

University of Northern Colorado
Research Productivity Report
3-18-2026
Covering FY 24, 25, and FY 26 Q1 and Q2

Prepared by
Mit McGlaughlin
Interim Associate Vice President for Research

With Data Contributions From
Jeff Martin, Grants Accountant

Executive Summary

This report details activities through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2). ORSP serves a vital function at UNC as the central office for externally and internally funded research, scholarship, and create works for faculty and staff members. Important findings include:

- The number of proposals submitted for external funding was consistent between FY24 (98) and FY25 (96) and is on track to exceed the recent average in FY26 (57 in Q1 and Q2).
- Over the 2.5 year reporting period, the highest average percentage of grant submissions are to federal agencies (62%), followed by non-profits (17%), state and local governments (16%), and other sources (5%).
- FY 24 was, at \$36 million, a high mark for total external funding dollars requested, with \$26 million requested in FY25. FY26 (\$12.6 million requested in Q1 and Q2) is on track to meet the FY25 requested funding.
- Over the 2.5 year reporting period, the mean requested funding for all external submissions was \$414,065, with a range of \$1,000 - \$4.3 million.
- The number of funded external awards was consistent between FY24 (38) and FY25 (39), with a decrease in FY26 (11 to date).
- The highest percentage of funded awards are from state or local governments (45%), followed by federal agencies (42%), non-profits (10%), and other sources (3%).
- The total external funding received decreased from \$8.6 million in FY24 to \$5 million in FY25. FY26 (\$2.5 million received in Q1 and Q2) is on track to meet the external funding level of FY25.
- Despite decreases in total external funding amounts from FY24 to FY25, the total new Indirect Costs returns (IDCs) each year were consistent (~\$865,000). FY26 has a much lower new IDC return amount (\$178,781 to date), which is concerning, but there is considerable variability among quarters for award and IDC amounts.
- UNC had seven federal grants terminated since April 2025, with a potential loss of \$2.9 million previously committed to UNC. Four awards were permanently terminated (loss of \$215,675); two awards are in continuing litigation (potential loss of \$2.7 million), and one award was reinstated (\$121,412).
- Between FY24 and FY25 external research expenditures increased by more than 26%, from \$2,081,371 to \$2,626,575. FY26 external research expenditures (\$1.4 million expended in Q1 and Q2) are outpacing FY24 and FY25 and are likely to exceed \$3,000,000 for the year.

Overview – The data presented shows that UNC has a robust, externally funded research, scholarship, and create works program. Due to a rapidly changing federal and state grant landscape, headwinds exist, but UNC faculty and staff continue to submit and receive grants. Changes in federal grant opportunities could have lasting impacts on IDC return rates. At present it is unclear when federal funding opportunities will stabilize, but UNC faculty and staff members continue to submit proposals at an increasing pace, positioning UNC for the best possible return on grant investments.

I. Proposals Submitted

UNC faculty and staff members maintained a consistent rate of proposal submissions during FY24 and FY25 (Table 1). Submissions in FY26 are trending higher, exceeding our recent averages though Q1 and Q2 (Figure 1). Submissions to Federal agencies dominate our numbers, while we are also seeing an increase in submissions to Non-Profit funders.

Table 1. Grant submission information by quarter for FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2).

	FY24					FY25					FY26		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Total
Total Submissions	39	9	30	20	98	35	13	31	17	96	39	18	57
Submission Type													
Federal	22	3	15	13	53	23	7	22	11	63	24	12	36
Non-Profit	6	1	8	0	15	4	4	6	4	18	9	3	12
State/Local	4	3	5	2	14	7	1	3	2	13	4	2	6
Other	3	0	1	1	5	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	3

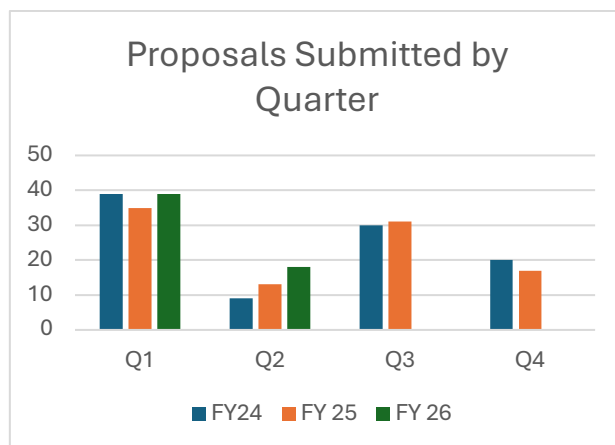


Figure 1. Graphical representation of proposals submitted by quarter for FY24, FY 25, and FY25 (Q1 and Q2).

