

PRESIDENTIAL BRIDGE FUNDING 2014-2015 Winter Regulations & Guidelines

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

Presidential Bridge Funding is meant to support **established investigators** threatened by an imminent lapse in research support.

AMOUNT

The dollar award for bridge funding is \$50,000. Grants are made for the duration of the fiscal year during in which the funds are awarded. Up to 10 proposals may be funded.

ELIGIBILITY

Awards will be made only to OHSU investigators.

The principal investigator (PI) must be an independent scientist. Independence is defined by:

- Rank at the level of assistant professor or above;
- Committed institutional support such as space and salary;
- A track record of first-authored or senior-authored publications;
- A recent history of significant federal (or similar) funding (e.g. R01); and
- Imminently planned or pending application for funding on a national level.

Post-doctoral fellows and similar trainees are not eligible to apply as PI for this award. New investigators, as defined by the National Institutes of Health, are likewise ineligible.

KEY DATES

- **Applications are to be submitted electronically via e-mail to Research Funding & Development Services (funding@ohsu.edu) no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2014, by 5 p.m.**
- Review of proposals: early/mid January 2015
- Notification of award: approximately February 15, 2015
- Funding period: 1 year. Funds may be carried forward with permission and must be spent by December 31, 2015.

REGULATIONS

1. Budgets should be used to support activities that will re-establish national funding (e.g. from the NIH, the NSF, the American Heart Association, or similar agencies). No funds are awarded for PI salary, indirect costs, travel, capital expenditures, secretarial support or tuition. Awarded funds must be used to support activities at OHSU and must be spent at OHSU. PI salary is no longer allowed under this mechanism. Funds cannot be used to support VA research personnel. Any exceptions must be approved by the senior vice president for research.
2. Applicants may request funds for traditional bridging or to retool their research if recent R01s have not been successful. For example, if your NIH resubmission was not successful, you may need to create new data for a separate but related project. This mechanism is NOT applicable for PIs who have other R01 or similar funds. In other words, *this is not a source for traditional pilot funding*, and you should not apply under this mechanism if you have multiple R01s. See the review criteria below for more information.
3. Awards are for \$50,000.
4. Research Grants and Contracts does not require review of Presidential Bridge Funding proposals at the time of submission. If funded, RGC will require an ePPQ and will check compliance before funds are disbursed.
5. Research involving human subjects, animals or recombinant DNA must be approved by the appropriate institutional review board (IRB/IACUC/IBC). Investigators are encouraged to submit their Bridge Funding application, and other institutional approval documents simultaneously but it is not a requirement. No funds will be distributed until IRB/IACUC/IBC approval is obtained.
6. Presidential Bridge Funding is assigned a general ledger program code for expenditures. Funds are dispersed directly to departments in an unrestricted account to reimburse the departments for expenses incurred. Specific details on this will be sent if you are awarded funds.
7. **Awards must be expended by June 30 of the fiscal year in which they are awarded unless permission is granted to carry forward.** At the end of the fiscal year, department administrators must ensure that all appropriate charges are applied against the assigned program code.
8. **If you receive significant funding during the fiscal year, any unspent bridge funding will be evaluated for continuing need and may be returned to the program. This will allow other investigators in need to apply.**

9. **A progress report will be due November 1** of the fiscal year following your award. This report must detail how the funds were spent and the success of the funds in re-establishing national funding. Separate instructions for these reports will be sent to investigators.
10. Applicants may apply for bridge funding more than once. Those who have received bridge funding in the past are not precluded from re-applying. However, if you request funding for the same project, you must stipulate how this round of bridge funding is significantly different than the previous award. Priority may be given to those who have not received bridge funding in the past.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL REVIEW

