

Research Support Fund

Accountability and Public Acknowledgment

updated May 2024

Public acknowledgment

1. *definition of the indirect costs of research, along with concrete examples of the types of expenses incurred by the institution in managing the research funded:*

Research funding provided through the granting agencies (the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR), the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) (NSERC), and the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC)) is generally limited to direct project costs (e.g., research equipment, research assistant salaries, etc.). Institutions whose researchers receive funding for research also incur costs to manage their research enterprise. These are often called “indirect costs of research.” These costs include, for example, the costs of maintaining modern labs and equipment; costs of providing researchers with access to up-to-date knowledge resources; costs of managing and administering research; costs of meeting regulatory and ethical requirements; and costs of transferring research results to knowledge users.

Examples of the types of expenses incurred at Dalhousie University and affiliate hospitals in managing the research funded are:

- research space facility fees, e.g., custodial, maintenance, security, utilities and insurance, and research equipment maintenance.
- electronic data access and resources including technical support, e.g., portion of library operating costs.
- Research Services’ staff assistance and oversight.
- regulatory compliance including human and animal ethics certifications and research integrity and scholarly misconduct services.
- research commercialization and intellectual property services and support through the Office of Commercialization and Industry Engagement

2. *description of the [Research Support Fund \(RSF\) program](#) and [Incremental Project Grant stream](#) of the RSF program, and link to the program’s website:*

The federal government Research Support Fund program assists Canadian postsecondary institutions and their affiliated research hospitals and institutes with the indirect costs associated with managing the research funded by the three federal research granting agencies:

- the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR);
- the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) (NSERC); and
- the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC).

Every year, the federal government invests in research excellence in the areas of health sciences, engineering, natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities through its three granting agencies. The Research Support Fund program reinforces this research investment by helping institutions ensure that their federally funded research projects are conducted in world-class facilities with the best equipment and supports available.

Research funding provided through the granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) is generally limited to direct project costs (e.g., research equipment, research assistant salaries, etc.). Institutions whose researchers receive funding for research also incur costs to manage their research enterprise. These are often called “indirect costs of research.” These costs include, for example, the costs of maintaining modern labs and equipment; costs of providing researchers with access to up-to-date knowledge resources; costs of managing and administering research; costs of meeting regulatory and ethical requirements; and costs of transferring research results to knowledge users.

[Eligible institutions](#) receive an annual grant through the fund to defray a portion of the indirect costs incurred to support federally funded research. The program (formerly known as the Indirect Costs Program) was introduced in 2003 as part of the federal government’s strategy to make Canada one of the world’s top countries in research and development.

More information on the Research Support Fund program can be found on the website:

http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx

The Incremental Project Grants (IPG) funding opportunity is a new stream of the Research Support Fund (RSF), in addition to the RSF grant, that provides further support for the indirect costs of research. In 2022-23, Research Security was added as the fifth priority area of Incremental Project Grants.

The objective of the IPG stream aligns with the RSF’s objective to reinforce the federal research investment by helping Canadian postsecondary institutions ensure their federally funded research projects are conducted in world-class facilities with the best equipment and administrative support available. By directing funds to specific investments and annual or multi-year projects initiated by institutions, the IPG will facilitate tracking and reporting, to better demonstrate the impact of these investments.

IPG funding is limited to institutions that meet the RSF eligibility criteria and are at the highest funding levels in the current RSF formula, which is equivalent to receiving \$7 million or more in eligible direct research funding. Eligibility for the IPG will be assessed against this threshold on an annual basis.

More information on the Incremental Project Grants stream of the Research Support program can be found on the website:

<https://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/apply-demande/ipg-sps-eng.aspx>

3. *list of Dalhousie University [affiliated institutions](#):*

- Nova Scotia Health Authority
- IWK Health Centre

See attached Affiliated Organizations Validation Form.

4. *overview of how the institution allocates its grant funds under each of the [five categories](#):*

The Research Support Fund Grant is included as a revenue source to the University Operating budget and helps defray a portion of these costs which are imbedded in the various responsibility centres in the operating budget. For example, a portion of the grant supports utility costs for research space on university campuses which are included in the University budget for Energy, Water, Taxes, and Insurance. Most of the costs supported by the grant are ongoing. Where the federal government allocates increased Research Support Grant funding to the University, it is allocated to the various categories based on the cost drivers for each category. As an example, as additional space is provided for research activities, the grant allocated for the maintenance and insurance of space is adjusted.

The University directs funds to specific research initiatives and the following is a key strategic direction for Dalhousie over the next several years which will require funding support to achieve:

Expand the opportunities for research, scholarly and artistic work

- Direct and attract resources to priority research areas, with local, national, and international importance
- Attract and retain outstanding professors
- Attract and support excellent graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to strengthen the impact of research
- Foster undergraduate research
- Enhance research with state-of-the-art facilities and resources in accordance with the Institutional Framework for the Support of Research.

