

**FAS Research Continuity Funding  
Frequently Asked Questions**  
*Updated 06/30/25*

Below we provide answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about Research Continuity Funding (RCF) for Principal Investigators (PIs) and Researchers with grants administered through the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). This document will be continuously updated and refined as we receive additional questions from the community.

Please also see the [FAQs from OSP and OVPR](#) for questions related to the management of proposals and awards with federal sponsors, including those identified in GMAS as “Federal Mass Termination.”

If you have questions that are not covered in by either document, please email FORA at [research@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:research@fas.harvard.edu).

## **FAS RESEARCH CONTINUITY FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATES**

*On June 30, 2025, the FAS **announced** an update of the RCF program. The RCF program, including updates, goes into effect on July 1, 2025, and will be in place for one year (through June 30, 2026).*

### **Supplemental Salary for Senior Faculty**

#### **Who qualifies for the new supplemental salary support?**

Senior faculty PIs, who no longer have dean’s ninths available but had planned for supplemental salary on mass-terminated federal grants, will receive supplemental salary support for this fiscal year 2026 (FY26). *Please note:* this support has previously been made available to tenure-track faculty (see below).

#### **How will this supplemental salary be funded?**

Supplemental salary costs originally anticipated to be supported from mass-terminated federal grants will be funded through the RCF.

#### **Is any action required by the faculty member to access this supplemental salary support?**

Senior faculty PIs should charge supplemental salary to the federal costing string of their mass-terminated federal award. No additional action is needed. FAS Finance will manage the accounting.

## **Increased Start-Up Reserve Threshold for Senior Faculty (see below for tenure-track faculty)**

### **What is the new start-up funding reserve threshold for senior faculty with mass-terminated federal grants?**

The allowable reserve in senior faculty start-up accounts (before qualifying for the RCF program) has been increased from 10% to 25%.

### **When is a faculty member eligible to request RCF support under the 25% threshold?**

Senior faculty members with mass-terminated federal grants will receive RCF support once all PI-directed sources of funding have been expended, and their start-up fund balance reaches 25% of its July 1, 2025, balance.

## **Enhanced Support for Tenure-Track Faculty with Terminated Federal Grants**

### **What RCF support will tenure-track faculty receive?**

Tenure-track faculty PIs with mass-terminated federal grants will receive the following RCF support:

1. Beginning July 1, 2025, RCF support at **100% of fiscal year 2025 (FY25) expenditures** charged to mass-terminated federal awards (which include total research expenses, less large equipment purchases, graduate student stipends and tuition, subawards to other institutions, and supplemental salary).
2. There is **no requirement to spend down start-up funds** first.
3. Additionally, tenure-track faculty may **continue to spend from their start-up** accounts at their FY25 spending level.
  - Specifically, If start-up spending at or below the FY25 level brings their start-up balance below 25% of the July 1, 2025 balance, the RCF will add funds to bring the July 1, 2026 balance back to 25% of the July 1, 2025 balance.
  - A faculty member can spend more start-up funds in FY26 than they did in FY25. If this FY26 spending lowers the balance to less than 25% of the July 1, 2025 balance, the top-up on July 1, 2026 will bring their account balance to 25% of the July 1, 2025 balance minus the extra spending (i.e., FY26 spending minus FY25 spending).

**Here is a simple example:** A tenure-track faculty member has \$100 in start-up on July 1, 2025, and they spent \$80 in FY25. If they spend \$80 in FY26, they will

receive \$5 in RCF on July 1, 2026 to restore their start-up to 25% of its July 1, 2025 balance.

**Why is the FAS removing the requirement to spend down start-up funding for tenure-track faculty?**

The FAS is changing the guidance around spending down start-up funds to ensure that tenure-track faculty PIs with mass-terminated federal grants, can confidently continue their research without prematurely depleting their start-up funds.

