

Federal Indirect Costs Program

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 Federal Indirect Costs Program

Information about the Federal Indirect Costs Program can be accessed here:

http://www.indirectcosts.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx

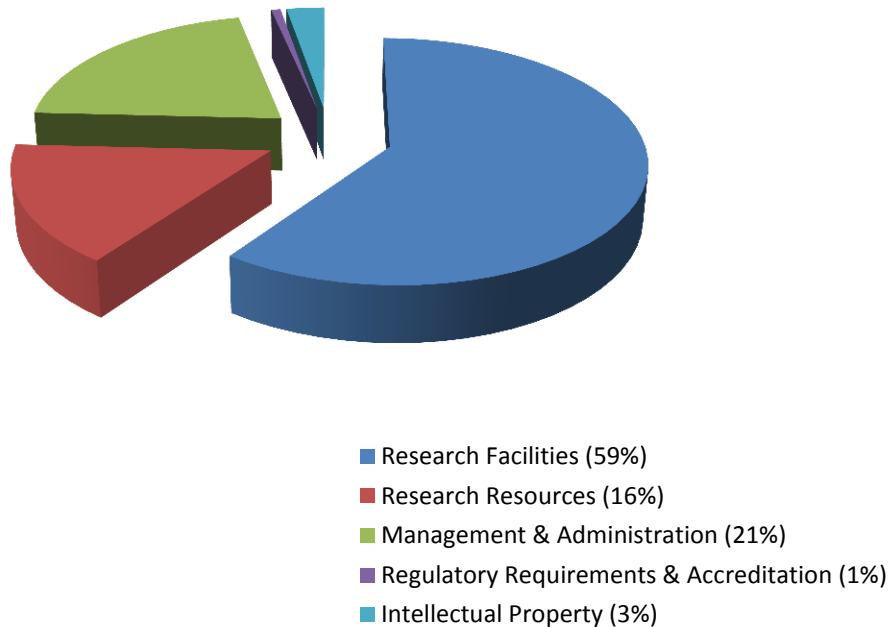
Allocation of the Federal Indirect Costs Program funding at Concordia University

The Federal Indirect Costs Program distributes indirect costs expenditures in five categories:

- [Research facilities](#)
- [Research resources](#)
- [Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise](#)
- [Regulatory requirements and accreditation](#)
- [Intellectual property](#)

In 2013-2014, Concordia University received a grant of \$4,389,474 under the Federal Indirect Costs Program. The internal allocation model for FICP funding that has been in place at Concordia University in recent years can be summarized as follows: Faculties (20%); Office of the Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies (25%); Facilities (20%); animal care, libraries, information technology services, and centralized research services (20%); other research administration (such as finance) (15%). The funding is then used to cover eligible expenditures in all five categories mentioned above. The actual expenditure breakdown per category for 2013-2014 was as follows:

Federal Indirect Costs Program Funding 2013-2014 (\$4,389,474)



General Impacts of the Federal Indirect Costs Program at Concordia University

The Federal Indirect Costs 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 portion of the FICP funding is used to help support Concordia University's research units program, which benefits a wide range of researchers by supporting team and interdisciplinary research endeavours and infrastructures. 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.

Specific Impacts of the Federal Indirect Costs Program at Concordia University

Selected examples of the use of FICP funding in 2013-2014 include the following:

In the Faculty of Arts and Science, FICP funding was used to cover major laboratory renovation costs and equipment upgrades to meet the specialized and growing research needs of several recent faculty hires. The funding was also instrumental in ensuring that unexpected repairs could be made to research equipment. The funds were also used to cover the costs of maintenance contracts for critical research infrastructure such as growth chambers and -80°C freezers and towards technical support for research server administration and maintenance.

In the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, FICP funding was essential to cover the costs of new fume hoods and for the installation of an automotive hydraulic pump. The funding was also used to defray renovation costs for research laboratories and for calibrating and tuning various research equipment to ensure its safe operation.

In the Faculty of Fine Arts, FICP funding was used mostly to support salary costs of highly qualified technical personnel in research areas such as digital imaging, textiles, sound, and gaming. This helps support the research-creation activities of the more than 100 researchers and approximately 300 graduate students that used the resources of Hexagram-Concordia in 2013-2014.

The John Molson School of Business (JMSB) renewed its access to WRDS, a web platform designed by the Wharton School of Business allowing researchers access to a multitude of vendors' databases through a single interface. As the WRDS platform is commonly used in most top-ranked business schools, it is an important attraction and retention tools for both existing researchers and new scholars accustomed to having access to it. The FICP funding was again crucial in 2013-2014 in helping cover the JMSB's annual cost for I/B/E/S, an important source of data for Accountancy and Finance researchers.

In the Concordia Libraries, the 2013-2014 FICP funding enabled the renewal of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) consortial agreement for Wiley-Blackwell and Cambridge University Press journals, giving the Concordia research community access to over 1,377 research journals published by Wiley-Blackwell and 329 research journals published by Cambridge University Press, on very favorable terms negotiated by the CRKN.

Concordia's Instructional and Information Technology Services (IITS) used FICP funding towards information technology systems costs such as data center services, backup, server and storage services for research activities and lab IT technical support.

The Concordia Office of Research also continued the development of its research promotion platform called [Explore Concordia](#), which provides people with a searchable and visually compelling online portal into Concordia's world of research. The Federal Indirect Costs Program funding is also essential to help cover the annual membership fee to Gestion Valéo, whose services include evaluation of technical and commercial potential of inventions, protection of intellectual property, development of commercialization plans, and negotiation of operating licenses.

Finally, the 2013-2014 FICP funding was used to help maintain the two new international accreditations pertaining to research that were obtained in previous years: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Office of Human Research Protections) Federal Wide Assurance, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare) Animal Welfare Assurance.
