

DATE: January 8, 2024

TO: Accredited Colleges/Universities in Vermont

FROM: Office of Civil Rights & Labor Compliance, Vermont Agency of Transportation

RE: Questions related to the Request for Grant Applications (RFG) for the 2024-2025 National Summer Transportation Institute Program

Question. Our college has a federally negotiated rate for Facilities and Administration (F&A). Our understanding of Uniform Guidance regulations is that since we have a negotiated rate, this is what must be used unless the federal funder specifies otherwise. But the statement on the application's budget tab seems to indicate that if we are a subrecipient, the pass-through entity makes the determination. We want to make sure we are in compliance with federal grant regulations and are using the correct rate.

Response. Per the Budget table, the Agency of Transportation (VTrans), as the pass-through entity, has the ability to determine an appropriate rate which is either negotiated between VTrans and the host site, or the de minimis rate. VTrans is willing to accept applications seeking to use the de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs. VTrans is also willing to accept applications offering to use an indirect cost rate, up to their negotiated rate from the cognizant agency.

It is understood that the grant award is limited to the Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) as listed in the Request for Grants. It is true that higher indirect cost rates could consume the limited grant dollars, leaving less available for programming. Colleges/Universities are encouraged to identify in-kind contributions and to leverage resources wherever possible.