



CHARACTERISTICS OF A FOUNDATIONAL CORE FACILITY

A *Foundational Core Facility* provides access to resources and/or services considered to be *essential to the research enterprise*. These facilities serve a broad spectrum of researchers spanning multiple departments and colleges within CSU as well as external academic and commercial partners. Foundational Core Facilities are financially supported, in part, by the OVPR to ensure stability and quality of these important resources.

A Foundational Core Facility provides access to instrumentation, expertise, and/or capabilities necessary to advance strategic university research goals and capacity. In general, this will include the following components:

- Multiple instruments and/or services.
- Technologies and/or expertise that exceeds individual investigator funding and support capabilities.
- Capacity to lead, foster, and/or initiate interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Support and/or leadership for the development of extramural grant and contract submissions.

A Foundational Core Facility nurtures early stages of experimentation and discovery and provides on-going education, training, and outreach activities across a range of student/trainee levels by:

- Allowing researchers to expand personal skill sets.
- Building research capacity by providing a resource for expansion of competencies in a supportive environment.
- Supporting the education mission of the university.

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FOUNDATIONAL CORE RESEARCH FACILITIES

In general, the following organizational/operational structures will be found in all Foundational Core Research Facilities:

1. A dedicated director who provides leadership, consultation, contributes to peer reviewed publications, and who often participates in the preparation, submission, and/or execution of extramural research proposals and contracts.
2. A user advisory board constituted from appropriate stakeholders and including relevant facility personnel.
3. A well-defined mission statement that clearly articulates the role of the facility as well as the framework or context within which the facility operates.
4. An established service and billing mechanism with a relevant business plan that accurately reflects operational costs and anticipates technology evolution.
5. Recurring financial commitment(s) from stakeholder(s) in addition to centralized investment from the OVPR.
6. Infrastructure to capture relevant business and research metrics and other activities that will be reported annually to investors, advisory boards, and the CSU community.