DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Research Support Fund

Accountability and Public Acknowledgment

updated June 2026

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 Office of Commercialization and Industry Engagement

2. *description of the Research Support Fund (RSF) program and Incremental Project Grant stream of the RSF 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.

Research funding provided through the granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and 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.

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.

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

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. In 2022-23, Research Security was added as the fifth priority area of Incremental Project Grants.

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.

IPG funding is limited to institutions that meet the RSF eligibility criteria and are at the highest funding levels in the current RSF formula, which is equivalent to receiving $7 million or more in eligible direct research funding. Eligibility for the IPG will be assessed against this threshold on an annual basis.

More information on the Incremental Project Grants stream of the Research Support program can be found on the website:

https://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/apply-demande/ipg-sps-eng.aspx

3. *list of Dalhousie University affiliated institutions:*

Nova Scotia Health Authority	Victoria General Hospital
IWK Health Centre	MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance
Horizon Health Network	Maritime Heart Center Women's Heart Health Clinic
Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre	Colchester East Hants Health Centre
Schulich School of Law (NS)	Health Law Institute, Dalhousie University
Saint John Regional Hospital	Canadian Center for Vaccinology

See attached Affiliated Organizations Validation Form.

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. Most 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 to 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 2026-27, the Research Support Fund (RSF) grant to Dalhousie University (including affiliate hospitals) is $8,286,517, the RSF Incremental Project Grant (IPG) is $2,508,858, and the RSF Research Security Grant is $595,727. These funds were allocated accordingly:

Research Support Fund ($8,286,517):

Research facilities	$2,886,948
Research resources	$1,290,323
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	$3,108,548
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	$878,594
Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization	$122,104

Incremental Project Grant ($2,508,858):

Research facilities	$2,113,552
Research resources	$395,306

Research Security ($595,727):

Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	$595,727

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:*

Research Support Fund
2026 - 2027

Category	Investment	Objective	Indicator	Expected outcome
Research facilities	RSF funding will be used to support centralized research equipment and expert technical support to the broader research community.	Support for Core Facilities.	Continued effective and efficient usage of research resources under a sustainable operation model.	Continued development and growth of Core research facilities and multi-user space at Dalhousie.
Research resources	RSF funding will be used to provide Dalhousie researchers and administrators with access to a research funding opportunities database – Pivot RP.	Support for research funding opportunities database subscription.	Number of database users, searches, and funding.	Dalhousie research community has increased access to research opportunities, funding, and collaborators.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	RSF funding will be used to support Dalhousie conference attendance by research administration staff.	Support for professional development of research administration staff through attendance of industry-related conferences.	Number of research administration staff attending a professional industry conference.	Dalhousie research administration staff undertake professional development opportunities by attending annual CARA/CAUBO conferences.
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	RSF funding will be used to support the Dalhousie Research Ethics boards and Animal Care committees.	Support for compliance support services to enhance productivity and meet guidelines and policy regulations.	Number of human ethics and animal care projects submitted for review/renewal. Compliance with CCAC Guidelines and Tri-Agency policies.	Timely review and approval of REB applications to Dalhousie's Human Ethics boards and Animal Care committees.
Intellectual property	RSF funding will be used to support the intellectual property needs of the Dalhousie research community.	Support for Dalhousie's technology transfer unit, Dal Commercializes.	Number of research contracts executed, Invention disclosures, license or option agreements, and patents filed and issued.	Transition research with commercial potential into commercial outcomes through licensing, startup formation, and industry partnerships.

Incremental Project Grant
2026 - 2027

Project title	Priority area	Investment	Objective	Indicator	Expected outcome
Cox Institute	Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance	IPG funds will be used to support the replacement of an aging pad mounted transformer and the upgrade of emergency eyewash and shower systems within the Cox Institute of Agricultural Technology.	Renew critical electrical and laboratory safety infrastructure within the Cox Institute of Agricultural Technology to ensure safe, reliable, and code-compliant operation of research, teaching, and greenhouse facilities.	Replacement of pad mounted transformer, percentage of electrical service restoration completed following transformer replacement, number of emergency eyewash and safety shower units installed or upgraded, percentage of laboratory spaces brought into compliance with current eyewash and safety standards, and completion of required inspections and safety/code compliance approvals.	Strengthen the long-term sustainability and safety of critical infrastructure supporting research and teaching activities within the Cox Institute of Agricultural Technology.
Forrest Building	Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance	IPG funds will be used to support the remediation of water infiltration, plumbing deficiencies, and structural issues within the basement level of the Forrest Building.	Remediate water infiltration and address plumbing and structural deficiencies within the basement level of the Forrest Building to restore safe, functional, and code-compliant building conditions.	Elimination of active water infiltration, completion of repairs or replacement of affected building envelope and waterproofing systems, number of plumbing systems repaired or replaced that are contributing to water intrusion or operational deficiencies, completion of structural repairs to affected basement-level building components, and completion of required inspections and compliance approvals confirming that all work meets applicable building codes and institutional standards.	Enhance the long-term sustainability of the Forrest Building by addressing critical infrastructure deficiencies and ensuring continued safe use of academic and research support spaces.

Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture	Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance	IPG funds will be used to support the renewal of the building elevator and required fire and code compliance upgrades within the basement level of the Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture.	Renew critical building infrastructure within the Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture to ensure safe, accessible, and code-compliant operation of research and teaching facilities.	Completion of elevator replacement, percentage of elevator system functionality verified through testing and commissioning, completion of fire and code compliance upgrades within basement-level systems, and number of required inspections and regulatory approvals obtained confirming compliance with applicable building, fire, and safety codes.	Enhance the safety, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of the Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture as a core research and teaching facility.
Charles Tupper Medical Building	Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance	IPG funds will be used to support the renewal of aging secondary electrical distribution infrastructure within the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Tupper Link, and Clinical Research Centre (CRC) at Dalhousie University.	Renew aging secondary electrical distribution infrastructure within the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Tupper Link, and Clinical Research Centre (CRC) to ensure safe, reliable, and code-compliant operation of research and laboratory facilities.	Percentage of identified secondary electrical distribution systems replaced, number of electrical panels and associated distribution components replaced, completion of installation, testing, and commissioning activities for all upgraded electrical systems, and number of required inspections and compliance certifications obtained confirming adherence to applicable electrical codes and safety standards.	Ensure continuity of research operations within the Tupper complex by providing safe, modern, and dependable electrical infrastructure to support ongoing and future research activity.
Clinical Information System Implementation (NSH)	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	IPG funds will be used to support personnel resources required to develop, implement, and sustain research operations within the One Patient One Record (OPOR) Clinical Information System (CIS) environment	Establish and operationalize the research infrastructure required to support effective use of the One Patient One Record (OPOR) Clinical Information System (CIS) across Nova Scotia Health.	Number of standardized research workflows, procedures, and guidance documents developed and implemented within the OPOR environment, completion of revised study start-up processes and related	Strengthen Nova Scotia Health's capacity to conduct high-quality research by embedding research requirements within provincial clinical system governance,

		across Nova Scotia Health (NSH).		operational documentation aligned with OPOR requirements, completion of standardized costing models and budget frameworks for research operations within the CIS environment, completion of Eastern Zone readiness activities, including training, go-live support, and post-implementation stabilization, and number of research teams supported through OPOR transition activities across Central and Eastern Zones.	workflows, and operational infrastructure.
Research Data Infrastructure (IWK)	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases / Equity, diversity and faculty renewal	IPG funds will be used to support personnel costs required to develop and implement OPOR reference materials and research performance indicators at IWK Health.	Strengthen research operational capacity at IWK Health by developing standardized tools and analytics to support research activities within the OPOR environment.	Number of meetings with Research Mentors to gather concerns related to OPOR and inform/prioritize reference materials, number of OPOR research reference training materials developed and implemented, number of Ethics guidance documents developed and implemented and education sessions delivered, number of research studies with EDIRA considerations, and completion of a suite of research performance indicators and dashboards.	Enhance IWK Health's capacity to adapt to a rapidly evolving digital research environment by providing sustainable infrastructure, standardized tools, and actionable performance insights to support research operations.

Research Security
2026 - 2027

Project title	Priority area	Investment	Objective	Indicator	Expected outcome
Research Security Administration	Research Security	Research Security funds will be used to support personnel and operational resources required to implement and sustain research security processes at Dalhousie University.	Strengthen institutional research security capacity and ensure consistent application of national security requirements across research partnerships at Dalhousie University.	Number of Research Security Risk Assessment Forms completed, number of Research files reviewed, number of Research partnerships assessed potential national security risks, and percentage of research funding applications submitted through the institutional Research Administration System receiving security review.	Enhance institutional readiness to manage research security requirements and support responsible, compliant, and secure research collaboration.