The total dollar amount associated with grant submissions during FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2) is shown in Table 2 and Figure 2. Note that FY24 Q4 is an outlier due to the submission of two grant proposals exceeding \$4,000,000. During all other quarters there are only 4 total proposals that exceed \$3,000,000, with most large proposals near or below

\$2,000,000. Across all quarters the mean and median proposal dollar amounts are \$414,065 and \$279,925, respectively. If we exclude the two large submissions in FY24 Q4, the annual proposed funding amounts are very consistent: FY24 – \$21,346,750; FY25 - \$22,189,159; FY26 (Q1/Q2) - \$10,709,457.

Table 2 also contains data associated with proposed Indirect Cost (IDC) returns. IDCs are levied on most Direct Costs based on stipulations from funding agencies. UNC’s federal IDC rate was 38% in FY24 and FY25 and increased to 39% in FY26. Across all grant submissions, the Effective IDC rate is declining each year. This trend is driven most notably by an increasing number of submissions to the Department of Education which caps IDC rates at 8% and excludes most student support expenses from IDC calculations, and an increase in submissions to Non-Profits which significantly limit IDC charges.

Table 2. The amount of funding requested for all proposals submitted in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2) with information about UNC supported cost sharing and effective IDC percentage.

	FY24				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total Direct Cost	\$5,121,404	\$7,144,653	\$4,956,352	\$13,124,341*	\$30,346,750
Total Indirect Cost	\$1,168,790	\$1,306,375	\$857,178	\$1,922,709	\$5,255,052
Cost Sharing Amount	\$5,280	\$26,088	\$30,000	\$340,628	\$401,995
Total Requested	\$6,295,473	\$8,477,116	\$5,843,531	\$15,387,677	\$36,003,797
Effective IDC %	22.82%	18.28%	17.29%	14.65%	17.32%
	FY25				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total Direct Cost	\$5,357,692	\$4,489,738	\$8,476,639	\$3,865,091	\$22,189,159
Total Indirect Cost	\$778,070	\$601,209	\$1,924,892	\$356,158	\$3,660,328
Cost Sharing Amount	\$184,258	\$0	\$0	\$138,757	\$323,015
Total Requested	\$6,320,019	\$5,090,947	\$10,401,531	\$4,360,006	\$26,172,502
Effective IDC %	14.52%	13.39%	22.71%	9.21%	16.50%
	FY26				
	Q1	Q2	Total		
Total Direct Cost	\$6,210,898	\$4,498,559	\$10,709,457		
Total Indirect Cost	\$727,018	\$921,985	\$1,649,003		
Cost Sharing Amount	\$203,811	\$40,294	\$244,105		
Total Requested	\$7,141,726	\$5,460,838	\$12,602,565		
Effective IDC %	11.71%	20.50%	15.40%		

*FY24 Q4 is unique in that two proposals of greater than \$4,000,000 were submitted.

