

Research Support Fund Program – 2020-21

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 2020-21 is \$5,288,881.

[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 \$369,403,000 and serves postsecondary institutions across the country.

More details about the Program can be found at http://www.rs-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.

Affiliation

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

Institutional Performance Objectives

Eligible expenditure category	Institutional performance objective	Indicator	Outcome reported at year end
Research Facilities	<p>Provide research and innovation infrastructure support to increase scholarly, research and creative (SRC) quality, participation, and funding</p> <p>Coordinate and integrate activities of OSSU Research Centres, IMPACT projects and working groups</p>	<p>Renovation of research and innovation premises</p> <p>Maintain suitable office space to execute OSSU activities</p>	<p>Square footage of research and innovation space renovated</p> <p>Occupied research space</p>
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	<p>Provide pre- and post-award support services to faculty members to enhance SRC excellence and impact of SRC activities</p> <p>OSSU - Maintain adequate staffing levels to execute organizational coordination and integration activities</p>	<p>Research administration services provided by the Offices of the Vice-President, Research and Financial Services</p> <p>Employ a Coordinator</p>	<p>Number of research grant/contract applications</p> <p>Number of new research cost centres</p> <p>Organizational goals and objectives achieved</p>
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
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