

A Discussion Forum from the *UCEDD Technical Assistance Team*

Funding Series Discussion 1: Use of Core Funds

Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

Discussion Notes

Number of Participants: thirty-two (32)

States Represented: Texas, New Jersey, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Alaska, Wyoming, Ohio, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Connecticut, Vermont

What brought you to the call? Expected Outcome?

- What are the various ways that core funding is utilized?
- Traditional ways in which core funding has been used?
- Newer ways to manage funds?
- How are individuals collaborating on different efforts to extend use of funding and bring in other funding avenues?
- What goes into program development and how individuals use core money to support that?

Discussion: What does core funding support?

- Core functions
- Core administrative structure
- CAC
- Portion of director's salary
- Hiring affiliated faculty (i.e. communications staff to develop/design website and printed materials)
- Travel related to AUCD activities (i.e. AUCD annual meeting, presenting at national conferences specifically related to research). Travel costs vary year to year depending on other expenses and state traveling from. Traveling to DC can be a challenge.

Discussion: What goes into program development and how core funding supports that?

- Challenge to retain portion of core funding to support program development
- Temporarily support a portion of faculty member's time to develop a program or research area. Intent is to develop sustainable funding over time.

Discussion: Other supports for core functions and core activities

- University support – cover director's salary
- Not a lot of support from university

Discussion: How do you set aside core funding to work on new initiatives?

- Varies year to year
- Incorporate new initiatives into 5 year plan. Use core to initially support while seeking external funds
- Put a small percentage of staff on core to work on a pilot, development, or action team
- Unique set of challenges and variations in circumstances based on home states and home universities
- Flexibility on use of core funds to apply to new initiatives is a struggle for all

- Particulars are affected by context in host university, supports have or don't have, other funds, etc.

Discussion: How programs are having to adjust their core expenditures as awards are level funded but expenses are increasing.... what is being given up!?

- Travel
- Salary cuts
- Some FTE % for some of our core staff
- Discretionary funds
- Would cut further into travel if salary and other expenditures became an issue

Discussion: Telephones, copier charges.. Expected to pay with core or covered a different way through the university?

- Telephone paid through core
- Charge off copy fees to projects but that includes core
- Not allowed to pay for phone if considered part of F&A structure
- University is not concerned with source of payment
- Small amount paid through core
- Pay for everything through grant funds/allocated to specific projects when possible; portion paid by core funds
- The University doesn't cover anything; viewed as being different than academic units
- Portion of F&A return is used to support office/operational expenses

Discussion: What is your return on indirects?

- Small percentage
- Responses ranged from 10 to 35 percent
- A third
- College gets the return and then divides a portion to center

Discussion: Equipment costs.

- If resources are available, laptop, computers for core staff
- Sometimes printers
- Fax machine
- General office equipment
- Sponsored project office/ grants and contract office is getting more rigid in wanting to ensure equipment is being used only by particular project and also preventing spending if it was not specified in a grant
- Federal guidelines are becoming more flexible
- Everything has to be explained to University how equipment/materials are being used for a particular project, including paper
- Have more flexibility with core but not so much with other projects

Discussion: To what degree is the F&A recovery used to supplement CORE development activities? What is the process for making this type of decision?

- Maintain staff to maintain capacity
- Stability. Then during the year when new projects or additional funds, explore new projects or research
- Professional development for staff

General comments:

- Thanks for a good conversation
- Helpful to see how others allocate funds to build capacity/programs.

- Sometimes you don't know what you don't know...the discussion is helpful
- I'm still new to the UCEDD. I am learning and this is helpful.
- This was very helpful.
- Format is good. Helpful to learn other UCEDDs are dealing with same issues.
- Very helpful. Amazing to hear the wide variety across states.
- Thank you! Enjoyed it
- Enjoyed talking with colleagues from around the country
- Thank you. Very helpful to hear what other people are doing.

Further Discussion Suggestions:

- How other UCEDDs make program development allocations?
- How to build grant development capacity to leverage other funds when lacking grant writers and need to compete to expand dollars?