

PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT – Federal Research Support Fund Laurentian University

What are the Indirect Costs of Research?

In order for research projects to be conducted, there is a host of everyday, practical requirements that must be addressed and in place. These requirements, that may not be directly obvious, have associated costs; these are the indirect costs of research. Some of the specific costs include those behind-the-scenes expenses incurred by the university supporting the day-to-day research enterprise. Without heat, electricity, computer and network maintenance or administrative staff, research projects would be near impossible to complete. Costs incurred to keep the lights on, maintain database servers, or the wear-and-tear maintenance for lab space all contribute to the indirect costs of research.

How does the federal Research Support Fund help?

Every year, the Government of Canada 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](#) (formerly the Indirect Costs 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 administrative support available.

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 objective of the Research Support Fund (RSF) is to assist Canadian postsecondary institutions with the expenses associated with managing the research funded by the three federal research granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC). Research funding provided through the granting agencies 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.

RSF funds may be used to cover new expenditures, to maintain the current level of services, or to support an institution's research environment and improve its management. The five expenditure areas are:

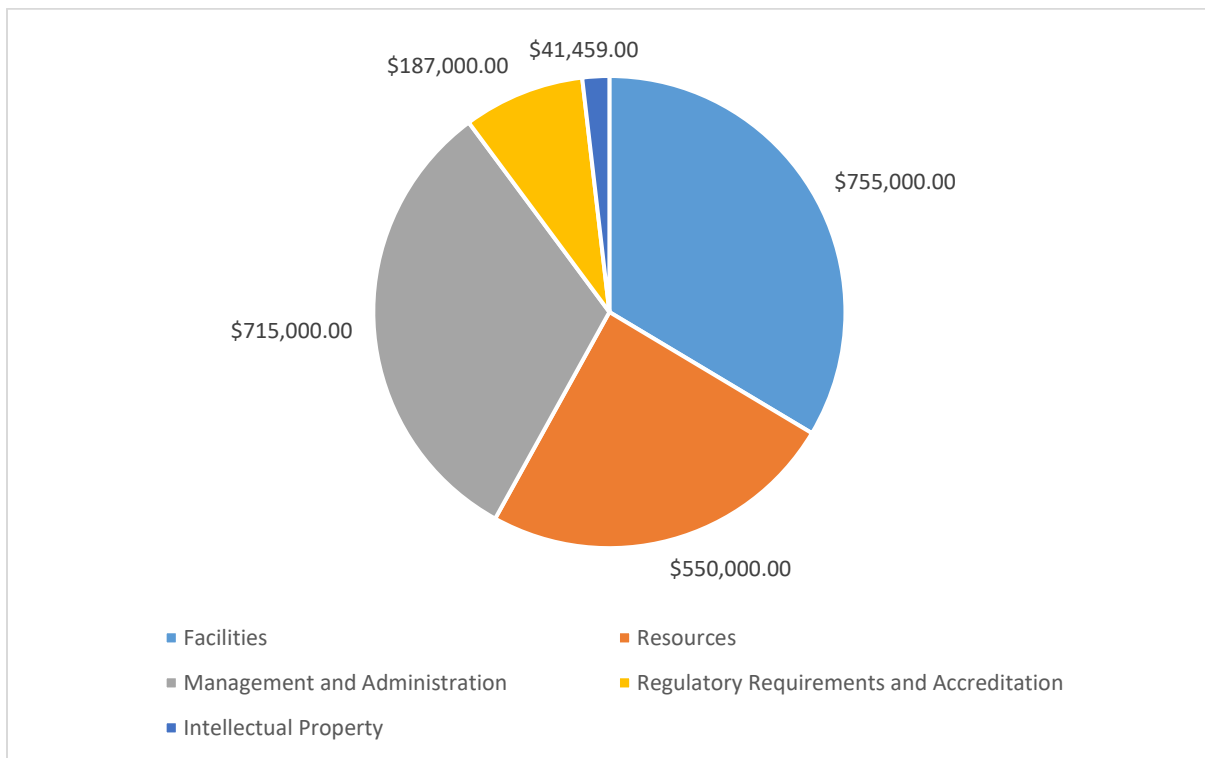
1. [Research facilities](#);
2. [Research resources](#);
3. [Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise](#);
4. [Regulatory requirements and accreditation](#); and
5. [Intellectual property and Knowledge mobilization](#).

Overall, the grant must add to, and not displace, any research support funds that postsecondary institutions have received from the provincial government, private sector or other federal sources.

Whether the grant pays for the maintenance of libraries, laboratories or research networking spaces, or for the technical support required for an institution's website or library computer system, the overall goal of the fund is to help ensure Canada's research institutions remain among the best in the world. By subsidizing the financial burden of indirect costs, the fund ultimately helps researchers and universities focus on delivering innovative research and scholarly excellence.

Laurentian University's Grant Allocation

The amount of Laurentian University's (LU) grant is calculated using an algorithm based on the amount of funding awarded in the previous fiscal year by Federal granting agencies. According to this calculation, in 2020/21 LU will receive a grant of \$2,248,459, which will be allocated in the five categories as shown in the pie chart below.



LU invests funds in **facilities** to support and maintain laboratories and other research spaces across campus. These funds help ensure that researchers can rely on a research space where they can discover and innovate.

A significant portion of the grant is allocated to **research resources** to ensure that up-to-date, relevant materials are available to support research and training at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. Maintaining a library is at the very core of an institution as it is a repository of knowledge and an academic foundation for the research enterprise.

Management and administration funds support salaries and benefits of staff in the Office of Research Services and in the Financial Services Office. These teams are central services that facilitate and administer, pre- and post-award functions supporting research initiatives.

Regulatory requirements and accreditation funds support Animal Care Certification and Research Ethics staff to proactively meet compliance issues. These efforts help minimize risk to researchers and to the University, and help ensure that research funds are used only on projects that meet regulatory and other compliance guidelines.

Funds expended on the management of **intellectual property** allow for the successful execution of contracts and agreements when working with sponsored research and industry.