

RAIN-2018-G05

Interim EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs

Notification Date: September 7, 2018

Purpose: This Recipient/Applicant Information Notice (RAIN) informs recipients and applicants of EPA's Interim Guidance on Participant Support Costs.

Summary: EPA has developed interim guidance on participant support costs (PSC). The guidance covers types of PSCs such as stipends and travel assistance for trainees or research project participants that are common to all Federal agencies as well as EPA specific programs that provide rebates and subsidies for the purchase or installation of pollution abatement technologies. Some EPA subsidy or rebate programs have their own statutory/regulatory requirements and associated program guidance. EPA participant support cost policies apply to direct EPA funding as well as EPA funded pass-through agreements with subrecipients. Potential applicants and recipients should use this guidance as a reference when preparing budgets for and managing EPA financial assistance agreements.

Background: The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Grants Guidance or UGG) at [2 CFR 200.75](#) defines PSC as direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences or training projects. PSCs are allowable with prior EPA approval as provided at [2 CFR 200.456](#). The UGG also provides at [2 CFR 200.420](#) that the allowability of costs should be determined on the basis of the treatment in the Cost Principles for similar or related items of cost. EPA has determined that rebates, subsidies, and similar payments that enable the public to participate in EPA funded pollution abatement programs are sufficiently similar to other forms of PSCs for the costs to be allowable. The UGG also established requirements at [2 CFR 200.331](#) for subrecipient monitoring and management, highlighting the importance of properly differentiating between subawards and PSC.

Related Resources: [Office of Grants and Debarment Interim Guidance on Participant Support Costs](#)