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

General information about the RSF Program can be accessed here: http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx.

In addition, information about the Incremental Project Grants (IPG) Program can be accessed here: https://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/apply-demande/ipg-sps-eng.aspx, and information about the Research Security stream of the IPG Program can be access here: https://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/apply-demande/research_security-securite-recherche-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

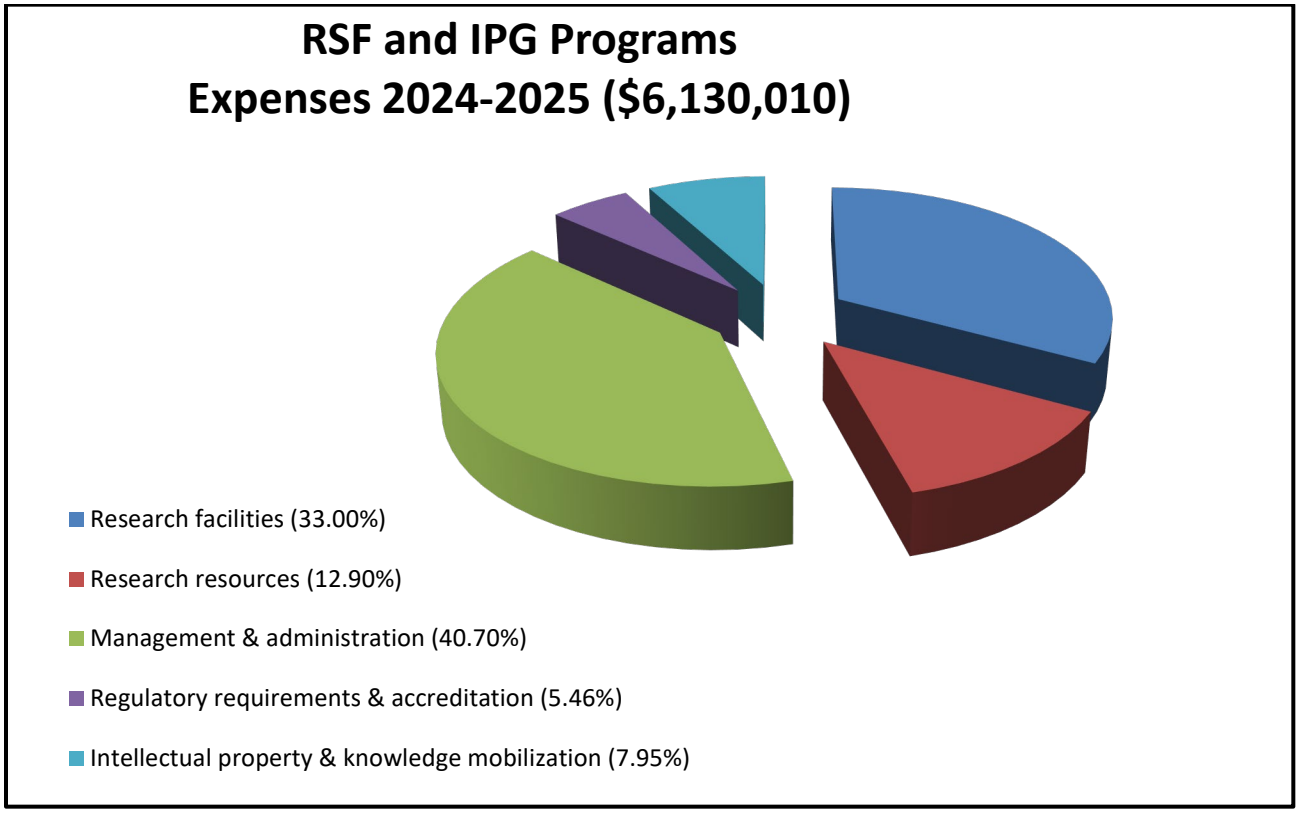
In 2024-2025, Concordia University received $5,135,883 from the RSF regular allocation, $567,834 from the Incremental Project Grants (IPG) stream of the RSF, and $280,032 from the Research Security Allocation stream of the IPG. An additional $146,261 from the Incremental Project Grants (IPG) stream was also received later in the year. The total RSF and IPG funding received was $6,130,010.

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, Innovation, and Impact, 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 the above-mentioned categories, but specifically relating to the following four priority areas:

- 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)
- Research security (under categories 1, 2 and 3)

The chart below presents the actual expenditures for the RSF and IPG programs (including Research Security) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year:



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. The funding has been important to support our ability to respond more efficiently to the demands arising from our growth in research capacity. For example, a significant portion of the 2024-2025 RSF funding was again 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 portions of the RSF funding were used notably to cover maintenance and repair costs for research infrastructure, operation costs for our animal care facility, and general costs for electricity and services of our research infrastructure. As Concordia continues to increase and diversify its sources of funding, the demands on resources to support research will continue to grow significantly.

It is critical that Concordia provides renovations, upgrades, and ongoing infrastructure support to be able to conduct research that is highly 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 high-caliber researchers and graduate students who are experts and leaders in their fields. The anticipated research and innovation, which lead to significant benefits for all Canadians, will be then hindered.