

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## Research Support Fund

Accountability and Public Acknowledgment

*updated May 2017*

### 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 Industry Liaison & Innovation office.

2. *description of the [Research Support Fund 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.

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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. The total Research Support Fund budget for the 2017/18 grant year is \$369,403,000.

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)

3. *list of Dalhousie University affiliated institutions:*

- Nova Scotia Health Authority
- IWK Health Centre

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. The majority 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: 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 2017/18, the Research Support Fund grant to Dalhousie University (including affiliate hospitals) of \$9,233,936 was allocated accordingly:

Research Facilities	\$3,403,541
Research Resources	\$1,571,493
Management and Administration	\$3,318,210
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	\$793,550
Intellectual Property	\$147,142

## 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:*

**2017 - 2018**

<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	Financial support for operating costs for five designated Core facilities	Continue to develop and support Core research facilities and multi-user space	Core facilities centralize research equipment and technical support and are available to the research community	Core facilities are adequately supported to provide excellent resources and assistance to researchers
Research resources	Library trains and advises research community on Open Access and Data Management Plans	Support improved information resources on OA and DMP	Researchers receive guidance and tools to assist them with OA and DMP requirements	Library becomes main point of contact for researchers on OA and DMP
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Researcher Portal purchased and implemented to help process Investigator's Checklist and research applications on-line	Continue to improve research application processing and approval	Submission of application documents on-line	Electronic submission improves processing time and enhances researcher application experience
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Academic Staff Relations Manager in HR assists and trains faculty selection committee members	Implement Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives	Consider more members of the four designated groups for hire	University increases representation of four designated groups
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	Ethics members attend national CAREB conference	Support Ethics members and training	Ethics members receive training opportunities	Ethics members are more fully informed of current issues and initiatives