

Research Support Fund Program Public Acknowledgement

Definition of the indirect costs of research

Concordia University defines “Indirect Costs” as costs which cannot be associated specifically with a particular research program or other activity. Indirect costs include the provision and maintenance of physical space and facilities, library services, financial services, computing services, furniture, departmental services (including secretarial), heating, cooling, insurance and like costs.

Description of the Research Support Fund (RSF) Program

Information about the RSF Program can be accessed here:
<http://www.rs-fsr.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

Allocation of RSF Program funding at Concordia University

The RSF Program distributes indirect costs expenditures in five categories:

1. [Research facilities](#)
2. [Research resources](#)
3. [Management and administration of the institution's research enterprise](#)
4. [Regulatory requirements and accreditation](#)
5. [Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization](#)

In 2020-2021, Concordia University received a grant of \$5,301,955 from the RSF regular allocation and \$458,351 from the Incremental Project Grants (IPG) stream of the RSF, for a total of \$5,760,306.

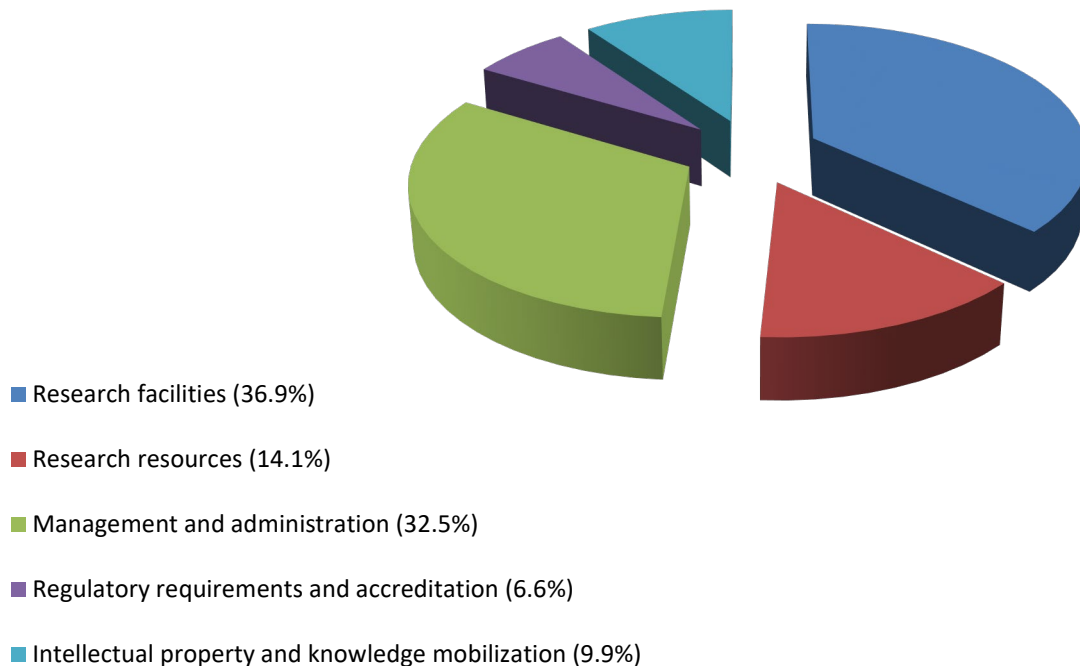
The internal allocation model for the regular allocation of RSF funding that has been in place at Concordia University in recent years can be summarized as follows: Facilities (20%); Faculties (20%); Office of the Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies, centralized research services, and the animal care facility (35%); Libraries, information technology services, and other research administration (such as finance) (25%). The funding is then used to cover eligible expenditures in all five categories mentioned above.

The IPG funding was allocated to Concordia University to cover eligible indirect costs in four priority areas relating to the categories mentioned above:

- Innovation and commercialization activities (under category 5)
- Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance (under category 1)
- Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases (under category 2)
- Equity, diversity and faculty renewal (under category 3)

The actual expenditure breakdown per category for 2020-2021 (excluding the IPG funding) was as follows:

Research Support Fund Program Funding 2020-2021 (\$5,301,955)



General Impacts of the RSF Program at Concordia University

The RSF Program is of vital importance to Concordia University as other sources of funding that target these indirect costs of research are scarce. Funding through the Program has been important in increasing our ability to respond more efficiently to the demands arising from our growth in research capacity. For example, a significant portion of the 2020-2021 RSF funding was used to help support the salary costs of technicians and other specialized research personnel that are essential to the operation of our research laboratories and facilities. Other parts of the RSF funding were used notably to cover maintenance and repair costs for research infrastructure, operation costs for our animal care facility, research commercialization costs and general costs for electricity and services in our research laboratories. All of these investments are essential to support research teams and research infrastructure. As Concordia continues to increase and diversify its sources of funding, the demands on resources to support research will continue to escalate.

It is critical that Concordia provide renovations, upgrades and on-going infrastructure support in order to be able to conduct research that is relevant to the well-being and prosperity of Canadians and Canada. As such, our ability to continue providing high quality cost-effective administrative research support, in the context of our increasing research capacity, is more important than ever. To do so, we must be able to cover the full range of indirect costs.

Simply put, if there is inadequate research space, insufficient administrative and technical personnel, and outdated facilities, Concordia will be seriously disadvantaged in its efforts to attract and retain researchers (and graduate students) who are experts and leaders in their fields.