

CFI-Funded Renovations: Common Practices & Challenges

Jeremy Knight

Manager, Research Administration & Operations
Faculty of Medicine



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**DIVISION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT,
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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 w/ 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