

Office of the Vice President for Research

Bridge Funding Program

Revised March 25, 2008

Purpose

The Office of the Vice President for Research's (OVPR) Bridge Funding Program is designed to sustain research projects that have lost extramural funding by providing one-time support to eligible Principal Investigators (PI) – Assistant, Associate and Full Professors – to assist with re-establishing external funding (e.g. NSF, NIH, DOD, ASC, etc).

Size of Award and Time Period

The size of the award will not exceed \$25,000 per year for up to two years. Applicants may only apply for one year's funding at a time. Applications will be accepted three times a year (see Timeline below for dates).

Funding Constraints

Faculty salary will not be supported by this mechanism and will remain the responsibility of the unit (college, school, department, center, institute) which incurred the original obligation. A letter of support will be required from the Department Chair, Dean or Director responsible for providing salary and space support to the applicant (see Application Requirements).

Assistance can be requested for the following expense categories:

- Lab supplies
- Animal Care
- Salaries/benefits for research support personnel

Bridge Funds cannot be used for:

- Travel
- Budget overdraft coverage
- PI and co-PI salaries (including summer salaries)
- Administrative costs (i.e., school and departmental surcharges)
- Equipment

Eligibility

A PI is eligible for Bridge Program funding, provided he/she:

- Has lost, or will lose most of his/her extramural funding within six months of the Bridge application deadline;
- Received extramural funding from peer-reviewed sources no longer than 18 months prior to the time of the application for Bridge Funding;
- Has made substantial efforts to re-establish funding, and in the opinion of the Dean is likely to be funded again.

Note additional requirements:

- PIs with multiple external grants may request support for the lapsed grant, but incentive bonuses on the active grants will be discontinued during the time of bridge funding;
- PIs who have submitted a proposal for national funding but who have not been reviewed yet should not submit a proposal until there is clear evidence that funding was denied;
- When extramural funding is re-established, all unspent funds must be returned to the Bridge Program to assist other investigators.

Exceptions to eligibility may be made by the Vice President for Research under unusual circumstances.

Application Requirements

To evaluate applications for Bridge Funding, the Office of the Vice President for Research requests the following:

1. Description of PI's funding history for the last five years, current financial needs, and attempts to re-establish funding.
2. A one-page summary statement (overview) of the research.
3. The progress report summary submitted to the external agency from the last year of the funded external grant that you are trying to bridge.
4. A listing of all publications during period of funding (specify period of funding).
5. A listing of all grant applications during period of funding (specify period of funding).
6. The review documents of the grant in question (including priority scores, if applicable) and information on the number of revised applications. Agency comments on unfunded proposals, priority scores and pay lines.
7. A description how you will address the deficiencies noted in the reviews of the non-renewed application, as well as how your use of bridge funding will lead to a successful renewal.
8. Provide a detailed budget of proposed expenditures and evidence of a scaled back, minimal research budget to enable the lab's continuance, using the categories of "personnel, lab supplies and miscellaneous." Add a brief explanation of the categories of funding requested.
9. A description of the availability of other funds, including the PI's F&A account, matching funds from the department and/or college and a plan for how these funds will be used.

10. A letter of support from the applicant's Department Chair, Dean or Director responsible for providing salary and space support to the applicant. Included should be an assessment of the likelihood of future funding, a financial plan for continuation of the research in the event extramural funding is not obtained, and evidence that the department/school is contributing to the continuance of research operations in an appropriate manner (e.g., graduate student support).
11. A biosketch of no more than 4 pages of the PI, in NIH or NSF format. Please do not include a full CV.

Second Year Request for Bridge Funding

In order to receive Bridge Funding for a second year, the applicant must provide information on efforts to restore external funding during the first year of support, and respond to points above.

Review of Applications and Funding Criteria

Review of applications will be carried out by a committee consisting of the Associate Research Deans, the Associate Vice President for Research, and three members appointed by the OVPR Faculty Research Advisory Committee. This committee will recommend which applications to fund, based on:

- Likelihood of eventual funding (using evidence such as the priority score, the nature of the criticisms, and how well these were addressed)
- The applicant's efforts to obtain external support

Although not a determining factor for funding, it is strongly suggested that the applicant obtain matching funds from the college, school or department. The department's and college/school's provision of matching funds are important indicators of how highly the work is regarded by research leadership.

Faculty members receiving Bridge Funding awards may be required by the Bridge Funding Committee to have an external reviewer critique the revised grant proposal prior to submission. Funding for the external review will be paid for by the OVPR.

Funds will not be released until the faculty member provides evidence of HIC or AIC approval, if applicable.

Timeline for Bridge Funding Applications

Applications for Bridge Funding (initial and second year requests) will be accepted three times per year: **the Monday on or following the 15th day of March, July and November.**

Awards will be competitive and all applications may not be funded.

Please submit all Bridge Funding proposals in electronic form as **one bookmarked pdf file** to Sarah James at: sjames@wayne.edu by 5:00 p.m. of the deadline date. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah by e-mail or at 577-8997.