

Research Equipment Acquisition for Competitive Transformation (REACT)

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the REACT Request for Proposals (RFP) as of **September 15, 2026**.

Proposals Due: October 9, 2026

Question:

Can funds be requested for expanding the capabilities of an existing equipment? We have a high resolution digital microscope that was originally configured for high magnification (100X to 1000X). But my proposed research requires a low to medium magnification zoom lens (10X - 100X). May I submit a REACT proposal for this zoom lens to expand the capabilities of the existing microscope in support of my proposed research?

Answer:

Since the purchase would be a new lens added to the microscope and is not simply repair or maintenance of the existing microscope, this would be eligible for REACT. Please note that per the RFP, there must be a plan for shared use of the equipment.

Question:

1. Are PI salary and fringe benefits allowable under a REACT award?
2. If PI salary is allowable, must it be included within the \$20,000 maximum REACT award, or is the \$20,000 maximum specifically for equipment acquisition with allowable personnel costs funded separately?
3. If personnel costs are allowable, is there a limit on the amount or percentage that may be budgeted for PI salary?

Answer:

Salary and fringe are not allowable costs. REACT is for the purchase of equipment only.

Question:

My REACT request is not for a single instrument. It is a set of components that together function as one unit: I want to establish a novel ***in-house station for remote clinical data collection*** (which includes the packaging, shipping, and reconditioning remote data-collection kits specific to my work). These packages get sent to research participants' homes and come back with a biological sample inside and the equipment that needs to be cleaned and reconditioned before shipping out again. This would dramatically improve our research reach, enable enrollment of rural populations, and bring clinical research at PBRC into the 21st century - people want stuff delivered to their doors instead of walking into a clinic (including tablets for telehealth visits with staff).

The components are:

Packing and kitting bench with bin storage

Thermal shipping label and manifest printer

Bench shipping scale

Barcode scanner and asset-tagging system

Ultraviolet-C disinfection cabinet for returned devices

Managed multi-port charge and sync hub for device reconditioning

The remote measurement devices participants use at home

No single item exceeds \$5,000. I have 2 active NIH R-award applications that would be strengthened by establishing a proof of concept with this equipment for the submission.

The request also asks for some items (<25% total cost) that cannot be shipped back but are required for remote data collection kit assembly (sample collection bags, devices FDA-approved only for single use (glucose monitors)).

Answer:

REACT is intended for a single permanent equipment. Consumable components are considered supplies and are not an allowable expense.

Question:

For clarity, what I am proposing is a single fabricated asset rather than a collection of separate items. The components are permanently assembled into one station for remote research kit processing, they have no independent research function once assembled, and Pennington Biomedical would carry the finished station on its inventory as one permanent asset under a single property tag. In my earlier note I told you that no single item exceeded \$5,000. That was true of the individual parts but not of the thing being built. On current vendor pricing the assembled station exceeds \$5,000 as one unit.

The station is permanent equipment only. It consists of a stainless steel kitting and packing bench with bin storage, a separate receiving bench for returned kits, an ultraviolet-C disinfection cabinet for returned devices, a managed multi-port charge and sync hub for device reconditioning, a thermal shipping label and manifest printer, a bench shipping scale, and a barcode scanner with an asset-tagging printer. After reading your response, it is now built so that nothing that ships to a participant is included, and no consumable is included.

Notably, often, when we purchase equipment from vendors, it is very commonly sold as a compilation of individual assets sold as a single unit, which is what I am trying to replicate here, except no one has this assembled unit sold for this purpose (hence the desire to create a fabricated equipment assembled together).

So now the question becomes, whether a single fabricated asset of this kind, assembled and tagged as one permanent item, satisfies the single permanent equipment requirement. If REACT instead requires one manufactured item with a single vendor part number, I would rather know that now than build the proposal around it.

Answer:

Yes, a single asset, tagged as one permanent item, is eligible for REACT.