

**Federal Indirect Costs Program
2011-2012 Outcomes Report**

Queen's University

Definition of the indirect costs of research

The total costs associated with conducting research comprise “direct” costs and “indirect” costs. “Direct” costs of research normally comprise all of the budgeted expenditures for carrying out a specific research project at the University. These direct costs can be directly assigned to research projects relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy and may include salaries of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research assistants, equipment and supplies costs, travel and publication costs, and other costs allowed by the sponsor/funder.

“Indirect” costs are real dollars spent by the University, or affiliated institutions, to support research activities. Although it can be difficult to assign these costs to specific projects, they represent necessary provisions for the conduct of research including items such as utilities, building costs, research contract/applications support, human resources, research accounting, library costs and central computing costs.

Description of the Federal Indirect Costs Program and how the institution allocates its FICP grant under each of the expenditure areas

The Federal Indirect Costs Program (FICP) provides partial support to universities and their affiliates for the indirect costs of research associated with Tri-Agency awards (i.e., NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR). Queen's distributes indirect costs broadly across the institution according to the Queen's Senate approved “Policy on the Administration of Research Funds” as posted at <http://www.queensu.ca/vpr/reportspubs.html>

The Queen's University distribution of FICP is outlined in the following chart:

University Unit	Distribution of Indirect Costs Program Funds
Department	14%
Faculty	14%
Space, Administration Services, Reporting, Library and ITS	58%
Research Initiation/Promotion/ Regulatory	14%

Notes:

For any indirect costs greater than \$7 million received from the Granting Councils, the allocation is 60% to Central for strategic allocation and 40% to the VP Research for Strategic re-investment (e.g., Centres/Institutes and other strategic opportunities). In the case of funding from the Granting Councils, Library and ITS each receive an allocation of 9%.

Description of the impacts of the indirect costs grant at the institution

The FICP grant permits us to partially meet the compliance expectations of our various funders (e.g., human ethics, animal care, biohazards, and controlled goods), as well as our financial and audit requirements without drawing from critical operating funds, which are required to continue to offer high-quality teaching and research opportunities.

The five expenditure areas of the FICP are:

- research facilities;
- research resources;
- management and administration of an institution's research enterprise;
- regulatory requirements and accreditation; and
- intellectual property.

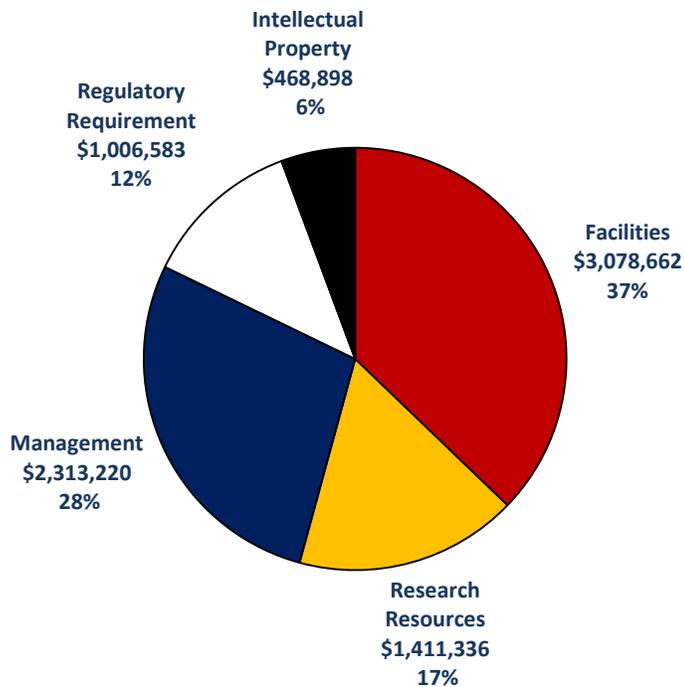
The pie chart located at the end of this document summarizes the distribution of the Queen's FICP grant funds into the five categories. (Note: The affiliate organizations' FICP funds are reported separately.)

The following are examples of specific activities and projects at Queen's University that have been made possible by the FICP funding:

- In the Buchan Department of Mining, research facilities were upgraded to ensure facilities will support new research and to comply with Ministry of Natural Resources regulations.
- Salary and benefits for the administrative staff, who support the General Research Ethics Board and the Health Sciences and Affiliated Hospitals Research Ethics Board, comes from the FICP grant. The Boards managed approximately 3,300 files in 2011 for approximately 4,000 members of the Queen's research community to ensure compliance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 (TCPS2) and the Tri-Council MOU.
- FICP grant support is used to partially fund maintenance and operation of research facilities through Physical Plant Services (e.g., upgrades and retrofits) and substantial support is provided for utilities (e.g., heat, light, power).
- The Office of Research Services grants and contracts teams manage pre-award administration, research project development, post-award administration and reporting functions, contract negotiation and risk management. ORS staff members provide timely and efficient service to the research community at Queen's and for the four affiliated hospitals.
- The Human Resources and Finance Departments also receive essential salary support from the FICP program grant. Staff members from these departments are key to hiring and supporting members of the research community to ensure the research enterprise operates smoothly and in accordance with provincial and federal government legislation/regulation and the policies of the Tri-Agencies.
- In the Faculty of Arts and Science, a large portion of funding was used for equipment maintenance and space modifications, providing researchers with necessary tools and a safe environment to perform their research. New expenditures include: a chiller relocation and new ventilation system.
- The FICP grant has enabled the Library to participate in consortia purchasing of national licenses for electronic research journals. These consortia licenses, negotiated through the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, have enabled the Library to leverage indirect costs of research funding to acquire four to five times the value per dollar of information resources that the Library would have otherwise acquired as an individual institution.

Federal Indirect Costs Program 2011-2012

Queen's University *(excluding affiliates*)*



Queen's University	\$ 8,278,699
+ Affiliates*	\$ 1,882,730
= Total FICP for Queen's & Affiliates	\$10,161,429

* Affiliates: Hospitals (Kingston General, Hotel Dieu, Providence Care, Ongwanada), Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, Canadian Microelectronics Corporation

- ▲ Facilities (e.g., research facility upgrades and maintenance, utilities, insurance, and security)
- ▲ Resources (e.g., library acquisitions, and IT systems)
- ▲ Management and Administration (e.g., HR, finance, and grant submission support, and research promotion)
- ▲ Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation (e.g., human/animal ethics boards supports, environmental health and safety training and compliance, and technician and facilities support for ensuring compliance)
- ▲ Intellectual Property (e.g., contracts review and negotiation, and support for technology licensing)