

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## Research Support Fund

Accountability and Public Acknowledgment

updated June 2021

### 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 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.

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 demonstra

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

Research Support Fund (\$8,111,615):

Research Facilities	\$3,022,902
Research Resources	\$1,319,465
Management and Administration	\$3,004,953
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	\$626,211
Intellectual Property	\$138,084

Incremental Project Grant (\$1,287,661):

Facilities Renewal	\$1,167,337
Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	\$120,324

**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  
2021 - 2022**

<b>Eligible expenditure category</b>	<b>Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)</b>	<b>Performance Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Target Outcome</b>
Research Facilities	Support for Core Facilities			

**Incremental Project Grant  
2021 - 2022**

<b>Eligible expenditure category</b>	<b>Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)</b>	<b>Performance Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Target Outcome</b>
Facilities Renewal	Deferred maintenance undertaken in the Sir James Dunn Building, Dalhousie University	Provide a safe environment to conduct research	Infrastructure is modernized and maintained for researchers with continued adherence to safety standards	Provide researchers with appropriate infrastructure to conduct world-class research
Facilities Renewal	Deferred maintenance undertaken in the A.L. MacDonald – D Building, Dalhousie University	Provide a safe environment to conduct research	Infrastructure is modernized and maintained for researchers with continued adherence to safety standards	Provide researchers with appropriate infrastructure to conduct world-class research
Facilities Renewal	Infrastructure renewal undertaken in the Aquatron Research Facility, 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

Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases

Develop a clinical trial privacy consent database, Nova Scotia Health 0.009TD

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SECTION C: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT REQUIREMENTS

¾ Applicant institutions that are eligible to apply for a Research Support Fund grant at or above the value of \$ 25,000 must meet the program’s [accountability and public acknowledgment requirements](#). In the table below, provide the website link to the applicant institution’s web page where the Research Support Fund’s accountability and public acknowledgments requirements have been met.

Accountability and Public Acknowledgment Requirements	Applicant Institution’s Website Link
Public Acknowledgment	<a href="https://www.dal.ca/dept/research-services/resources/ResearchSupportFund.html">https://www.dal.ca/dept/research-services/resources/ResearchSupportFund.html</a>
Institutional Performance Objectives (Research Support Fund grant at or above the value of \$530,000 only)	<a href="https://www.dal.ca/dept/research-services/resources/ResearchSupportFund.html">https://www.dal.ca/dept/research-services/resources/ResearchSupportFund.html</a>

¾ Provide an overview of the institution’s Research Support Fund [communications strategy](#) . Note that at the end of the granting period, institutions must report on how they implemented their Research Support Fund communications strategy in their [annual outcomes report](#) .

Research Support Fund Communications Strategy
<p>Dalhousie University and affiliate hospitals will promote the Research Support Fund throughout the year.</p> <p>It is anticipated that two stories will be produced annually to acknowledge the Research Support Fund and the support it provides to the institutions. These stories will be posted in the Dalhousie Office of Research Services (ORS) Newsletter and, when appropriate, on the Today@Dal electronic notice board produced by the Dalhousie Communications, Marketing &amp; Creative Services (CMC) department. The ORS newsletter is e-mailed weekly to the Dalhousie research community and Today@Dal is e-mailed daily by the CMC department to subscribers. The stories will be posted on the Dalhousie Office of Research Services website and made available to the local media.</p> <p>Additionally, the Research Support Fund program will be acknowledged, when appropriate, in outreach presentations to the research community.</p>

SECTION D : NO AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

¾ Check the appropriate boxes below (as applicable) if your institution does not have any health affiliated organizations or any other type of affiliations.

<input type="checkbox"/>	No affiliated hospital(s) or health research institute(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Other affiliated organizations

1.	Queen Elizabeth II Health Science Centre (NS)
2.	Victoria General Hospital (NS)
3.	Horizon Health Network (NB)
4.	Saint John Regional Hospital (NB)
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	