

RSENR Research Incentive Fund Policy

Purpose: To reward and incentivize faculty who successfully secure externally sponsored research that returns substantial F&A (overhead or indirect costs) to the RSENR.

Rationale: The RSENR recognizes that researchers sometimes need auxiliary sources of funding to support activities that are aligned with their research programs but may not have been explicitly identified in a specific funded proposal. For this reason, the RSENR will support a formula-based research incentive that is indexed to the F&A that a faculty member generates in the previous fiscal year.

Policy: Faculty with externally sponsored grants and contracts that generate qualifying F&A for the RSENR will be eligible to receive support from the Steve Rubenstein gift funds equivalent to a specified percentage (match rate) of the qualifying F&A. Funds may be used to support any activities allowable as research-related costs.

Qualifications:

1. This fund is only available to faculty whose primary appointment is in the RSENR.
2. Faculty who obtain awards with an F&A rate of 25% or greater will receive a match rate of 5%. Awards with an F&A rate of 50% or greater will receive a match rate of 10%.
3. The match rate will be calculated on individual awards received over the previous fiscal year and will be made available for use by the following October 1.
4. The total of all qualifying F&A attributable to an individual faculty member must exceed \$1,000 in the previous fiscal year to qualify for the RSENR Research Incentive Fund
5. The RSENR manages several large federal programs (e.g. Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Vermont Water Resources and Lakes Studies Center, or Northeastern States Research Cooperative) that are eligible for the RSENR Research Incentive Funds. These funds will be managed by the program and made available to faculty supported by the program, in proportion to the F&A generated by their individual project. This pass-through provision is only available to faculty whose primary appointment is in the RSENR. All other incentive funds will remain with the program.
6. If there are multiple RSENR faculty members as co-PIs on an award, the incentive amount generated by each faculty member will be apportioned by the budgeted effort as identified in the proposal or as negotiated by the PI and co-PI(s).
7. The F&A Matching Research Funds may be used for any expenses allowable under UVM policy, including but not limited to course buyouts, summer salary, graduate student support, research travel, research supplies, equipment, etc. These funds may be used for cost share requirements. These funds may *not* be used for *any* personal expenses.
8. The balances in an RSENR Research Incentive Fund may roll over from one fiscal year to the next.

9. Balances in a RSENR Research Incentive Fund account are not transferable and will be returned to the gift fund when employment ceases.

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