Research Support Fund Program – 2022-23

The Research Support Fund (RSF) assists Canadian postsecondary institutions and their affiliated research hospitals and institutes with the expenses 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 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 administrative support available. The total allocation for 2022-23 is $4,930,976.

Eligible institutions receive an annual grant through the fund to help pay for a portion of the central and departmental administrative costs related to 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. It currently has a budget of nearly $400 million and serves more than 150 postsecondary institutions across the country.

More details about the Program can be found at http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx.

Definition of the Indirect Costs of Research

Indirect Costs (IDCs) are real costs attributable to SRC activities. IDCs are those costs incurred at the University that are necessary for maintaining an environment and infrastructure that support research. IDCs are incurred at faculty and departmental levels for purposes common to all research projects, programs, or activities of the University, but which cannot be identified and charged directly to individual projects, programs, or activities with a reasonable degree of accuracy, and/or without an inordinate amount of accounting.

IDCs include but are not limited to:

- Faculty salaries and benefits, where these are not charged directly to a research contract or grant.

- Building construction, maintenance, and depreciation costs (including costs of renovations required for specific laboratories, heating, cooling, and lights).

- Maintenance and upgrading of equipment that enable faculty to undertake SRC activities.

- University, Faculty, and departmental/school administration such as payroll, human resources, accounting, purchasing and accounts receivable, insurance/risk management, occupational health and safety, legal costs, etc.

- Library and other research resources, including maintenance of online search capabilities and databases.

- Central computing services.

- Financing (e.g., payment of salaries for students or research technicians, purchase of materials and supplies prior to the billing and receipt of revenue from a sponsor).

- Intellectual property assessment, advice, and protection.

Overview of How the Institution Allocates its RSF

The grant has been divided between the five different areas covered under the award. This was done for two reasons: 1. as the funded amount varies from year to year and could theoretically be cancelled we did not want any one area to be completely dependent upon the grant, and 2. dividing the grant between the different areas afforded the opportunity to discuss and explain the broad spectrum of RSF at the University.

The grant is held centrally and costs are attributed to the grant. The costs incurred are central costs primarily, however some costs such as lab renovations are paid centrally but the benefit is at the departmental/faculty level. Below is the breakdown of the 2022-23 allocation:

Facilities	$1,671,273
Resources	$679,649
Management & Administration	$2,290,974
Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation	$129,080
Intellectual Property	$160,000
Total Research Support Fund 2022-23	$4,930,976

Affiliation
Ontario Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit (OSSU)

Incremental Project Grant – 2022-23

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.

This new stream stems from additional funding for the RSF announced in Budget 2018, totaling $231.3 million over five years ($28.75 million in 2018-19) and $58.8 million per year after that.

The IPG will provide eligible institutions with additional support for projects that focus on a set of priorities that cut across the RSF's five existing categories of eligible expenses. The initial four IPG priority areas are:

- innovation and commercialization activities;
- facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance;
- information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases; and
- equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the context of equity, diversity and inclusion).

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.

The total allocation for 2022-23 is $502,929. The costs are allocated within the three IPG priority areas to meet emerging SRC priorities. The allocation of the IPG funds reflects the strategic plan of the University to: (1) increase the impact of Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) research through increased support for commercialization and knowledge dissemination; (2) enhance the student pipeline and training through the greater engagement of students' involvement in research and entrepreneurship; and, (3) ensure the integrity of the research being undertaken through creation of resources and training around SRC integrity and inclusion.

Performance Objectives 2022-23 - RSF

Eligible expenditure category	Institutional performance objective	Indicator	Outcome reported at year end
Research Facilities	Provide research and innovation infrastructure support to increase scholarly, research and creative (SRC) quality, participation, and funding	Renovation of research and innovation premises	Square footage of research and innovation space renovated
	Coordinate and integrate activities of OSSU Research Centres	Maintain suitable office space to execute OSSU activities	Coordinating Centre space
Research Resources	Provision of subscription library resources in support of research	Access and use verified via proxy data	Total access and uses of online library resources
Management and Administration	Provide pre- and post-award support services to faculty members to enhance SRC excellence and impact of SRC activities	Research administration services provided by the Offices of the Vice-President, Research and Financial Services	Number of research grant/contract applications Number of new research cost centres
	OSSU – Research support staff	Research staffing support – research assistants and research program coordinators	Enhancd efficiency for the work of research applications and proposals
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	Provide the ethics protocol review and approval services to faculty members and graduate students to enhance SRC excellence and impact of SRC activities	Reviews and approvals of ethics protocol applications	Number of ethics protocols reviewed
Intellectual Property	Provide support to faculty member with respect to intellectual property activities to enhance impact of SRC activities	Number of invention disclosures filed	Number of invention disclosures filed

Institutional Performance Objectives 2022-23 - IPG

Project Title	IPG Priority Area	Output (investment of IPG grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator
Research Data and SRC Discovery Infrastructure – TMU Research Repository	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases: Support for university libraries to put in place a digital repository for research data.	$50,000 invested for research data management	Improved discoverability and access to TMU SRC output Expansion of TMU-generated SRC impact and reputation Granting body and grant compliance for RDM, RD access, and SRC dissemination	Increased researcher use, access to and awareness of the digital research repository National and international repository interoperability and access including awareness and collaborations Completed RDM and data deposit workflows including advancing potential crosswalk connectivity with future CRIS
Strengthen and Grow Innovation and Commercialization	Innovation and commercialization activities	$342,929 invested to raise awareness, interest and literacy in the areas of innovation, commercialization and IP: - add know-how, networks and capacity - ignite dormant entrepreneurial talent	Recruitment of EIRs Increased engagement of researchers Students to gain real-life innovation and commercialization experience	Number of disclosures Number of clients and interactions Number of participating student teams

| | | - add operational capacity to research-based innovations | Potential new venture formation | Number of participating researchers and available technologies

Number of potential ventures |
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| Increased EDI resources and training in SRC Activities across the Research Ecosystem | Equity, diversity and faculty renewal | $60,000 invested for enhancing and promoting EDI in SRC activities | A suite of training and engagement tools to enable researchers and students to understand EDI and unconscious bias and its impacts throughout the scope of SRC activities

A framework for data collection to monitor EDI within the SRC enterprise | Number of training tools developed and launched

Researcher, trainee, and student participation rates in individual modules

Completion rate of participating researchers, trainees, and students in the training program

Cross-faculty representation ratio to gauge training module relevance across the academic board |
| Research Integrity Module Phase 3 | Enhancing supports for research integrity training | $50,000 invested for enhancing supports for research integrity training | To provide the necessary and appropriate tools to support and enhance a culture of research integrity across the SRC landscape | Standardization of the use of the module by faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students |