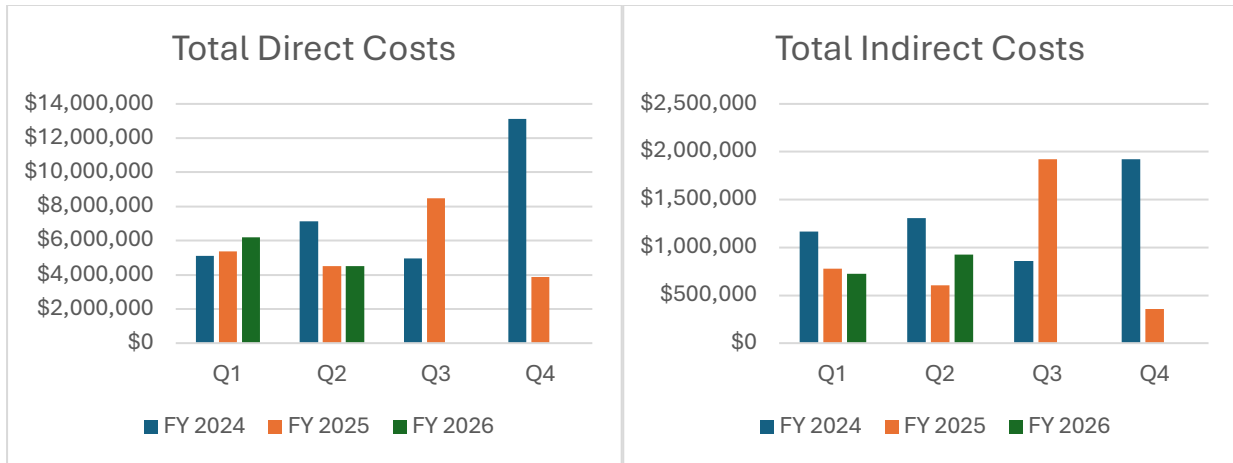


Figure 2. Graphical representation of Total Direct Costs and Total Indirect Costs requested for all proposals submitted by quarter for FY24, FY25, and FY25 (Q1 and Q2).

II. Awards Received

UNC faculty and staff members continue to successfully obtain external funding (Table 3, Figure 3). The total success rate was very consistent across FY24 and FY25, with a slight decrease in FY25 Q4. Unfortunately, the number of funded grants in FY26 is down substantially, driven by a reduction in the number of federal and state grant opportunities and total funding available in the opportunities that remain.

Table 3. Summary of new grants received by quarter for FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2).

	FY24					FY25					FY26		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Total
Total Awarded	17	5	8	8	38	20	5	9	5	39	7	4	11
Funder Type													
Federal	6	3	2	5	16	9	0	4	3	16	2	3	5
Non-Profit	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	0	0	4	2	1	3
State/Local	9	2	4	3	18	5	5	5	2	17	2	0	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1

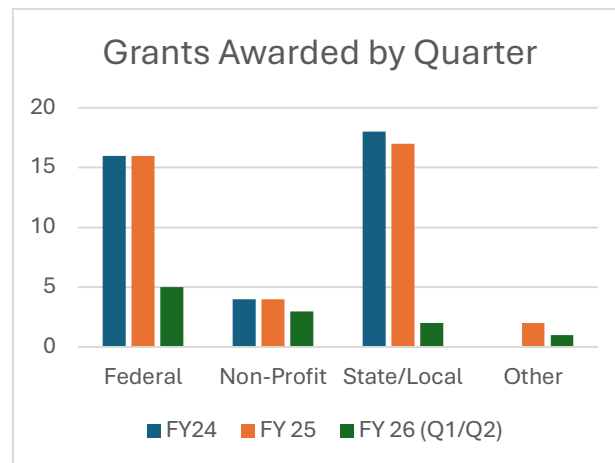


Figure 3. Graphical representation of total number of new grants awarded by quarter for FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2).

Associated with the number of awards, the amount of new funding received each year varies as does the effective IDC rate (Table 4). Quarters when UNC has received large grants from the Department of Education (e.g. FY24 Q1, FY26 Q2) or the State of Colorado (e.g. FY24 Q4) are when the effective IDC rate dips to its lowest level based on agency specific IDC restrictions. Despite fewer total awards in FY26 (Table 3), we are on track to match the total funding received in FY 25. However, the low effective IDC rate for new grants in FY26 is concerning, because that will limit the funds able to support research efforts at UNC. Table 5 provides a breakdown of funding amount and IDC's received by agency in each fiscal year.

Table 4. The amount of new funding received for all proposals in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2) with information about UNC supported cost sharing and effective IDC percentage.

	FY24				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total Award	\$4,274,731	\$1,415,851	\$1,106,435	\$1,826,590	\$8,623,607
Total Indirect	\$236,854	\$289,889	\$191,305	\$156,640	\$874,388
Cost Sharing Amount	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Effective IDC %	5.54%	20.47%	17.29%	8.99%	10.21%
	FY25				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total Award	\$3,768,728	\$411,387	\$309,452	\$522,928	\$5,012,495
Total Indirect	\$686,959	\$60,244	\$9,903	\$98,606	\$855,712
Cost Sharing Amount	\$0	\$65,513	\$0	\$71,882	\$137,395
Effective IDC %	18.23%	14.64%	3.20%	18.86%	17.07%
	FY 26				
	Q1	Q2	Total		
Total Award	\$1,368,725	\$1,119,687	\$2,488,412		
Total Indirect	\$155,091	\$36,544	\$191,635		
Cost Sharing Amount	\$0	\$178,781	\$178,781		
Effective IDC %	11.33%	3.26%	7.70%		

Table 5. The amount of new funding received for all proposals in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2) separated by the type of funder.

