This policy statement delineates a new mechanism entitled the “Grant/Research re-Investment Fund” (GRIF) for faculty/teams who receive extramural awards for research and training grants administered through the Department of Allied Health Sciences (DAHS).

The department has a strong commitment to our collective research mission, including the provision of infrastructure and supports necessary for our faculty and trainees to achieve success in research and grant writing. The vast majority of facilities and administration costs (F&A; indirect costs) generated from extramural awards to DAHS are used to directly support administrative functions related to pre-award (e.g., budget development; grant processing; methodological/statistical supports, etc.) and post-award (e.g., providing space/computers; accounting; reporting; data securities) functions, as well as some new initiatives of the DAHS Office of Research (e.g., research forums; mentoring; statistical supports, etc.) that facilitate our mission and are consistent with strategic plans.

The Grant/Research re-Investment Fund (GRIF) extends the existing supports and provides a portion of funds (1% of total direct costs, annualized) directly to Principal Investigators/Project Teams that have been successful in obtaining extramural grant funding (i.e., research and training grants*). The purpose of the GRIF is to (a) reward and support productive programs of research, (b) provide some discretionary funds to supplement important scientific project needs or new initiatives of successful teams, as well as, (c) stimulate further scholarly endeavors of these teams and their research or training programs.

Extramural grants, administratively housed in DAHS that amount to at least $25,000 (total grant award direct costs), may qualify for the GRIF – see below for details.

*Criteria for GRIF eligible grants:
  o Grants must be extramural and housed administratively in DAHS; internal grants are not eligible.
  o Grants must have a PI/Co-PI with an appointment in DAHS.
  o Extramural grant awards must reach a threshold of at least $25,000 in total grant award direct costs, minus any subcontracts to other institutions/departments/agencies.
  o Only those research grants, training grants & clinical trials, with funds deposited in account ledgers #4- or 5- are eligible for GRIF. These grants typically generate Facilities & Administrative costs (F&A), at varying rates.
  o Grants must have been processed through UNC Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) or Sponsored Programs Office (SPO); other grants/contracts that were processed through School of Medicine’s legal office (e.g., state contracts for personnel; consulting agreements), or the Development Office (e.g., gifts from donors/alumni) are not eligible for GRIF.
  o Grants completed prior to July 1, 2012 are not eligible for GRIF; multi-year grants active as of July 1, 2012 will be prorated for the current year, moving forward.
  o Grants that are transferred to another department or institution (e.g., PI leaves the university and takes grant with them) are not eligible for any further GRIF.
Implementation/Administrative Protocol:

- DAHS business office will set-up and manage all GRIF accounts; reconciliation of GRIF budgets will occur twice per year (every 6 months).
- Each PI will be notified of their total GRIF budget, based on all eligible grants during the applicable period.
- GRIF budgets (1% of total award direct costs) will be based on $25,000 grant award increments, rounded down, and annualized for multi-year awards. (See examples in FAQ below).
- GRIF must be expended annually, consistent with the specific grant award cycle; carry-over is not allowed from year to year; no-cost extensions do not qualify.
- GRIF accounts are active only if the grant remains under DAHS; administrative changes of award to another department or institution will void the GRIF account.
- Grants awarded prior to July 1, 2012 with multi-year funding cycles will be prorated for the remaining years.
- PI/Project Team specific to the grant awarded determines use of GRIF for their specific project needs. The funds are intended to supplement (not replace) items approved in grant budgets.
- The following are allowable GRIF expenditures:
  - Publication costs (e.g., submissions to open access journals)
  - Equipment purchases & repairs
  - Supplies, books, software
  - Collection of new pilot data including incentive payments to participants
  - Conference travel, registration, workshops, staff training
  - Meeting supplies & refreshments
  - Salary for temporary workers; stipends for trainees, consultants or visiting scholars (NOTE: GRIF cannot be used to augment faculty salaries.)
  - Other needs related to supporting the project/program of research, subject to approval by DAHS administration/Office of Research.

