

Research Support Fund Allocation of Funds 2022-2023

The Research Support Fund (RSF) assists Canadian postsecondary institutions with the costs associated with managing their research enterprise, helping them to maintain a world-class research environment.

Program Overview

The [RSF](#) program helps Canadian postsecondary institutions cover a portion of the expenses associated with managing research funds awarded by the three federal granting agencies: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

The RSF provides essential supports for indirect costs of research. Indirect costs of research are operational expenditures incurred by AU to provide the necessary and ongoing support and infrastructure to facilitate the endeavors of researchers. These may include administrative support; ensuring adherence to regulatory requirements; improving research infrastructure, physical or virtual; provision of research resources benefitting the entire ecosystem; and supports for EDI strategy and implementation.

Institutions may utilize the RSF for expenditures in five categories: (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.

Proposed Strategic Investment

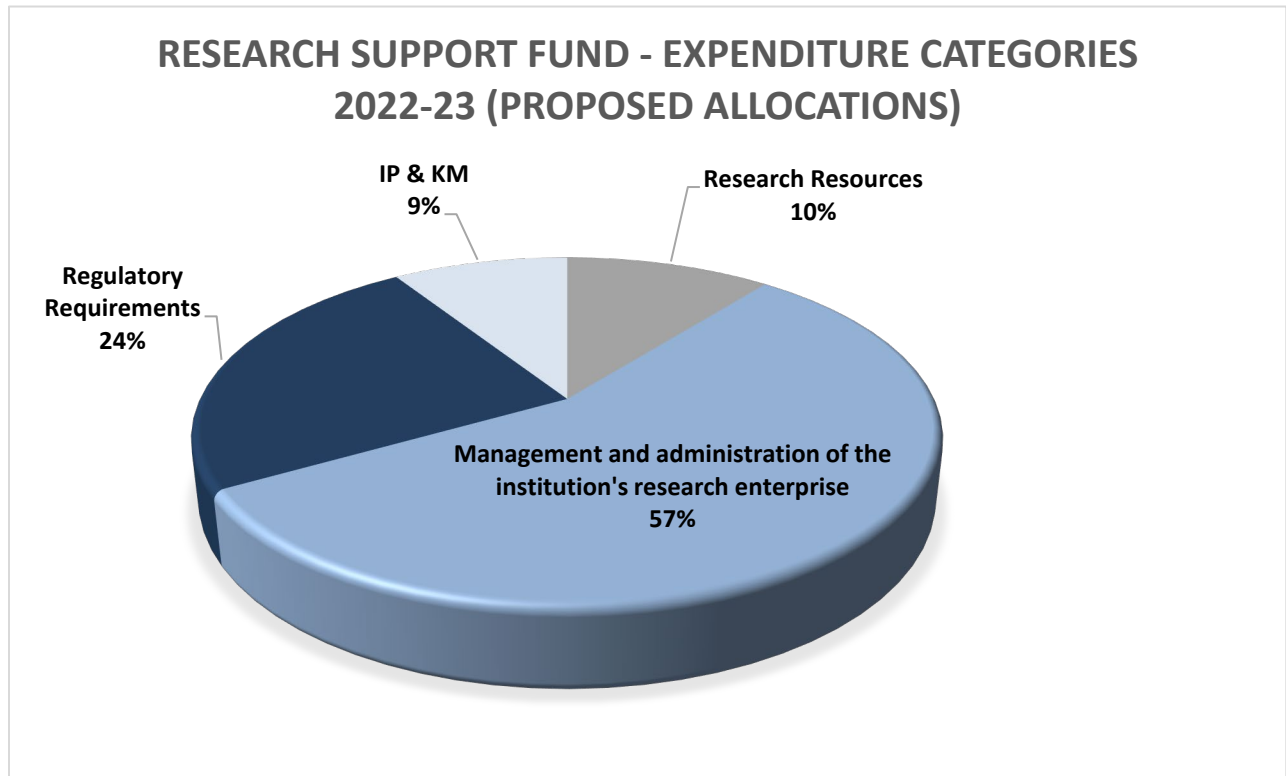
The notional grant amount for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is \$445,009. Athabasca University expects to allocate the funds within the following categories, which would not be possible without the Research Support Fund:

Research Resources: Extending AU's internal digital research infrastructure to increase research activity and impact and coordinate with external digital infrastructure for the provision of additional access to digital tools, services, and research data management solutions for our researchers.

Management and Administration of an Institution's Research Enterprise: Implementation of Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives, salaries of research support staff time devoted toward the development and management of Tri-Agency funded grants, and grant management software licenses. Costs associated with the development, planning and promotion of new institutional Strategic Research Plan and associated publication costs. The RSF will also contribute resources to software solutions that will track AU's overall research output and impact as well as engagement initiatives that capture and communicate AU's research profile through publications, outreach, and online dissemination.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation: Costs associated with administrative support for Research Ethics Board and maintaining certification and memberships for research ethics.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization: Access to resources, training, and planning for researchers to support Knowledge Mobilization (KM) of the research community for the public good and support outreach activities (planning, development, impact, network, etc.).



Research Support Fund Outcomes and Impact 2022-2023

For the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Strategic Investment

In 2022-2023 Athabasca University (AU) invested its Research Support Fund award (\$445,009) in the following expenditure categories:

Research Facilities: Support for the creation and development of research content on AU website.

Management and Administration of an Institution's Research Enterprise: Salaries and benefits of research support staff time devoted toward the development and management of research grants, grant management software licenses, and costs associated with research staff attendance at research administration-related conferences and/or webinars for professional development. Funds were also available to support costs associated with the development, planning and promotion of a new institutional Strategic Research Plan.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation: Costs associated with administrative support for Research Ethics Board and maintaining certification and memberships for research ethics.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization: Costs associated with the administration of a patent application.