



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
**Division of Institution & Award Support**

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**Alexandria, VA 22314**  
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December 19, 2022

Christopher Boynton  
Director, Office of Research Administration  
University of Maine  
5717 Corbett Hall  
Orono, Maine 04469-5717

**Reference: OIG Report No. 22-1-005**

Dear Mr. Boynton,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has completed the review and resolution of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit report on costs incurred on selected NSF awards by the University of Maine as of September 2, 2020.

The audit identified no questioned costs and one finding related to UMaine guidance for monitoring indirect cost rates:

**Finding 1: Insufficient Controls Related to the Application of Indirect Cost Rates**

NSF sustains the finding. There were no questioned costs associated with this finding.

Corrective action: UMaine concurred it did not always apply the indirect cost rates in effect at award date and, under certain circumstances, applied the rate in effect at the date of proposal submission. During the audit resolution process, NSF also noted that there was a potential conflict with University of Maine System (UMS), UMaine policy and Uniform Guidance. UMaine provided NSF evidence of strengthened policy and procedures, including the addition of clarifying instructions for the application of indirect cost rates in its Grants & Contracts Allocation Form.

NSF accepts UMaine's corrective actions as responsive to the audit findings and considers all audit report findings resolved and closed.

UMaine's timely responses and full cooperation with the NSF audit resolution process have been greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions regarding this letter or the NSF audit resolution process, please contact me at 703.292.7827.

Sincerely,

*Charlotte D. Grant-Cobb*

Charlotte D. Grant-Cobb, Lead Analyst  
Resolution and Advanced Monitoring  
Division of Institution and Award Support