I. Introduction

Cost sharing enables Oregon State University to be eligible and competitive for prestigious, scientifically important projects. Cost sharing that is required by a sponsor is appropriate and OSU provides many resources to help meet these requirements. Please see more information below regarding how to include mandatory cost sharing in a proposal and what to avoid.

However, cost sharing outside of that required by a sponsor (i.e. “voluntary cost share”) should be minimized. While voluntary cost share was once a common practice, voluntary cost share is no longer permitted except in extenuating circumstances because of changing federal guidelines, negative impact of OSU’s F&A rate, and the unnecessary costs it creates. The new federal Uniform Guidance that took effect at the end of 2014 requires funding opportunities to state whether cost sharing is mandatory. If cost sharing is not mandatory, the inclusion of voluntary cost share will not be used a factor in review.