costs at 15 percent. While implementation of the policy has been blocked by a federal court, Congress must include language in the FY26 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill that prohibits F&A caps.

## POTENTIAL LOSS OF FUNDING:

If a 15 percent cap were placed on F&A costs, SUNY institutions would face an estimated \$79 million loss based on current NIH grants. This would severely undermine critical life-saving research, disrupt ongoing studies, and inhibit the ability of institutions to support vital research infrastructure.

## SUNY REQUESTED BILL LANGUAGE:

SEC. 224: "In making Federal financial assistance, the provisions relating to indirect costs in part 75 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated rates, shall continue to apply to the National Institutes of Health to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions were applied in the third quarter of fiscal year 2017. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Health and Human Services or to any department or agency may be used to develop or implement a modified approach to such provisions, or to intentionally or substantially expand the fiscal effect of the approval of such deviations from negotiated rates beyond the proportional effect of such approvals in such quarter."

## SUNY IMPACT

In New York, NIH grants support over 6,000 active grants, totaling \$3.55 billion. These grants help fund vital research across the state, supporting 30,500 jobs and generating \$8.27 billion in economic activity. F&A costs play a crucial role in enabling SUNY institutions to conduct this research. Below are examples of how a 15 percent cap on F&A funding would impact SUNY institutions:

- **University at Buffalo:**  
**Estimated \$47 million impact.**  
*Example: \$8 million for the Women's Health Initiative; \$28.4 million to improve health outcomes, including addressing asthma and speeding drug discovery.*
- **Stony Brook University:**  
**Estimated \$23 million impact.**  
*Example: Research supporting 9/11 first responders; \$3 million for infectious disease outbreak mitigation.*
- **SUNY Downstate:**  
**Estimated \$5.5 million impact.**  
*Example: \$550k for lung disease therapies; \$620k for breast cancer therapies.*
- **Upstate Medical University:**  
**Estimated \$8.5 million impact.**  
*Example: \$6.4 million for Alzheimer's research; \$2.2 million for cancer treatments.*
- **University at Albany:**  
**Estimated \$3.4 million impact.**  
*Example: \$4 million for cancer research; \$1.7 million for breast cancer studies.*
- **Binghamton University:**  
**Estimated \$3.5 million impact.**  
*Example: \$2.4 million for improving lung cancer diagnostics.*