	FY24		FY25		FY26	
	Total Award	Total Indirect	Total Award	Total Indirect	Total Award	Total Indirect
Federal	\$3,101,133	\$564,875	\$3,073,692	\$702,458	\$1,054,628	\$114,380
Non-Profit	\$185,480	\$44,747	\$1,018,519	\$76,813	\$239,979	\$26,440
State/Local	\$5,336,994	\$264,767	\$682,306	\$41,856	\$159,813	\$16,228
Other	\$0	\$0	\$92,066	\$12,698	\$70,000	\$0

III. Awards Terminated

UNC has not been immune to the federal government terminating funded grants. During 2025 and early 2026 we had seven federal grants terminated (Table 6) and one award recommended for funding that was canceled prior to issuing a formal award notice. The potential loss of previously committed grant funding is \$2.9 million. UNC contested the termination decision for all grants on which we were the primary awardee. Of the seven terminated grants, four were permanently terminated (loss of \$215,675), two are the subject of ongoing litigation (potential loss of \$2.7 million), and one was terminated and then reinstated within 48 hours (retention of \$121,412). The two large Department of Education grants that have been the subject of ongoing litigation have had several successful court decisions that have found that termination decisions were arbitrary. The termination date for these awards has been extended three times, now allowing spending through December 2026. However, the Department of Education continues to appeal decisions allowing researchers to spend funds, they have been providing funding on a pro-rated basis over small time periods, and they have added substantial additional reporting requirements related to grant outcomes.

Table 6. Grants terminated by federal agencies.

College	Funder	Termination Date	Amount funded	Amount Remaining	Status
EBS	Department of Education	12/31/26	\$3,642,681	\$2,057,524	Grant still active after court injunction. Final status uncertain
EBS	Department of Education	12/31/26	\$1,299,545	\$648,369	Grant still active after court injunction. Final status uncertain
HSS	National Science Foundation	4/25/25	\$87,067	\$49,895	Permanently Terminated
NHS	National Science Foundation	5/2/25	\$45,000	\$25,000	Permanently Terminated
NHS	National Institute of Health	5/5/25	\$11,200	\$3,936	Permanently Terminated
EBS	Department of Education	8/27/25	\$1,830,000	\$136,844	Permanently Terminated
EBS	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services	1/13/26	\$204,000	\$121,412	Reinstated 1/15/26
Total Permanently Terminated				\$215,675	
Total in Litigation				\$2,705,893	

IV. Research Expenditures

UNC continues to have robust spending on research activities through both external and internal support (Table 7). External research expenditures include spending on newly awarded grants (detailed above), continuing grants that were awarded before FY24 but are still active, and donations to support research. Institutional support for research includes salary associated with faculty time dedicated to scholarship, university funds supporting the purchase of research equipment, and internal research awards. From FY24 and FY25 external research spending increased by more than 26%. External research spending in FY 26 is also outpacing spending in either FY24 or FY25, demonstrating the growth in UNC's research enterprise.

Table 7. The total amount of Research Expenditures in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2). Note, faculty salary components dedicated to research are recorded in Q4.

	FY2024				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
External Funded Research	\$699,797	\$536,846	\$84,832	\$759,895	\$2,081,371
Institution Funded Research	\$421,073	\$382,069	\$413,894	\$5,178,305	\$6,395,341
Total	\$1,120,871	\$918,915	\$498,726	\$5,938,200	\$8,476,712
	FY2025				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
External Funded Research	\$587,413	\$547,003	\$466,094	\$1,026,065	\$2,626,575
Institution Funded Research	\$393,451	\$399,128	\$445,987	\$5,429,794	\$6,668,361
Total	\$980,865	\$946,131	\$912,081	\$6,455,859	\$9,294,936
	FY 2026				
	Q1	Q2	Total		
External Funded Research	\$801,608	\$621,093	\$1,422,701		
Institution Funded Research	\$382,300	\$364,232	\$746,532		
Total	\$1,183,909	\$985,325	\$2,169,233		

V. College Statistics

All Colleges have been active in submitting and receiving grants. College level statistics are shown for submissions (Table 8-9), new awards received (Table 10-11), and research expenditures (Table 12, Figure 4).