This policy has been approved by DAHS Administration, Chair’s office, Office of Research and the Research Advisory Committee, and finalized on December 4, 2012.

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GRANT/RESEARCH re-Investment Fund (GRIF)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the effective date of this policy? July 1, 2012. Any new grants awarded on or after July 1, 2012 qualify for the Grant/Research re-Investment Fund (GRIF). Currently funded multi-year awards (fiscal year 2012-2013 & beyond) are eligible to receive a pro-rated amount.

Who is affected by this policy? All Principal Investigators (regardless of rank) and their research teams (faculty, post-docs, research associates, and trainees) with extramural awards for research or training grants processed through DAHS and amounting to at least $25,000 in total grant award direct costs.

What grants qualify for GRIF? All extramural grants (e.g., research/training/clinical trials) processed through OSR/SPO and housed administratively in DAHS with account ledger # 4- or 5-. Please contact the DAHS business office for details if you are unsure of your account number.

How is the GRIF awarded? One percent of the total direct costs on extramural awards, annualized for multi-year grants, will be awarded to the PI/Project Team associated with that specific grant. DAHS business office will create a GRIF account associated with a PI’s grant(s) and consistent with the dates of the grant cycle(s). Each PI’s GRIF account will reflect the total available GRIF budget, summed across the PI’s eligible grants, reconciled twice per year (every 6 months). PIs will multiple awards are encouraged to use the GRIF funds in accord with their respective project/team needs.

How much is 1% of my total grant award direct costs? If your extramural award is $25,000 (total direct costs) for one year (e.g., July – June 2013), the GRIF would amount to $250 return to the PI/Project Team associated with that grant for the one year cycle. If your extramural award is $500,000 (total direct costs) distributed across 5 years ($100,000 per year X 5 = $500,000), the GRIF would generate $1,000 per year for each of 5 years to the PI/Project Team, following the cycle of your funded grant.

Do completed/inactive grants qualify? Grants that have ended prior to July 1, 2012 do not qualify for GRIF; grants in “no cost-extension” phases are not eligible.

How can GRIF funds be used? Funds can be spent on publication costs, equipment, supplies, books, software, conference travel, registration, staff trainings/workshops, stipends for trainees, consultants or visiting scholars, new pilot work, meeting supplies/refreshments, salary for temporary workers, publication costs, or other needs related to supporting the project/program of research. The funds are intended to supplement (not replace) items approved in grant budgets.

Can I supplement faculty salary? Faculty salary supplements are not allowable through GRIF.

Who determines what can be spent? The Principal Investigators/Project Team makes these decisions for their own teams. If the award is for a student training grant (e.g., F31/F32), the DAHS faculty mentor approves how the funds are spent. PIs will multiple awards are encouraged to use GRIF funds according to their respective project/team needs.
Who processes these funds? DAHS business office will set up and manage all GRIF accounts. All PIs will be notified of their annual GRIF budget, reflecting all eligible grants. A breakdown of each grant award will be provided as needed. GRIF accounts will be reconciled twice per year (every 6 months). A designated GRIF administrative assistant will process any expenditures/purchases approved by the PI.

Can GRIF funds be carried over from year to year? No. GRIF funds must be expended annually consistent with your funded grant cycle.

What happens if my grant award involves other sites? GRIF provides 1% of total grant award direct costs, minus any subcontracts to other institutions. For example, if the grant award direct costs amount to $1,000,000, but $500,000 are subcontracted to another University, then the DAHS PI/Project Team will be awarded 1% of $500,000 which is the total grant award direct costs remaining here. The GRIF will be in the amount of $5000, annualized across project years.

What happens if the funding agency cuts my budget in subsequent years? GRIF is based on the amount of the total grant award direct costs, thus the GRIF will be adjusted accordingly with the budget cuts.