**Can tenure-track faculty still use their start-up accounts while receiving RCF?**

Yes, tenure-track faculty PIs with mass-terminated federal grants can continue using start-up funds. This guidance allows dual access without penalty, encouraging continued investment in research.

**FAS RESEARCH CONTINUITY FUNDING PROGRAM BASICS ([announced May 16, 2025](#))**

**What support will RCF provide?**

Beginning July 1, 2025, PIs, who received a notification that their federal grant was subjected to mass termination and will continue work, should plan to cover research costs from other funding sources but continue to charge the existing grant award and corresponding fund. Other funding sources should include start-up funds and other PI-directed sources of funding (e.g., royalties, gifts, or other restricted funds), in alignment with the guidance found in these FAQs. If a PI does **not** continue work on a mass-terminated federal grant and transitions personnel to a new project, costs may be shifted to other appropriate sources of funding as well (e.g., other sponsored funding).

Once a **FAS senior faculty member** has spent their PI-directed sources of funding, including their start-up fund balance down to a 25% reserve, these faculty will be eligible for RCF at a rate of 80% of the FY25 operating expenses (which include total research expenses less large equipment purchases, graduate student stipends and tuition, subawards to other institutions, and supplemental salary). Individual faculty members will have the flexibility to direct how these funds are allocated within the research program of their mass-terminated federal grants, for example, support for postdoctoral fellows and/or staff, as well as research activities, services, and supplies.

**FAS Tenure-track faculty members** will receive RCF at a rate of 100% of FY25 operating expenses and are not required to spend down start-up funds first.

**Where should PIs charge costs associated with mass-terminated federal grants?**

It is critical that PIs continue to charge costs associated with mass-terminated federal grants to the existing cost strings. This will track our ongoing expenditure and effort on those projects. More information about the ongoing financial management of these awards will be forthcoming.

### **Who is eligible for RCF support?**

RCF is available to FAS senior and tenure-track faculty with terminated grants that were administered through the FAS. This includes FAS ladder faculty, as well as Professors of the Practice, Professors in Residence, and Senior Lecturers.

### **Are SEAS faculty members eligible for RCF support?**

Research Continuity Funding is available to FAS senior and tenure-track faculty with terminated grants that were administered through the FAS. Faculty with grants administered through SEAS should follow SEAS guidance.

### **Are PIs that are not FAS senior or tenure-track faculty eligible for RCF support?**

FAS-affiliated PIs with grants administered through the FAS who are notified by a federal agency the Harvard GMAS system or FORA that their federal grants are subject to a federal mass termination will have costs associated with the research activities of their terminated grant covered through June 30, 2025. Unfortunately, the FAS is unable to provide Research Continuity Funding for PIs who are not FAS senior or tenure-track faculty. For support with planning, these PIs should contact their Department Administrator or Center Director.

### **How long will RCF support be available?**

RCF is available through June 30, 2026. The FAS will assess the RCF program over the summer and develop longer term plans beyond June 30, 2026.

### **What are “PI-directed funds”?**

PI-directed funds are those that are controlled by the faculty member and available to support the PI's research program, including, but not limited to, sponsored awards, gifts, internal awards, royalty accounts, FASIP accounts, and start-up funds.

### **What resources are available if a PI decides to lay off researchers or staff?**

PIs who decide to lay off researchers with academic appointments should contact [Zoë Fonseca-Kelly](#) and their Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, who have resources available to assist them. PIs who decide to lay off non-academic staff should contact their Department Administrator, who will engage with their unit's FAS HR consultant.

### **How will graduate students be supported?**

Graduate students admitted through FAS programs who were funded through a recently terminated federally sponsored grant and remain in good standing will be supported by the FAS

(as outlined in their financial aid offer) with tuition and stipend for the year (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). Graduate student funding is separate and distinct from Research Continuity Funding.

**Who can faculty contact for help?**

For any questions not answered here, faculty PIs should contact their department's financial administrator or the [FAS Office of Research Administration \(FORA\)](#) at [research@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:research@fas.harvard.edu).