Table 8. Grant submission information by College, Funder Type, and Fiscal Year.

College	Funder Type	FY24	FY25	FY26 (Q1/Q2)
EBS	Federal	7	7	0
	State-Local	1	3	1
	Non-Profit	2	1	1
HSS	Federal	14	14	7
	State-Local	0	0	1
	Non-Profit	5	5	1
	Other	0	2	0
LIB	Federal	0	1	0
	State-Local	4	2	2
MCB	State-Local	4	3	0
NHS	Federal	37	38	12
	State-Local	6	6	4
	Non-Profit	11	11	4
	Other	4	1	0
PVA	Federal	2	1	0
	Non-Profit	1	1	0

Table 9. *The amount of funding requested for all submissions by College, Funder Type, and Fiscal Year*

College	Funder Type	FY24	FY25	FY26 (Q1/Q2)
EBS	Federal	\$10,217,954	\$6,286,021	\$0
	State-Local	\$80,000	\$772,605	\$398,480
	Non-Profit	\$32,889	\$336,352	\$122,381
	Total	\$10,330,843	\$7,394,978	\$520,861
HSS	Federal	\$9,669,647	\$4,070,057	\$1,645,097
	State-Local	\$0	\$0	\$140,076
	Non-Profit	\$408,918	\$583,633	\$74,905
	Other	\$0	\$136,432	\$0
	Total	\$10,078,565	\$4,790,122	\$1,860,078
LIB	Federal	\$0	\$10,001	\$0
	State-Local	\$32,579	\$44,498	\$55,499
	Total	\$32,579	\$54,499	\$55,499
MCB	State-Local	\$1,638,489	\$84,309	\$0
	Total	\$1,638,489	\$84,309	\$0
NHS	Federal	\$9,322,405	\$10,266,360	\$5,634,385
	State-Local	\$1,509,028	\$228,702	\$364,019
	Non-Profit	\$2,084,786	\$1,773,791	\$889,118
	Other	\$347,002	\$184,313	\$0
	Total	\$13,263,221	\$12,453,166	\$6,887,522
PVA	Federal	\$67,000	\$60,000	\$0
	Non-Profit	\$35,000	\$12,052	\$0
	Total	\$102,000	\$72,052	\$0

Table 10. The number of new awards received in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2) by college and type of funder.

College	Funder Type	FY24	FY25	FY26 (Q1/Q2)
EBS	Federal	2	1	0
	State-Local	5	2	1
	Non-Profit	1	1	0
HSS	Federal	3	1	2
	State-Local	1	1	0
	Non-Profit	0	0	1
	Other	0	0	1
LIB	State-Local	2	3	0
MCB	State-Local	1	5	0
NHS	Federal	9	13	3
	State-Local	3	4	1
	Non-Profit	1	4	1
	Other	0	2	0

Table 11. The amount of new funding received for all proposals in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2) by college and type of funder.

	FY24		FY25		FY26	
	Total Award	Total Indirect	Total Award	Total Indirect	Total Award	Total Indirect
EBS	\$2,865,203	\$43,161	\$231,716	\$56,170	\$139,254	\$17,690
HSS	\$944,778	\$141,262	\$139,919	\$23,975	\$961,782	\$134,412
LIB	\$30,995	\$0	\$46,160	\$1,377	\$0	\$0
MCB	\$1,125,555	\$260,144	\$237,250	\$0	\$0	\$0
NHS	\$2,267,777	\$354,194	\$3,795,059	\$694,994	\$423,384	\$4,946

Table 12. The total amount of external Research Expenditures in FY24, FY25, and FY26 (Q1 and Q2) in each college.

