Navigating A Dynamic Landscape

Today’s economic and regulatory pressures have created a new environment that requires institutions to become more agile and do more with less. As a result, college and university leadership must review their mission and strategy, identifying opportunities for increased efficiency and organizational realignment that drives transformation.

To survive in this new, dynamic environment, institutional leadership must continuously assess all resources, making tough choices about what functions to reshape, eliminate or reorganize. Organizations are seeking new revenue sources, new services, and new partnerships that support their mission. However, if institutions are to truly provide the level of investment necessary to reorganize, become more agile, and seize opportunities, they must improve operational margins across the entire enterprise.

As institutions transition, there are various ways to create greater efficiency and improve margins in the research administration area such as implementing space productivity analyses for research programs, evaluating facilities and capital planning, and/or recovering as much cost as possible from the Facilities and Administrative (F&A) function. Institutions that do not take action will likely see margins continue to shrink, making it difficult to facilitate cost recovery or generate the funding necessary to achieve a vital transformation.

Leadership To Enable Transformation

Attain has the proven capabilities to maximize revenue and take as much cost as possible out of your F&A reimbursement and compliance processes. Our approach is based on an assessment of how indirect and direct administrative and facilities costs can be more accurately associated with Federal and other sponsored programs at your college or university. With this approach and our assessment of your operations, we can help you optimize your reimbursement and make your F&A operations more strategic.

Our skilled professionals have more than 30 years of expertise in executing the complex process of preparing, submitting, and negotiating F&A cost recovery proposals with the Federal government and other program sponsors. Moreover, our team has unmatched experience implementing industry best practices; reviewing, developing and applying costing methodologies; and interpreting the dynamic regulatory environment that affects cost recovery rates. We are skilled in analyzing the implications of OMB Circulars A-110, A-122, OASC-3, A-133, and A-21, which has recently become a heightened focus of audits.

In partnership with college and university leaders, Attain delivers quality analyses, recommendations and costing services that drive accurate and effective cost recovery, compliance performance and the transformation vital to achieving your mission.
Our Portfolio Of F&A Services And Solutions Includes:

**F&A Strategic Planning**

Attain’s F&A proposal, negotiation and space study services provide important tactical improvements to your institution’s facilities and administrative function. We also provide the advisory services that can transform tactical improvements into a comprehensive strategy.

Our strategic services create a powerful driving force toward achieving research sustainability and revenue enhancement. Our knowledgeable team works with you to identify programs or research assets to maximize, and uses innovative higher education specific financial models and tools, to help meet your strategic goals and metrics.

**Space Functional Usage Study**

Space functional usage statistics drive the allocation of most facilities related costs, including building depreciation, equipment depreciation, interest expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses. Performing an accurate, well documented space study is the first and most critical step toward ensuring the fullest recovery of costs associated with your institution’s sponsored programs.

Attain’s space studies uses AttainSpace, a Web-enabled tool to compile, update, review and retrieve the data necessary to generate a precise and comprehensive space study. AttainSpace also reduces the Federal compliance burden by facilitating rapid and accurate information collection and reporting capabilities. Moreover, our tool ensures quality results with integrated business rules and data validation; is easily monitored from a Web browser; exports and uploads to all major F&A rate systems; and is easily integrated and tailored for a customized experience that meets your goals.

**F&A Proposal Preparation, Submission**

Colleges and universities contribute a significant share of the costs associated with the execution of research and other sponsored programs. Despite pressure to increase cost sharing and a rise in administrative costing stemming from changing laws and regulations, we have the capability to prepare a proposal that delivers the highest reimbursement rate possible and the knowledge to analyze regulations and compliance requirements to identify cost take-out opportunities.

In addition to proposal development, we provide review and analyses of facilities and administrative proposals, support systems and cost accounting disclosure statements for your institution.

**F&A Negotiation Assistance**

Our F&A negotiation assistance services enable you to maximize your opportunity to negotiate the highest cost recovery rate possible. Employing proven methodologies accepted by Federal agencies and other program sponsors, we ensure a smooth proposal submission and review process.

Our experts have experience negotiating from both sides of the table – delivering to you the highest quality advice from both Federal and university perspectives.

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Proven Performance. Forward Thinking.
Based in Vienna, Va., Attain is a professional services company comprised of innovative problem solvers who deliver tangible results to address today’s complex public sector and higher education challenges. Attain delivers strategic, operational support, healthcare solutions, IT security and application services to more than 125 customers in the Federal, state and local government, higher education and academic medical center markets.

For more information about Attain, please visit www.attain.com.

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