CFI-Funded Renovations: Common Practices & Challenges

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Eligible Costs

• CFI will pay for renovations that are: “essential to house and use the infrastructure or to conduct the research activities described in the proposal” (from CFI Policy and Program Guide)
Common Examples of Essential Renos

- **Electrical**: new outlets/panels, rewiring, extra power
- **Plumbing**: dedicated/chilled water supply, valves, drains
- **Air**: dedicated air supply/exhaust, specific temperatures or humidity levels
- **Access**: controlled access for security/safety reasons
- **Size**: to fit the equipment in the room, or through doorways/elevators
Tips

• **START EARLY**: Before allocating a CFI, discuss the full scope of the request with the PI. At proposal stage, work with Facilities/Space office to comprehensively and conservatively cost the job.

• **COST OVERRUNS ARE COMMON**: Be prepared for unexpected elements and resulting cost increases to arise.

• **RENOs DON’T COME WITH DISCOUNTS**: Contractors don’t offer the 20% in-kind vendor discount, so that shortfall must be made up through institutional cash and/or extra >20% discounts from equipment vendors.
Summary

Communication is key

- w/ PI to understand the infrastructure
- w/ Facilities/Space to ensure accurate costs and minimize the unexpected
- w/ Dean/Chair/Business Manager to determine funding sources beyond the CFI/ORF $$, should they be needed