

Terms of use for Faculty Startup Funds

Background. Startup research funds typically are provided to beginning faculty to enable them to purchase equipment, hire personnel and purchase needed supplies and services during their initial 3 years at ISU. Startup funds nominally derive from indirect cost (IDC) returns the College receives as a result of extramural grant activity of its faculty. These startup funds effectively represent an initial, internally funded research grant that allows a new faculty member to initiate research and generate preliminary data necessary to compete for extramural research funding.

Expectations. In providing startup funding for new faculty, the LAS College has certain expectations.

- Unless otherwise stipulated, startup funding normally will be provided for a specified 3-year time frame, which begins on the official start date for the startup recipient.
- Startup funding is expected to be spent on research-related activities within the specified 3-year period.
- Any unexpended funds will be returned to the LAS College at the end of 3 years, unless a 1-year extension is approved. With reasonable justification, a single, one-year extension of the startup period may be granted that would allow expenditure of unspent startup funds during the 4th year after initiation of the startup grant. Beyond the third year, startup funds for can be used only for personnel support.
- If a 1-year extension is approved, any unexpended funds will be returned to the LAS College at the end of 4 years. In rare cases, an additional 1-year extension may be approved, but any permitted extension for the use of unspent startup funds beyond the 4th year would require a demonstration of extraordinary circumstances that prevented the expenditure of all startup funding during the first 4 years. Again, funds can be used only for personnel support.
- The provision of startup funding beyond the standard, minimal startup of a computer and a month of summer salary also carries the expectation that the recipient of the startup grant will seek extramural research funding to, a) support his or her research activities, and b) to help replenish the pool of IDC funds in the College, facilitating the provision of startup funding to additional new faculty.