

Dalhousie University
Research Support Fund and Incremental Project Grant
2020 - 2021 Objectives / September 2021 Report

Research Support Fund

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	September 2021 Progress Report
Research Facilities	Support for Core Facilities	Promote development and growth of Core research facilities and multi-user space	Core facilities offer centralized research equipment and expert technical support to broader research community	Core facilities provide effective and efficient usage of research resources under a sustainable operations model	Operational support provided to Core Facilities in 2020-21. A framework for shared laboratory space and equipment has been drafted as part of an institutional review of Core Facilities.
Research Resources	Implementation of UniWeb	Simplify workflow processes and support the reuse of data	Implementation of Faculty annual reports	Reduced administration time for researchers	Faculty reporting implemented. 190 new users added between April 2020 and March 31, 2021.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Contract Project Manager to conduct a comprehensive operational assessment of institutional Core Facilities	Develop a principles-based management model for research lab facilities operations and sustainability	Implementation of standard operating procedures for research lab facilities	Long-term operation and sustainability of lab facilities	Information collection, current state assessment, and framework development and consultation complete. A symposium is planned for November 2021.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Harmonized Research Administration Management System	Feasibility assessment of an integrated research administration management system for provincial health research organizations	Development of a high-level future state vision for an integrated information management system	Integration of research administration information across a pan-provincial network to support the health research priorities of Nova Scotia	Feasibility assessment of a fully integrated research administration management system for Dalhousie University and affiliates has been completed.
Intellectual Property (IP)	New position in Industry Liaison & Innovation (ILI) office to support the Sustainable Ocean Signature Research Cluster	Support for research innovation and tech transfer in the oceans sector	Active engagement and collaboration with industry partners in the oceans sector	Increased industry partnerships and/or contracts with oceans sector	New position deferred to 2021-22. Support for research innovation and tech in the oceans sector was advanced through partnerships with DeepSense and the Ocean Frontier Institute, resulting in a 138% increase in the number of companies engaged in collaborative activities.

Incremental Project Grant

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	September 2021 Progress Report
Facilities Renewal	Deferred maintenance undertaken in the Life Sciences Centre, Dalhousie University	Improve research labs	Labs are modernized for researchers with continued adherence to safety standards	Research labs are updated to current standards to facilitate world-class research	High priority deferred maintenance work has been completed addressing safety compliance issues and further supporting research at Dalhousie.
Facilities Renewal	Deferred maintenance undertaken in the Tupper Medical Building, Dalhousie University	Improve research labs	Labs are modernized for researchers with continued adherence to safety standards	Research labs are updated to current standards to facilitate world-class research	High priority deferred maintenance work has been completed addressing safety compliance issues and further supporting research at Dalhousie.
Facilities Renewal	Biosafety Level 3 (BL3) Lab Certification (IWK Health Authority)	Improve research labs	Improve the operational capabilities of the IWK CL3 facility	Operational certification from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to conduct biosafety level 3 activities	Operational review and testing have been completed, awaiting final approval from PHAC for biosafety level 3 activities.
Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	Acquisition and implementation of a Service Delivery Communications Platform (IWK Health Authority)	Improve communications and information sharing across regulatory and administration resources	Reduced turnaround times for key operating activities and improved feedback review measures.	Shorter turnaround times for grant application reviews, ethics approvals, and other administrative activities.	A new communications and service platform has been implemented and is currently supporting the Research Ethics Board, Ethics Administration Committee, Scientific Review Committee, Institutional Research Advisory Committee, Animal Users Committee, and a wide range of administrative, educational, and training programs.
Innovation and commercialization activities	Formation of a Research & Innovation Strategic Partnership Office, (Nova Scotia Health Authority)	Promote and facilitate industry and scientific partnerships	Increase the number of industry and scientific partnerships	Achievement of innovation priorities within the NSHA Research and Innovation Strategic Directions for 2020-21	The NSH Strategic Partnership Office has been established and is facilitating collaboration on flagship and mission-critical innovations across the provincial health care system. As an example, VirtualCareNS, which involves both industry and scientific partnerships.