Program Guidelines for the Networks of Excellence

Principal Investigators and Other Partners
At least two SUNY campuses must be represented in the LOI and full proposal to meet program requirements. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be from a SUNY Campus although non-SUNY faculty may be co-PIs or a member of the research team.

Unrestricted Fund Policy
The Research Foundation for SUNY’s Unrestricted Fund Policy applies to funds awarded through the Network of Excellence Program. This policy outlines permissible and non-permissible expenses.

Permissible expenses include:
- Advertisements, conferences, meetings, food, and alcohol

Non-permissible expenses include:
- Personal services, social club memberships, and housing allowances for personal use

General Budget Requirements (RFPs may provide additional guidance)

Budget requests may include:
- Items necessary to perform the research (i.e. product license)
- Travel costs
- Funds to support post-doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate stipends
- Tuition for students (although some RFPs may have additional restrictions)

Budget requests may NOT include:
- Course buy-outs
- Costs for non-SUNY partners (although they are welcome to participate, in-kind)
- Indirect costs
- Salaries, including summer salaries for faculty

No Cost Extensions
No cost extensions are allowable subject to the following limitations: one-time only and at most six months of additional time. The PI must provide a justification for the extension and any potential major change to the budget distribution, if applicable. The RF program manager will review the request along with the current status of expenditures on the award and the progress reports submitted (which must be up-to-date) and will notify the PI and the Award Establishment staff in Central Office to extend the award in the Oracle system. A revised abstract with the new award end date will be sent to the campus and project abstracts to collaborating locations.

Budget Flexibility and Modification Requests
Approval is required when the researcher requests cumulative transfers among the direct cost budget categories that exceed 25% of the total approved budget. Please submit budget modification requests to the relevant NoE Program Manager. Approval for lesser amounts is not required but must be allowable and align with the NoE Program Guidelines.