

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RSCH Office of Research
POLICY NUMBER RSCH 1.02
POLICY TITLE Sponsored Projects Administered through USC Foundations
SCOPE OF POLICY USC System
DATE OF REVISION April 27, 2026
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Vice President for Research
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Office of Research

PURPOSE

All sponsored projects administered through a University of South Carolina foundation must be approved and follow the procedures established by the University Office of Sponsored Awards Management (SAM).

DEFINITIONS

Facilities and Administrative Cost Rates (F&A): [Facilities & Administrative Costs](#)

Sponsored Project: is a grant, contract or other arrangement formalizing the transfer of money or property from a sponsor to the University with the intent to either carry out a public purpose or provide a direct benefit to the sponsor. Sponsored projects come in various forms, including but not limited to grants, contracts and cooperative agreements. Sponsored projects may be enforceable by law or subject to regulatory oversight and include specific objectives which are accomplished within a specified time frame.

POLICY STATEMENT

All sponsored projects administered through a University of South Carolina foundation must be approved and follow the procedures established by the University Office of Sponsored Awards Management (SAM).

PROCEDURES

A. Proposal Application

All proposals for sponsored projects will be submitted to SAM using the standard proposal/award processing form and procedure. The decision as to whether the proposal will be submitted from the University or from a university foundation will be made by SAM.

Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A)

1. Federally negotiated facilities and administrative cost rates will be applied to all sponsored projects regardless of whether the proposal is routed through the university or a university foundation.

Current federally-negotiated rates for proposals submitted from USC or the South Carolina Research Foundation are the same and may be viewed on the [SAM homepage](#).

Departures from these negotiated rates will be considered only for those sponsors whose standard policy sets an upper limit on F&A that is lower than these rates. Any departures from the university’s F&A rates must be approved by SAM.

2. The F&A cost reimbursements accrued on projects conducted through a university foundation will be shared according to current USC policy.

B. Sponsor Negotiations

1. The university's [standard contract template](#) should be used with all industry/commercial sponsors.
2. In the event the sponsor wishes to use a different agreement or change the terms of the standard agreement, the negotiations with the sponsor will be conducted by SAM.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

As applicable

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
March 14, 1996	New policy approval.
November 8, 2013	Policy organization, content, and accuracy reviewed in October 2013; no substantive revision required.
February 7, 2020	Updated to new policy format.
April 27, 2026	Reviewed by division and revalidated