§ 641.853 How are costs classified?

(a) All costs must be classified as “administrative costs” or “programmatic activity costs.” (OAA § 502(c)(6)).

(b) Recipients and sub-recipients must assign participants’ wage and benefit costs and other participant (enrollee) costs such as supportive services to the programmatic activity cost category. (See § 641.864). When a participant’s community service assignment involves functions whose costs are normally classified as administrative costs, compensation provided to the participants must be charged as programmatic activity costs instead of administrative costs, since participant wage and benefit costs are always charged to the programmatic activity cost category.

§ 641.856 What functions and activities constitute administrative costs?

(a) Administrative costs are that allocable portion of necessary and reasonable allowable costs of recipients and program operators that are associated with those specific functions identified in paragraph (b) of this section and that are not related to the direct provision of programmatic activities specified in §641.864. These costs may be both personnel and non-personnel and both direct and indirect costs.

(b) Administrative costs are the costs associated with:

1. Performing general administrative and coordination functions, including:

   (i) Accounting, budgeting, financial, and cash management functions;
   (ii) Procurement and purchasing functions;
   (iii) Property management functions;
   (iv) Personnel management functions;
   (v) Payroll functions;
   (vi) Coordinating the resolution of findings arising from audits, reviews, investigations, and incident reports;
   (vii) Audit functions;
   (viii) General legal services functions;
   (ix) Developing systems and procedures, including information systems, required for these administrative functions;
   (x) Preparing administrative reports; and
   (xi) Other activities necessary for general administration of government funds and associated programs.

(c) Costs of goods and services used for administrative functions of the program, including goods and services such as rental or purchase of equipment, utilities, office supplies, postage, and rental and maintenance of office space;

(d) Travel costs incurred for official business in carrying out administrative activities or the overall management of the program;

(e) Costs of information systems related to administrative functions (for example, personnel, procurement, purchasing, property management, accounting, and payroll systems) including the purchase, systems development, and operating costs of such systems and;

(f) Costs of technical assistance, professional organization membership dues, and evaluating results obtained by the project involved against stated objectives. (OAA § 502(c)(4)).

§ 641.859 What other special rules govern the classification of costs as administrative costs or programmatic activity costs?

(a) Recipients and sub-recipients must comply with the special rules for classifying costs as administrative costs or programmatic activity costs set forth in paragraphs (b) through (e) of this section.

(b) Costs of awards by recipients and program operators that are solely

1990, as amended, and any other applicable Federal disability nondiscrimination laws, to provide physical and programmatic accessibility and reasonable accommodation/modifications for, and effective communications with, individuals with disabilities. (29 U.S.C. 794).

(g) Participants’ benefit costs. Recipients and sub-recipients may use SCSEP funds for participant benefit costs only under the conditions set forth in §641.565.