

Research Support Fund Program – 2016-17

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 2016-17 is \$4,401,489.

[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 \$342 million and serves 126 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, upgrading, and depreciation 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 talk about 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.

Affiliation

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

Institutional Performance Objectives

Eligible expenditure category	Institutional performance objective	Indicator	Target Outcome
Research Facilities	Coordinate and integrate activities of OSSU Research Centres, IMPACT projects and working groups	Secure suitable office space	Portion of research support fund grant used for Coordinating Centre rent
Research Resources	Development of an Archives and Special Collections Research Centre	Linear metres capacity of research manuscripts/archives Capacity to support primary research by enhancing access to manuscripts/archival material	Increase in linear metres capacity of research manuscripts/archives Increase research assistance enquiries answered annually
Management and Administration	Increase the volume of grants applications and research contracts Coordinating Centre staffing focused exclusively on advancing OSSU goals and objectives	Number of grant applications Number in research revenue Accurate and regular financial reporting and payroll Stable office information technology platform	Increase in grant applications compared to 2015-16 10% average annual growth in research revenue Accurate and timely financial records Optimal Coordinating Centre performance
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	Increase the number of reviews of ethics protocols	Number of reviews of ethics protocol applications	Increase in ethics protocols reviewed compared to 2015-16
Intellectual Property	Increase intellectual property activities	Number of invention disclosures filed	Increase in invention disclosures filed compared to 2015-16