The Texas Comprehensive Research Development Fund (RDF) is intended to promote increased research capacity—"that promote increased research capacity" at the institution (Texas Education Code §62.097).

The Comprehensive Research Development Program (CRP) at Stephen F. Austin State University uses these funds to directly support the university’s research agenda and to increase competitiveness in acquiring external funds for research and development.

Therefore, use of CRP funds is limited to research and development activities as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Texas Administrative Code, Part 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter G, Rule §13.122):

- Research means “a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied.”
- Development means “the systematic use of knowledge and understanding gained from research directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design and development of prototypes and processes.”
- Curriculum development activities are also eligible for funding when “the primary purpose of the project is developing and testing an instructional or educational model through appropriate research methodologies (i.e., data collection, evaluation, dissemination, and publication).”

Comprehensive Research Development Program funds may not be used to supplant funds for research activities or to purchase or maintain equipment supported by other sources.

In the expenditure of Comprehensive Research Development Program funds, recipients are subject to all university policies and procedures, and local, state, and federal regulations.

Before initiating research that involves human subjects, vertebrate animals, or hazardous materials, researchers must obtain written approval from the chair of the appropriate university board or committee.

Recipients of Comprehensive Research Development Program funds must meet deadlines for deliverables, including annual reports, as required by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP).
Publications resulting from the RDP-CRP will acknowledge the source of funds as the Stephen F. Austin State University Comprehensive Research Development Program. Copies of publications will be submitted to ORSP and the Center for Digital Scholarship in the Steen Library.

Deans submit requests for Comprehensive Research Development Program funds on behalf of their faculty and research staff to the director of ORSP who makes awards based on criteria established by the director and the provost and vice president for academic affairs. For awards of $50,000 or greater, the director makes recommendations for funding to the provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Cross Reference: Human Research Subjects Protection (8.4); Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) (8.6); Recombinant DNA and/or Infectious Biohazards in Teaching and Research (8.9); Tex. Educ. Code §§ 62.091-.098; 19 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 13.120-.127

Responsible for Implementation: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Contact for Revision: Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Forms: None

Board Committee Assignment: Academic and Student Affairs