

Research Support Fund

2022 - 2023

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Progress Report September 2023
Research Facilities	Support for Core Facilities.	Promote development 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 2022-23.
Research Resources	Support for software/ application(s) to enable academic workflows, data sharing, academic CVs, reports, etc. (e.g. UniWEB).	Improve services to Dalhousie Research Community through a centralized information portal.	Service expectations of Dalhousie Research Community are met.	Increased productivity for researchers.	Operational support committed to the implementation of a new Core Facilities Management Software System.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Support the search for a replacement Research Information System (RIS).	Improve services to Dalhousie Research Community through implementation of a modern research administration management solution.	Service expectations of Dalhousie Research Community are met.	Improved user experience for researchers.	Operational support committed to the implementation of a new Research Management System.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Support regularization of Grant-Paid HR Consultant position dedicated to supporting 1,500+ Grant-Paid staff at Dalhousie.	Improve services to Dalhousie Research Community through a dedicated HR advisor	Service expectations of Dalhousie Research Community are met.	Improved processing time for Grant-Paid employment transactions.	Operational support provided for a full-time Grant-Paid HR Consultant, improved service, and reduced processing times for Grant-Paid transactions.
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	Support for Research Ethics Board members (REB) to attend annual Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB) conference.	Improve Research Ethics Board members.	Professional development/training for REB members.	REB members are more fully informed of current issues and initiatives.	Research Ethics Board members attended the annual Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards conference.

**Incremental Project Grant
2022 - 2023**

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Progress Report September 2023
Facilities Renewal	Deferred maintenance undertaken in the G.H. Murray Building (Dalhousie University).	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.	High priority deferred maintenance work has been completed addressing safety compliance issues and further supporting research at Dalhousie.
Facilities Renewal	Animal Holding Relocation Project - Phase 2 (IWK Health).	Create an adjacency to the Biosafety Level 3 Containment Lab (CL3) lab and Biomedical Research Lab to support both in a more productive, aligned environment.	Increase funding for CL3 and animal imaging research and positive user feedback review.	Provide researchers with appropriate infrastructure to conduct world class preclinical research.	Renovations to relocate the Animal Holding Facility completed March 2023, meeting all certification and operational requirements. Now serving the IWK research community.
Research Resources	Decentralized Clinical Trial (DCT) platform (Nova Scotia Health).	Test and try a DCT technology platform for clinical trials at Nova Scotia Health.	Platform incorporated into trial.	Impact and scalability of platform on DCTs evaluated.	NSH Research identified Medable, a DCT software vendor, as the vendor of choice and worked with them to customize their platform to accommodate an investigator-driven clinical trial solution, capturing process flow, training requirements, communication protocols, translation requirements, and quality assurance requirements. The finalized platform went into production in December 2022.

Research Resources	Clinical Trial Matching Engine (Nova Scotia Health).	Develop and test software for determining numbers of potential clinical trial participants by comparing data from electronic health records against trial inclusion/exclusion criteria.	Engine developed and tested on a trial.	Impact and scalability of engine for clinical trials evaluated.	A staging environment of the Clinical Trial Matching Engine platform was developed and launched to the research community. Training workshops and engagement sessions were held to ensure that confirm fit-for-purpose. The production environment, called NovaStudies Connect, is in development.
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**Research Security
2022 - 2023**

Eligible expenditure category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Progress Report September 2023
Management and administration of the institution's research enterprise	Research Security Management and Review Committee.	Integrate national security considerations into the development and evaluation of research partnerships.	Project success will be measured by the successful submission of NSERC Alliance applications and positive results Agency review.	Processes that enable appropriate National Security guidelines for Research Partnerships' Risk Assessments for NSERC Alliance Grant applications.	The Research Security Management and Review Committee supported successful submission of 33 applications with a 73% success rate.
Research Resources	Information Technology and Research Security Resources - Catalyst Switches.	Replacement of all non-compliant hub devices in research spaces to ensure researchers can continue to conduct and share their research within a secure and reliable network.	Number of researcher environments that are moved seamlessly to the new network without significant downtime or loss of connectivity.	Equipment upgrade and uninterrupted access to a secure and reliable network for the Dalhousie research community.	Twenty (20) catalyst switches were replaced or added to research spaces in 2022-23. Replacement work has continued into 2023-24.
Research Resources	Information Technology and Research Security Resources - DDoS Device.	Implementation of a distributed denial of service device to ensure researchers can continue to conduct and share their research within a secure and reliable network.	Increase in the amount of blocked malicious traffic and increased network uptime for the research community.	Improved network security and uninterrupted access to a secure and reliable network for the Dalhousie research community.	On average, the DDoS device has mitigated 30 terabytes of threat traffic daily, including the following malicious activities: - Anonymizer - Scanner - Intruder - Botnet Member - Scanner (Secure ports) - DDoS Attacker