

**Federal Indirect Costs Program  
2013-2014 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 dollars spent by the University, or affiliated institutions, to support research activities. These costs represent necessary provisions for the conduct of research and (i) may not be directly attributable to any one research project but rather provide general support for the University research environment as a whole (e.g., libraries and computer networks); (ii) may or may not be measurable and attributed to specific research activities, for example occupancy costs (such as heat, light, energy, and waste management), research and financial administrative support, insurance, and human resource management; and (iii) may not be eligible for funding through sponsored research.

## **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 Indirect Costs of Research” as posted at:

<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies.html>

Queen's University distributes the FICP Grant in two broad steps. The first is to allocate appropriate amounts to its Affiliates. The second step is to allocate the remainder to each of the Faculties in a manner that reflects their relative contribution to the total grant received.

## **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.

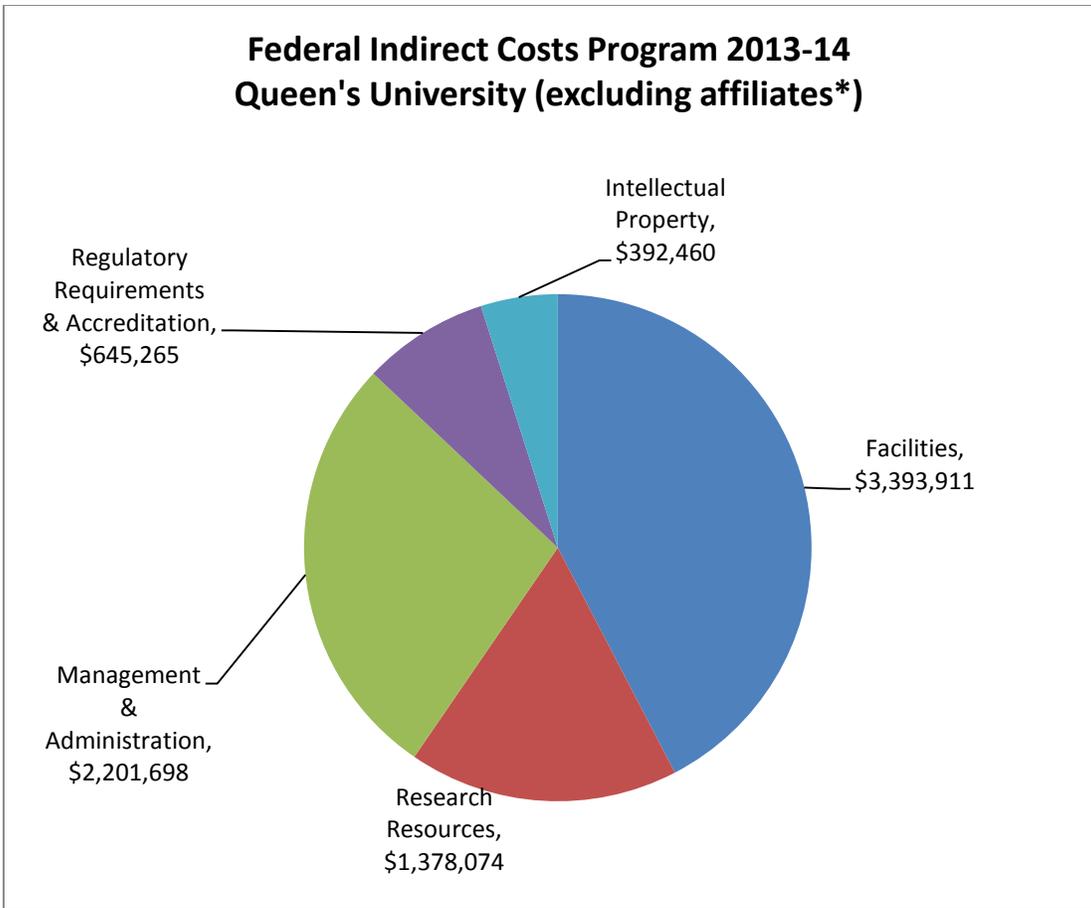
The pie chart located at the end of this document summarizes the distribution of the Queen's FICP grant funds into the five categories. (Note: The Affiliate FICP funds are reported separately.)

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

- The Faculty of Arts and Science has approximately 14,200sq. m. of research lab space. In 2013-14, the operating costs for this space total a little over \$2M.
- In 2013-14, The Faculty of Arts and Science contributed over \$12M towards the operating and acquisition costs for the Queen's University Library. \$1M of this total has been attributed as being funded by the Faculty's FICR allocation.
- A large portion of funding went to grant support to help researchers obtain the necessary resources to perform their research. Support staff in University Research Services and Research Accounting assist researchers with the completion of grant

applications, research proposals, and provide financial support. In 2013-14, the University implemented new technology to support research fund administration and financial reporting.

- The Chemical Engineering Department replaced an asbestos fume hood and was able to also make some minor renovations to ensure safety in the lab areas.
- In 2013/14, the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science was responsible for over \$3.5M in support of operating costs for Queen's libraries including the Engineering & Science library.
- Funds supported regulated equipment and facility inspections and health and safety training. Upgrades to security and safety systems were also made ensure the safety of research personnel.



<b>Queen's University</b>	\$8,011,408	
<b>Affiliated Hospitals</b>	\$353,122	\$8,364,530
<b>Other Affiliates*</b>		\$1,182,022
<b>Total FICP</b>		<b>\$9,546,552</b>

Affiliated Hospitals: Kingston General Hospital, Hotel Dieu, Providence Care, Ongwanada

Other Affiliates\*: Canadian Microelectronics Corporation, S.N.O.

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**Facilities**, e.g. research facility upgrades and maintenance, utilities, insurance, security.

**Research Resources**, e.g. library acquisitions and IT systems.

**Management & Administration**, e.g. HR, finance, grant submission support, research promotion.

**Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation**, e.g. human & animal ethics boards, environmental health and safety training and compliance, technician and facilities support for ongoing compliance.

**Intellectual Property**, e.g. contracts review and negotiation, support for technology licensing.