Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) Virtual Research Data Center (VRDC) Fees

CCW VRDC Fees Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Why does CMS charge me project fees and what do they include?
A: The CCW VRDC project fee will now be an annual fee that covers the cost of maintaining the project, in the CCW VRDC.
The project fee covers the following:
- ResDAC support
- Data extract processing
- Allocated amount of space
- Allocated number of output reviews
- Allocated amount of Databricks usage credits

Q: What are seat fees and what do they include?
A: CMS charges researchers who access data in the secure CCW VRDC a standard access fee per user or "seat." This fee covers CCW VRDC account creation, security, monitoring, seat licenses, and training. CMS has been, and will continue, charging the seat access fee on an annual basis; researchers and innovators must renew each seat every year in order for the user or "seat holder" to continue working on the study.

Q: What cluster options are available with Databricks?
A: CMS requires CCW VRDC seat holders to request an upgrade to their DUA's cluster size at the time of a project renewal and offers each DUA the default cluster size with two additional cluster configuration options:
- Enhanced data analysis cluster
- Artificial intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning cluster

More information about the cluster configuration options can be found in the *CCW VRDC Databricks Credit Upgrade and Purchase Policy* located on the Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC) website.

Q: What size options are available with the analytic container?
A: The standard analytic container size is medium, and there are two additional sizes for purchase:
- Large container
- Extra-large container

Requests to change the size of an existing analytic container can only be made during the CCW VRDC seat fee renewal process. More information about the analytic container size options can be found in the *CCW VRDC Analytic Container Policy* located on the Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC) website.

Fees for Researchers

RESEARCHER FEES	Option 1 "SAS ONLY"	Option 2 "FULL VRDC"
User Access Fee Per User/Per Year Includes: • CMS onboarding • Seat license • Operational support • Administrative fees	$20,000	$22,000
Project Fee Per DUA/Per Year Includes: • ResDAC assistance • Privacy board review • DUA review system tracking (EPPE) • Data extract process and access setup • Space allocation — 2 TB storage at DUA level • Output review — 3 output reviews per DUA per week up to 1 GB* • *With Option 2 – Full VRDC:* Databricks — 2,000 credits at the DUA level (includes R and Python)	$15,000	$18,000
RENEWAL FEES (per year) *Renewal is required to continue seat access after the initial 12-month period.* *Quarterly renewals are permitted if a full year (12 months) of access is not needed.*		
User access 'seat' renewal	$13,000	$15,000
Project renewal	$10,000	$13,000
Quarterly user access 'seat' renewal	$3,250	$3,750
Quarterly project renewal	$2,500	$3,250

*Multiple files may be downloaded in a single request. The total size of all the files cannot exceed 1 GB. The files cannot be zipped together.

Fees for Innovators

INNOVATOR FEES	Option 1 "SAS ONLY"	Option 2 "FULL VRDC"
User Access Fee Per User/Per Year Includes: • CMS onboarding • Seat license • Operational support • Administrative fees	$20,000	$22,000
Project Fee Per DUA/Per Year Includes: • ResDAC assistance • Privacy board review • DUA review system tracking (EPPE) • Data extract process and access setup • Space allocation — 5 TB storage at DUA level • Output review — 6 output reviews per DUA per week up to 2 GB* • *With Option 2 – Full VRDC:* Databricks — 4,000 credits at the DUA level (includes R and Python)	$25,000	$35,000
RENEWAL FEES (per year) *Renewal is required to continue seat access after the initial 12-month period.* *Quarterly renewals are permitted if a full year (12 months) of access is not needed.*		
User access 'seat' renewal	$13,000	$15,000
Project renewal	$20,000	$25,000
Quarterly user access 'seat' renewal	$3,250	$3,750
Quarterly project renewal	$5,000	$6,250

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Add-On Fees

ADD-ONs			
Item	**Fee**	**Request Timing**	**Frequency of Payment**
Quarterly data pulls for a DUA	$5,000	As needed	One-time fee
Additional Databricks credits (2,000 credits at the DUA level)	$1,500	At project renewal or one additional time throughout the project year	Renewed annually
Additional space (1 TB blocks at the DUA level)	$1,500	As needed	Renewed annually
Additional output reviews (3 reviews per week up to 1 GB at the DUA level)	$5,000	As needed	Renewed annually
Analytic Container		As needed	Renewed annually
Medium Container (Standard)	$4,000		
Large Container	$7,000		
Extra-Large Container	$15,000		
Additional data extract for an existing DUA (e.g., data needed for changes in cohort or additional requested files)	$2,000	As needed	Upon request