



Research



Representation



Education

## Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association (NPF&VGA) Indirect Costs Policy

**Effective Date:** November 1, 2024

### **Policy Objective:**

The NPF&VGA is committed to supporting research that directly benefits fruit and vegetable growers in the Niagara Peninsula. Through seed funding, we aim to foster innovation, improve practices, and address challenges within the industry. To enhance project sustainability, researchers may allocate a portion of their budgets toward indirect costs.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all research proposals submitted to or funded by the NPF&VGA.

### **Definitions:**

1. **Direct Costs:** Expenses specifically associated with the execution of a research project, including salaries, materials, supplies, equipment, and project-related travel.
2. **Indirect Costs (IDC):** Institutional expenses that are not directly attributable to a single research project but are essential to support research activities. Examples include facility upkeep, administrative support, and regulatory compliance.

### **Policy:**

1. **Funding Framework:**
  - NPF&VGA funding is intended as seed money to support both direct and limited indirect costs.
  - Researchers are allowed to include up to 15% of the total project budget for indirect costs (IDCs) within their funding requests to NPF&VGA.
2. **Budget Guidelines:**
  - Project budgets submitted to NPF&VGA can allocate a maximum of 15% toward indirect costs, ensuring a fair distribution of resources between direct research activities and necessary institutional support.
  - This indirect cost rate must be incorporated into the total project budget, not exceeding the 15% limit.
3. **Accountability:**
  - Researchers must provide a detailed budget, clearly indicating direct and indirect costs, to confirm alignment with this policy.
  - The NPF&VGA may review expenditures to ensure compliance and efficient use of funds.

### **Rationale:**

Allowing a modest percentage for indirect costs enables researchers to cover essential institutional expenses, supporting project feasibility while ensuring funds remain focused on impactful research.

### **Review and Amendments:**

This policy will be reviewed as necessary, to ensure it meets the needs of the NPF&VGA and the research community it supports.