	FY24	FY25	FY26 (Q1/Q2)
EBS	\$2,351,812	\$2,709,339	\$1,060,645
HSS	\$1,488,307	\$1,260,277	\$79,744
MCB	\$862,731	\$824,688	\$99,268
NHS	\$2,757,463	\$3,411,788	\$824,054
PVA	\$812,320	\$851,712	\$10,353

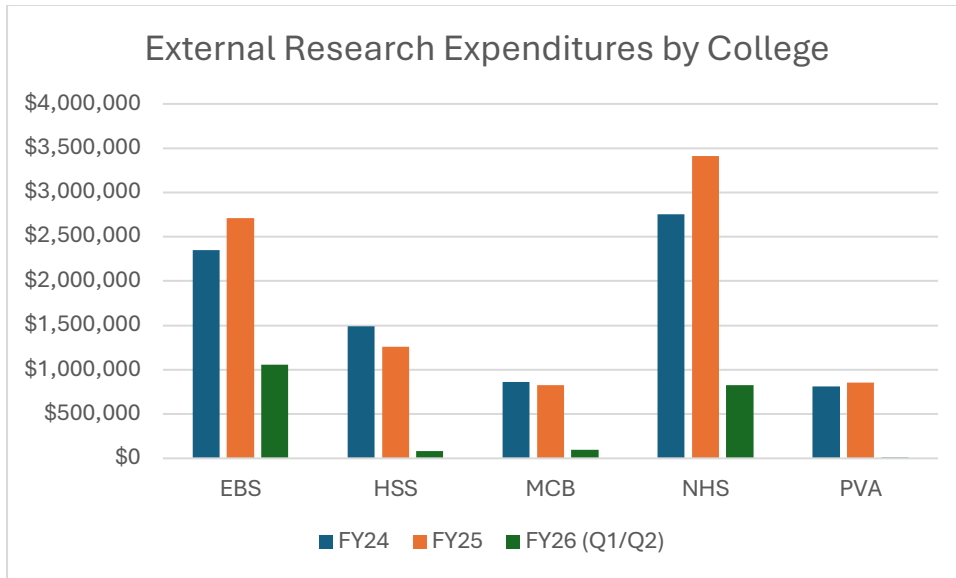


Figure 4. Graphical representation of external research expenditures by college in FY24, FY25, and FY25 (Q1 and Q2).

VI. ORSP Staffing

To meet the growing demand to support research, scholarship, and create works ORSP has increased support staff over the last several years. In FY24, ORSP started a new organizational structure, having three directors: Director of Sponsored Programs, Director of Development, and Director of Compliance. All staff working on pre and post award support reported to the Director of Sponsored Programs, and the Animal Care staff reported to the Director of Compliance. In November of 2025 the Director of Development position, which had become vacant, was permanently cut as part of university wide staff reductions. Additionally, in August 2025 ORSP created a Research Faculty Associate position filled by a faculty member (Jieun Lee) committing 70% of their time to ORSP related functions. The Research Faculty Associate is focused on supporting many of the functions previously covered by the Director of Development. With the hiring of a new Director of Sponsored Programs (Brian Cullum) in February 2026, the organizational structure was returned to a model with all staff reporting to the single Director of Sponsored Programs.

During the reporting period, staffing of support positions remained fairly constant, with two-three staff members providing pre-award support, one-two staff members providing post-award support, and one staff member supporting animal care (Table 13). However, there has been considerable staff turnover within positions, with ~60% of all ORSP positions turning over since FY24. The high level of staff turnover is particularly challenging because the staff require training in multiple specialized software packages, grant submission and administration portals, and grant compliance, in addition to needing to learn UNC specific processes and procedures. ORSP efforts need to focus on training staff members, professional development, and staff advancement pathways so that we can retain staff members for as long as possible.

Table 13. ORSP staffing through time, highlighting the start of new staff in green.

	FY24		FY25		FY26
	Q1/2	Q3/4	Q1/2	Q3/4	Q1/2
Dir. of Sponsored Programs	0 - vacant	1 new	1 continuing	1 interim	1 interim
Pre-Award Support	3 continuing	2 continuing	1 new/ 1 continuing	1 new/ 2 continuing	2 continuing
Post-Award Support	2 continuing	1 new/ 1 continuing	2 continuing	1 continuing	1 new/ 1 continuing
Dir. of Compliance	1 new	1 continuing	1 continuing	1 continuing	1 continuing
Animal Care	1 continuing	1 continuing	1 continuing	1 continuing	1 continuing
Dir. of Development	1 new	1 continuing	1 continuing	1 continuing	position cut