

**Research Support Fund**

Accountability and Public Acknowledgment

*updated May 2025*

**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](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 2025-26, the Research Support Fund (RSF) grant to Dalhousie University (including affiliate hospitals) is \$8,386,113, the RSF Incremental Project Grant (IPG) is \$2,159,697, and the RSF Research Security Grant is \$601,357. These funds were allocated accordingly:

Research Support Fund (\$8,386,113):

Research facilities	\$2,934,102
Research resources	\$1,271,094
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	\$3,619,139
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	\$456,761
Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization	\$105,017

Incremental Project Grant (\$2,159,697):

Research facilities	\$1,786,762
Research resources	\$372,935

Research Security (\$601,357):

Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	\$601,357
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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  
2025 - 2026**

<b>Expenditure category</b>	<b>Output (investment)</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Outcomes at year-end</b>
Research facilities	RSF funding is used to support centralized research equipment and expert technical support to the broader research community.	Support for Core Facilities.	Promote the development and growth of Core research facilities and multi-user space at Dalhousie.	Continued effective and efficient usage of research resources under a sustainable operation model.
Research resources	RSF funding is used to provide Dalhousie researchers and administrators with access to new research opportunities, funding, and collaborations.	Support for a research funding opportunities database subscription.	Provide the Dalhousie research community with increased access to research opportunities, funding, and collaborators.	Number of database users, searches, and funding.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	RSF funding is used to support Dalhousie conference attendance by research administration staff.	Support for professional development of research administration staff through attendance of industry-related conferences.	Provide Dalhousie research administration staff with professional development opportunities by attending annual CARA/CAUBO conferences.	Number of research administration staff attending a professional industry conference.
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	RSF funding is used to support the Dalhousie Research Ethics boards and Animal Care committees.	Support for compliance support services to enhance productivity and meet guidelines and policy regulations.	Review and approval services provided by the Health Sciences Research Ethics Board, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Ethics Board, University Committee on Laboratory Animals, and University Animal Care Committee.	Number of human ethics protocol approved and renewed by the REBs and animal use protocols approved and renewed by the UCLA and UACC.  Compliance with CCAC Guidelines and Tri-Agency policies.
Intellectual property	RSF funding used to support the creation of startups and the research and development needs of organizations.	Support for industry engagement services to facilitate research outcomes through industry collaboration.	Support Dalhousie researchers and economic development in the region and beyond through strategic access to the university's intellectual property and expertise.	Number of research contracts executed, Invention disclosures, license or option agreements, and patents filed and issued.

**Incremental Project Grant  
2025 - 2026**

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Priority area</b>	<b>Output (investment)</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Outcomes at year-end</b>
Infrastructure Renewal – Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building	Research facilities.	RSF IPG funding is used to replace secondary distribution (lighting panels, distribution panels and motor control centres) throughout the Tupper Building, Tupper Link and CRC buildings.	Deferred maintenance on the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.	Support and improve research capacity.	Research space is renewed to provide a safe environment to support important research priorities.
Infrastructure Renewal – Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture	Research facilities.	RSF IPG funding is used to replace emergency combination drench shower/face wash systems and individual face wash systems in all research and teaching labs.	Deferred maintenance at Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture.	Support and improve research capacity.	Research space is renewed to provide a safe environment to support important research priorities.
Integration of Clinical Research Activity within OPOR – PowerTrials (IWK)	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases.	RSF IPG funding is used to support project team salaries.	Implementation of One Patient One Record clinical research program, PowerTrial.	Seamless integration of research and clinical information within a patient's health record.	Increase in training and education content, development of guidance and mentorship tools, and a more inclusive commitment to grant-paid staff.
Implementation of new Research Management System (NSH)	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases.	RSF IPG funding will be used to support project team salaries.	Implementation of a province-wide research management platform.	Research management system that meets operational needs and inter-institutional and interprovincial requirements for secure data sharing.	Documentation of all research operations processes and identification of system specification requirements.

**Research Security**  
**2025 - 2026**

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Output (investment)</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Outcomes at year-end</b>
Research Security Office	Support for Research Security Office salaries and operations.	Apply National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships to federal funding applications to meet program requirements.	Integrate national security considerations into the development and evaluation of research partnerships.	<p>Development and implementation of processes to support critical evaluation of research partnerships to support researchers and government funders to undertake consistent, risk-targeted due diligence to identify and mitigate potential national security risks to research.</p> <p>Grant awarding results for programs that have a research security assessment requirement.</p>