- Strong preference will be given to applications from investigators with a history of recent national research funding (NIH R01, R21 or similar sources). “Recent” is defined as within the past 3 years.
- Bridge funding will be considered appropriate under the following conditions:
 - For Investigators who are near the payline and need funds to sustain them until their revised applications are successful. Evidence that the applicant has attempted grant renewal and has received near-fundable priority scores (and hence is more likely to succeed in a subsequent attempt) will be an advantage.
 - Given the national funding climate, OHSU recognizes that many mid-career investigators may find themselves with the need to retool their research in order to preserve their laboratories. Investigators who make a compelling case for the need for new data to reestablish funding will be considered for bridge funding. To be considered eligible for such funds, applicants should NOT have other sources of funding (e.g., applicants should not apply for bridge funding for retooling their research if they already have other R01s). This is not meant to serve as a new source of pilot funding but to preserve the work and investment of productive researchers who are in danger of having to close down their laboratories. It is essential to outline a clear plan for how new data will support new applications. A specific plan for new funding sources, including potential new RFAs, will be considered favorably. Investigators should describe their retooling plan and how it will make them more competitive.
- All applications must specifically state how the bridge funding will enable the investigator to gain future large-scale or national funding.
- All applicants must provide compelling and clear evidence that bridge funding is necessary for continuation of their research program. PIs with significant on-going research support will be given a lower priority.
- Combining Presidential Bridge Funding with department or other institutional emergency support is allowed for any applicant and will be weighed in the evaluation on a case by case basis. If such support is available, evidence for it must be included in the application.
- Funding requests from all applicants will be evaluated based on a combination of persuasive scientific merit, the likelihood of securing renewed funding, and the urgency of the financial need.
- Applicants should write their application specifically for bridge funding.
- Applicants must clearly detail the urgency of the need for bridge funding.
- Proposals should include details about how the proposed experiments will advance the science to a fundable level.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are screened for scientific merit by competitive peer review. The Review Committee will provide brief critiques of each application. Applicants will be advised of the decision by the Committee after the meeting (by letter to the address provided on your application). The Committee will make recommendations to the senior vice president for research; the senior vice president for research will make final decisions concerning funding.

Funds will be available almost immediately upon notification of award as long as compliance documentation is in order. If awarded Bridge Funds, the Notice of Award will be sent as a letter to the PI's mail code via campus mail.

II. PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL

Applications must be submitted to funding@ohsu.edu

Please supply all information requested. Failure to do so may cause the application to be administratively withdrawn.

Describe the general purpose of your work, significance, and research plan clearly, so that the Review Committee can appraise it fairly. The Review Committee comprises senior-level OHSU investigators, so be sure to write for an interdisciplinary audience. Please write your proposals specifically for bridge funding. Applicants who merely paste in their R01s typically do not score well. The Review Committee must know with as accurate detail as possible what is to be done with the funds. This should be detailed in the budget section of the application. Likewise, the Committee must be able to accurately understand the status of your funding, including no-cost extensions, when all funds end, and similar information that will allow them to assess the actual state of your finances.

The following documents must be attached to the email as two separate PDF files:

PDF #1: There are four components to PDF #1: cover letter, application, biosketch, and letter of support. Use the following naming convention: PI Last Name.First Initial_bridgefunding_2014. (e.g. Collins.F_bridgefunding_2014.pdf).

- **One page cover letter**, describing the following:
 - The nature of the funding gap and the need for bridge funding
 - Efforts that have already been made to secure funding
 - How the bridge funds would be used to support the research program
 - Explicitly state how bridge funds would contribute to the likelihood of renewal of funding—what experiments are critical?
- **Application** forms may be found here: <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/administration/research-funding-development/funding-portal/internal-funding/bridge-funding.cfm>. Application includes:
 - Administrative Information
 - Other Support (no more than 2 pages)
 - Specific Aims (1 page)
 - Research Plan (no more than 4 pages)
 - Budget
- **NIH-style biosketch** of the PI only (four pages maximum). The biosketch should be in the NIH format (including personal statement and publication limit of 15). Current and pending support should not be included in the biosketch; rather, list this information in the application form under “Other support.”
- **Letter of support** from your department or division chair acknowledging approval of your bridge funding application and describing any institutional or departmental sources of bridge funding. Please note: The letter of support from the department chair or institute director is heavily considered in the review. It should clearly describe the level of commitment offered to the applicant during the bridging period and beyond. Evidence of tangible, stable support (e.g., space, salary, research support) that demonstrates a clear commitment to the applicant’s long-term development as a member of the University is important. Uncertainty as to the level of this support can lessen enthusiasm for the funding request during its review.

PDF #2: There are two components to PDF #2: previous relevant reviewer comments/reviews and abstracts/budgets for current and pending grants. Use the following naming convention: PI Last Name.First Initial_bridgefunding.OTHER_2014. (e.g. Collins.F_bridgefunding.OTHER_2014.pdf).

- All relevant previous reviewers’ comments and priority scores (e.g. NIH summary statements or other formal reviews – **do not include meeting rosters**)
- Abstracts and budgets for current and pending funding.

APPLICATION FORMAT

- Font & Margins: Arial 11, 0.5” margins all around (top, bottom, left, right)
- The application should be single-spaced
- The Research Plan pages must be consecutively numbered, including references (reference pages will not count against the 4-page limit)
- Figures, graphs, legends, etc. can have a smaller font size as long as they are legible.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Submit your application via email to funding@ohsu.edu with the attached PDF documents by **Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at 5 p.m.**

For questions about the proposal, contact Research Funding & Development Services at funding@ohsu.edu or 503.494.1085.