

Bridging Support Program for School of Dentistry Federally Funded Research

Bridging Support Funds

Even the most successful investigators experience funding gaps during their careers. The School of Dentistry (SoD) provides limited support to continue federally funded research projects that receive a non-fundable peer review score but are likely to be funded on resubmission or future modified submissions. An investigator may request up to \$50,000 from the SoD, with a required 1:1 match from the investigator's home department. The potential total Bridging Fund award cap is \$100,000.

Applications should demonstrate a bridge between an existing research project and eventual support. The funds should bridge an existing federal grant to a future federal grant, and there must be evidence that the PI has applied or will apply for continued federal funding for the same or associated project. The funds should not be used to support a project that has been repeatedly denied or one that lacks an obvious link between existing and eventual future funding.

Guidelines and Working Principles

- It is expected that an investigator will have secured their home department's commitment for a 1:1 match when applying for Bridging Support from the school.
- The faculty's appointing unit must agree to provide at least 5% non-sponsored research effort to the applicant, in addition to the cost-share matching requirement.
- An investigator may apply for one round of funding per 12-month cycle.
- Awarded funds are available for a 12-month period.
- The mechanism is designed to assist investigators for whom the bridging funds would be their only source of support. Other sources of support should be considered and exhausted before Bridging Support is requested.
- These funds are not intended as a supplement or complement for start-up packages for new faculty members.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, as long as sufficient funds are available to fund Bridging proposals.

Eligibility

All full-time, on-campus tenure track faculty members who hold a primary appointment in the School of Dentistry and whose R01 or equivalent major federal grant application has received a score indicating a high likelihood of funding (<25 percentile), are eligible to apply. However, applications will not be accepted for projects intended to be carried out while the PI is on sabbatical, from visiting professors, from faculty lacking evidence of independent research, or from faculty whose future work will not continue at UM School of Dentistry.

Funding Amounts

Up to \$100,000 (\$50K from the school, \$50K from the PI's department) is available to maintain projects over a short duration (one year or less).

If a Notice of Grant Award is received during the Bridging Support award period, use of the Bridging funds will be discontinued at the earliest opportunity and project expenditures will be shifted to the PI's award, retroactive to the award's activation date at UM. If the shift needs to occur quicker than the award activation at UM, approval for pre-award expenses may be requested from ORSP. The Office of Research will coordinate this process.

Investigator's Department Obligation

An equal amount of matching funds (up to \$50,000) is R EQUIRED from the PI's department.

How to Apply

When applying, please contact the School of Dentistry Grants and Contracts Office (dent-grants@umich.edu) at least 2 weeks prior to your planned submission date.

Please submit all application materials to the School of Dentistry's InfoReady website. All required fields should be completed on the competition's InfoReady website located at <https://umichdent.infoready4.com/#>

Application Materials

A. Cover Letter

Please describe the circumstances for the specific request; status of external funding applications or funding review related to the request, and a clear statement about expectations for external funding.

B. Department Match Confirmation

Please provide the confirmation of the department match and the 5% research effort support as attachments.

C. Budget and Budget Justification

Please describe how the Bridging Support will be used. Requests should be limited to the minimum funding necessary to maintain a defined project over a short duration. These funds are not expected or meant to support a PI's entire lab. Awards may not cover budget reductions in existing awards from external sponsors, cost overruns, travel, salary support for the principal investigator, or major equipment purchases. A narrative that fully explains the relationship of costs to the proposed activity and the basis for cost estimates should be included. If salaries are included, please itemize each person's salary and fringe benefits. The narrative should include a clear statement about any other funding sources available to the principal investigator for the project. The investigator should be clear about the potential use of any department-based research "reserve" or "discretionary" funds that are available.

D. Submitted Grant Proposal Documents

Please provide the following pages from the submitted grant application for which bridging support is requested. If the reviewer requires further information, a copy of the entire NIH grant may be requested.

- i. Abstract
- ii. Specific Aims
- iii. Summary of previous work related to proposal (1 page maximum)
- iv. Biosketch. An NIH-style biosketch, using the current format, is required for the PI on the application.

- v. The Summary Statement for the most recent federal grant proposal along with the (proposed) response to the summary statement, indicating how the resubmission will address the criticisms of the study section. (3 pages maximum)
- vi. Experimental plan for use of the requested funds. (5 pages maximum)
- vii. Other support pages in NIH format.

Review Criteria for Applications

The primary criterion for awards is outstanding science. Other evaluation criteria will include:

- Ability to bridge an established project and associated research group;
- Likelihood of external support for the project;
- Quality and significance of proposed research and research group to the overall research environment of the school;
- The likely impact of this work on the field and its potential to enhance the scholarly distinction of the University, and
- The productivity of the applicant.

There must be a high probability that the investigator will receive external funding within the next 12 months.

Review Committee

The Associate Dean for Research will constitute a committee of three School of Dentistry tenure track faculty members, to be augmented if needed by one additional member on an ad hoc basis who may be from outside of the SoD. Faculty members with any perceived conflict of interest will be excluded from the pool of potential reviewers.

Committee Chair: Associate Dean for Research

Ex Officio: Dean of the School