

Participant Support vs. Human Subjects Incentives

The Office of Management and Budget defines **participant support** 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. A participant does not perform work or service for the project or program. A participant is a recipient, not the provider. Participants may be, but are not limited to, students, scholars, scientists from other institutions, or teachers. The participant is not required to deliver anything or provide any service to the university in return for these costs. ([200.75 Participant Support Costs](#))

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) defines **Human Subjects Incentives** as low value payments or items given to individuals to encourage (incentivize) them to participate in a research study.

Participant Support	Human Subjects
Non-employees	Employees and Non-employees
Benefits the participant	Motivates the participant
Allowable with sponsor approval	Allowable with sponsor approval
No F&A incurred	Incurs F&A
No IRB protocol	Requires IRB protocol

Participant Support Cost Examples



Stipends or substance allowances for NSF REU award or supplement
Travel allowance to attend an educational workshop
Registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees in connection with conferences or training projects

Human Subject Costs Examples



Monetary compensation to participate in a study of the effects of running on a treadmill for one hour
Gift certificates provided to encourage participation in a survey
Petty case given to encourage participation in an interview