

Number: 5.31

DESCRIPTION:	Research Bridge Funding		
RESPONSIBLE:	OFFICE OF RESEARCH AFFAIRS		
PURPOSE:	The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Research Bridge Funding Program.		
FREQUENCY OF REVIEW:	Annually		
CREATED:	July 2024	REVISED:	N/A

UND SMHS Research Bridge Funding Program

The UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences Research Bridge Funding Program supports promising research projects that have lost extramural funding but which can demonstrate evidence of 1) forthcoming reinstatement of previous extramural support or new extramural support. The program aims to sustain experienced research teams during extramural funding gaps.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Principal Investigators (PIs) must have lost or will lose their federal or equivalent extramural funding within six months of the Bridge Funding application deadline. Priority is given to PIs on an award for which a renewal application was submitted in a timely manner.
- PIs should have a track record of continuous funding from peer-reviewed extramural sources over the past five years.
- PIs must demonstrate substantial effort to regain funding and be deemed likely by the Dean or Associate Dean for Research to be funded again.

Application and Funding Details:

- Pending fund availability, applications are accepted three times a year (November, March, and July) and are competitive.
- The maximum bridge fund will be up \$125,000 or 50% of the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC, net of subaward and capital equipment) in the final year of funding of the grant for which competitive renewal was sought, whichever is less. Bridge funding is dependent on available resources.
- If the PI has unrestricted funds, these funds must be declared and subtracted from the bridge funding proposal. If there are “no cost extension (NCE)” funds remaining at the end of the final year of funding for the grant, the NCE funds must also be subtracted from the

total bridge funding request. Available departmental bridge funding support must also be subtracted from the total bridge funding request.

- Bridge funding is intended to provide up to 12 months of project support.
- Bridge funds are intended for essential research activities, salaries, supplies, and minor equipment for a specific grant for a competing renewal application. Ordinarily, capital equipment, sub-award or sub-contract, and salary support outside SMHS is not supported by this program.

Application Procedure:

- PIs must submit a cover letter, a detailed extramural peer-reviewed funding history for the past five years, a current NIH biosketch or CV, a list of efforts to regain funding (including pending grants), balance of any local funds, and evidence of any departmental support.
- A specific timeline for resubmission or a new grant application is also required.
- Applications should also include a budget with justification of necessary expenditures and may not exceed \$125,000.
- A letter from the Chair explaining the presence or lack of departmental support and assessment of future funding prospects from the applicant is also required.
- Proposals are submitted directly to the Associate Dean for Research with a CC to the administrator for the Research Affairs Office as a single PDF file. Submission deadlines are November 1, March 1, and July 1.

Selection and Follow-Up:

- Decisions are made by the Dean and communicated within 30 days of application submission.
- The applicant's past research productivity and funding history, likelihood of securing future external funding, and appropriateness of the budget request will be considered.
- PIs must report on the success of securing extramural funding, with any remaining bridge funds returned upon reinstatement of external support.
- All research activities must comply with University regulatory standards.

This program aims to provide temporary support to research teams, ensuring the continuity of projects until full external funding is restored, thereby sustaining impactful research efforts.