# **Participant Support Guidelines**

The Office of Sponsored Programs frequently receives questions regarding Participant Support (Line F on the Proposal Budget). This document aims to answer some commonly asked questions.

You can find more details regarding Participant Support in the [National Science Foundation Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG).](https://beta.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1/ch-2-proposal-preparation%22%20%5Cl%20%222D2fv%22%20%5Co%20%22Click%20here%20to%20visit%20the%20NSF%20PAPPG%20website)

The table below provides information about various costs and whether they can be included in the Participant Support costs section (Line F) of the NSF budget.

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| **Cost(s)** | **Include in Participant Support line of budget** |
| Conference Speaker fees | No. Speakers and trainers are not considered participants and should not be included on the participant support line of the budget.  |
| Honorariums | No. Honorarium costs are not considered participant costs and should not be included on the participant support line of the budget.  |
| Human subject payments for participation in research | No. Payments to human subjects should be included on line G6 of the NSF budget under “Other Direct Costs” |
| Individual attending a conference for learning or training | Yes. The costs may be included under participant support. |
| Costs related to an NSF-sponsored conference (e.g., venue rental fees, catering costs, supplies, etc.) that will be secured through a service agreement/contract | No. When secured through a service contract, these costs should be budgeted on line G.6., “Other Direct Costs.” |
| Student employees | Students cannot be compensated partially as an employee and as a participant on the same grant. A determination must be made about whether the student should be an employee or a participant based upon the role of the student in the project. Student employees are compensated for services rendered and their level of compensation is tied to the number of hours worked. Participant support costs should be used to defray the costs of students participating in a conference or training activity related to the proposal. |
| Students included as part of a Research Experiences for Undergraduate Research (REU) proposal  | Yes. The REU program is aimed at developing the students’ research skills and providing a high-quality mentoring experience. Based on this role, an REU student is considered a participant in a training activity and funds for their support should be included as a stipend in the participant support cost section of the budget.  |

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| Resources: |
| [National Science Foundation Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG),](https://beta.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1) NSF 23-1 - effective January 30, 2023 |
| Article: National Science Foundation, Participant Support Costs Explained (no longer in circulation) |