TFFA Flow Chart

In response to faculty and staff feedback, the Office of Sponsored Programs has reevaluated our process for proposal budget requirements used when US Department of Agriculture’s ‘Total Federal Funding Authorization’ (TFFA) is required to be used in the F&A calculations. We have concluded that the methodology for proportional sharing of the F&A reduction was creating an undue administrative burden both internally to UI and externally for our sponsored and are changing this process moving forward.

New proposals with subawardees planned from UI that are being submitted in response to USDA funding opportunities that require use of the TFFA methodology will now follow the below process:

New TFFA methodology when subawards are proposed:
- Subawardees claim the lesser of 42.857% total direct costs (TDC) or their negotiated F&A rate.
- U of I claims the lesser of our federally negotiated F&A rate or 42.857% on TDC minus ALL subaward amounts.
  - If a subaward’s negotiated rate is lower than 42.857% TDC, U of I increases its F&A rate to maximize the 30% TFFA limit without exceeding our applicable negotiated rate.

(Note the 42.857% pertains only to USDA NIFA projects, for other USDA agencies that do not use this rate we would then use our negotiated rate).

This will allow us to accept subawardee budgets where they use the lesser of their negotiated rate or the 42.857% of total direct costs rate that NIFA requires. UI will then not charge indirect costs on the subaward(s) and set our own rate based on the total indirect costs that remain after the subawardee budgets are calculated into the TFFA maximum.

Note: Increase UI indirect costs to reach the 30% TFFA indirect limit or the overall budget limit, whichever is lower.
Is UI's federally negotiated rate less than 30% TFFA?

If Yes, use our federally negotiated rate.

If No, check if there are subawards.

If No, use 30% TFFA (42.857% TDC)

If Yes, check if the subaward used a lower rate than 30% TFFA.

If No, use 30% TFFA (42.857% TDC)

If Yes, increase UI indirect costs*

*Note: Increase UI indirect costs to reach the 30% TFFA indirect limit or the overall budget limit, whichever is lower.