

Policy Number: UFCD, Finance, 4.20
Effective Date: November 2007
Last Revised Date: March 2022
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Policy/Guideline Custodian: Associate Dean for Research
Category: Finance

Title

Policy on Guidelines for Bridge Funding

Policy

Policy Statement

Investigators may apply for bridge funding if, following a scientific peer- review of a new grant or competing renewal application, the Summary Statement provides very positive and encouraging comments overall and indicates the need for relatively minor changes. If the period of no-cost extension ends prior to submission of a competitive renewal application, the investigator will not be eligible for bridge funding.

Definitions

Eligibility

- Established Research Faculty
 - All full-time UFCD investigators with at least three years of continued external funding and excellent prospects for renewed funding are eligible to apply.
- Junior Research Faculty
 - The college recognizes the need to support junior investigators that are productive and have potential for future funding, such as those who are transitioning from K awards to R awards. Investigators with adequate start-up funding may not apply for bridge funding.

Procedures

Investigators may submit a request once notification of non-funding or a summary statement has been received from the federal agency.

Amount of Support

The standard amount for bridge funding is up to \$50,000 and a departmental or center match is expected. Funding may be determined based on contributions from other departments, centers or Principal Investigators.

Period of Support

Bridge funding is provided for a period of one year. In the event that the investigator's extramural grant is funded during the period of bridge support, unexpended funds in proportion to the time remaining in the bridge award will be returned to the funding source upon receipt of the Notification of Award. When the department or center has provided matching funds, both costs and refunds will be equally shared. All bridge funding terminates with extramural funding.

Allowable Costs

Funds may be used to support key personnel such as: lab staff, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students; equipment service contracts and maintenance; research supplies and research participants; and animal care. The funding may not be used to support the salary for Principal Investigators or tenured/tenure track faculty members, equipment purchases or travel.

Criteria

- A pending competitive renewal or new grant application.
- Demonstrate a need for funding and a lack of other resources.
- Lapse in support of postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in training.
- Productivity of the laboratory.
- Established funding record and documentation of potential future funding. A summary table of the status and scores (if posted) of current proposals (NIH summary statement is required) including the amount of the requested funding and the proposed budget.
- Co-investment by a department or center. Although not required these contributions will be considered as a positive aspect of the request.
- Bridge funding must be reviewed and approved by the PIs department chair.

Application

An eligible principal investigator should submit a formal letter to the dean, which addresses the above-referenced criteria and following:

- 1) A cover letter of one page or less explaining why bridge funds are needed
- 2) A copy of the unfunded/pending competitive renewal application and the scientific reviews (Summary Statement) for the study section
- 3) An anticipated schedule for renewal applications
- 4) A budget for bridge funding
- 5) A summary table (below)

- 6) A preliminary draft (maximum of three pages) of how the resubmitted proposal will address the concerns raised by the reviewers
- 7) A signature of PI and Department Chair or Center Director and other contributors when applicable

Evaluation Process

Qualified applications will be evaluated by the Associate Dean for Research; recommendations for funding must be approved by the Dean. If necessary, the Dean may consult with subject matter experts to provide input with regard to the possibilities of future external funding.

Details required supporting requests for bridge funding.

Table

PI	
Grant No.	
Title	
Personnel	
Proposed Period of Support	
Bridge Period	
Priority Score and Percentile (if listed)	
Amount Requested	
Matching Support	
Source of Matching Funds	
Preliminary Response to Reviewers' Concerns	Provide an attachment of no more than three pages.

Contact Information

Policy Contact

Dr. Valeria Gordan, Associate Dean for Research

Important Dates

- Effective Date, November 2007
- Revision and Review Date, April 2015, Approver: Dr. Teresa Dolan, Dean

- Revision and Review Date, March 2020, Approver: A. Isabel Garcia, Dean
- Revision and Review Date, March 2022, Approver: A. Isabel Garcia, Dean