The hospitals allocate funding from the Research Support Fund to various initiatives including to maintain and revitalize existing research space and equipment; provide systems required to support research; support the administration of new research initiatives; supplement Research Ethics administration; and maintain lab safety and certification requirements.

For 2024-25, the Research Support Fund (RSF) grant to Dalhousie University (including affiliate hospitals) was \$8,551,621, the RSF Incremental Project Grant (IPG) was \$1,447,107, and the RSF Research Security Grant (RS) was \$613,711. These funds were allocated accordingly:

Research Support Fund (\$8,551,621):

Research facilities	\$2,937,749
Research resources	\$1,269,457
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	\$3,580,817
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	\$649,826
Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization	\$113,772

Incremental Project Grant (\$1,447,107):

Research facilities	\$1,203,805
Research resources	\$51,641
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	\$191,661

Research Security (\$613,711):

Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	\$613,711
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Setting and reporting on institutional performance objectives

5. *Identify institutional performance objectives for the grant. Objectives should be in accordance with how the institution chooses to invest its grant in either one, several or all five of the eligible [expenditure categories](#), and must include corresponding indicators and target outcomes:*

**Research Support Fund
2024 - 2025**

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome
Research facilities	Support for Core Facilities.	Promote the development and growth of Core research facilities and multi-user space at Dalhousie.	Core Facilities offer centralized research equipment and expert technical support to the broader research community.	Core Facilities provide effective and efficient usage of research resources under a sustainable operation model.
Research facilities	Renovation of research administration office space.	Support the development and growth of Research Security infrastructure at Dalhousie.	Dalhousie has capacity to identify, assess and mitigate potential risks to research security, in support of the Policy on Sensitive Research Technology and Affiliations of Concern and National Security Guidelines on Research Partnerships.	New Research administration office space for Research Security staff.
Research resources	Research funding opportunities database subscription.	Provide the Dalhousie research community with increased access to research opportunities, funding, and collaborators.	Dalhousie researchers and administrators discover new research opportunities, funding, and collaborations by searching the database.	New research funding and collaborations secured by Dalhousie researchers.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Costs associated with attending research administration-related conferences.	Provide Dalhousie research administration staff with professional development opportunities by attending annual CARA/CAUBO conferences.	Dalhousie research administration staff attend annual CARA/CAUBO conferences.	Minimum of 5 Dalhousie research administration staff build knowledge base and peer network by attending CARA/CAUBO conferences.
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	Biosafety Technician.	Provide support to Dalhousie researchers for laboratory and research activities that may involve exposure to biohazardous agents or materials.	Dalhousie has capacity to identify, assess and mitigate potential risks under biosafety guidelines and regulations.	Provide a safe environment to support important research priorities.

**Incremental Project Grant
2024 - 2025**

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome
Research facilities	Deferred maintenance undertaken in A.L. MacDonald (D Building).	Support and improve research capacity.	Research space is renewed with continued adherence to safety standards.	Research space is renewed to provide a safe environment to support important research priorities.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Clinical Trials Study Start-up Specialist Team (NSHA).	Build capacity within NSHA's clinical trial unit while concomitantly improving access to clinical trial opportunities across Nova Scotia.	Reduced start up timelines and improved operational capacity.	Development of clinical navigational supports that enhance equitable access to services.
Research facilities Research resources Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Facility renewal (IWK).	IWK researchers have a supportive research environment for clinical areas, improved access to productive space, and a more inclusive environment that improves staff morale and capacity to support individual's needs.	Increased utilization and fit for use of shared research community spaces.	Increase in the number of personnel accessing systems, support, and teaching opportunities in shared research community spaces.

**Research Security
2024 - 2025**

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Support the ongoing development of a Research Security Management unit at Dalhousie through the recruitment of two new positions in 2024-25: Manager, Research Security Process and Validation and Manager, Research Security Implementation.	Integrate national security considerations into the development and evaluation of research partnerships.	Positive results following Agency review of funding applications.	Development and evolution of processes to support critical evaluation of research partnerships, including who researchers partner with and what areas of research are at higher risk, to support researchers and government funders to undertake consistent, risk-targeted due diligence to identify and mitigate potential national security risks to research.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Research Storage Service Environment.	Development of a high-security research environment.	Number and amount of research data stores that are housed on the storage infrastructure and the availability of a pilot environment for researchers that require high-security environments.	Dalhousie researchers will be able to apply for research funding that require a high-security environment and affirm compliance and continued support for a secure research storage infrastructure.