Long School of Medicine Bridge Funding Program

Due date: Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. CST on the 15th of February, May, August, and November. If the 15th falls on a weekend, the Monday immediately following that weekend is the deadline.

Please direct questions to SOMResearch@uthscsa.edu or 210-450-8392.

Mission: Time-limited disruptions in extramural funded research programs can occur even for highly successful researchers. This internal funding opportunity is in support of the LSOM Research Strategic Plan and is designed to provide up to 12 months of support for investigators that are extremely likely to obtain external funding to continue their research programs.

Eligibility: The Bridge Funding Program is available to faculty with a primary appointment in the LSOM and an established track record of obtaining extramural funding who are experiencing a temporary disruption of funding that, without institutional support, would have a substantial adverse impact on the overall long-term viability of their research program. This program is not intended to support faculty with existing extramural funding if other grants have remaining years of funding, or pilot funds for new projects. Investigators who anticipate a loss of all extramural funding within three to six months of the application date are eligible to apply, provided the proposed start date is no earlier than when funding is expected to expire. In some instances, the Dean’s Office may require the investigator’s department to cost share bridge funding. Applications will be administratively reviewed. It is possible that investigators from departments with reserves may not be eligible for bridge funding.

Amount and Term: Requests for funds of up to $75,000 will be considered for project periods of up to 12 months; proposals with smaller budgets will be considered and reviewed under the same criteria. Please construct your budget for the minimum amount needed to sustain your research program to ensure funds are available to all investigators in need of this support. Approximately $225,000 in bridge funding is available for FY19.

Application Submission: Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. CST on the 15th of February, May, August, and November. If the 15th falls on a weekend, the Monday immediately following that weekend is the deadline. During periods when an adequate number of applications are not received, applications may be forwarded to the next review cycle.

Applications must be submitted via Survey Monkey Apply, https://apply-uthscsa.smapply.io/.

The application consists of:

- Brief description of research program (1 page)
- Why funds are needed and how they will be used (1 page)
- Strategies for obtaining additional funding to sustain the research program, including target mechanism(s) (1 page)
- Budget (NIH format)
- Budget justification (NIH format and form page). (Principal investigator salary is not allowed)
- Summary of submitted and pending grants and five (5) year funding history (2-page limit)
- Complete list of all publications (no page limit)
- Faculty member’s NIH Biosketch (use new format, 5-page limit)
- Signed letter of recommendation from department chair
- Summary statements of recently reviewed grants
- Statement of all funding resources available to faculty member signed by department chair (use Financial Status of Investigator template)

Budget and financial policies: The maximum budget for these one-year awards is $75,000, although proposals with smaller budgets will be considered and reviewed under the same criteria. Facilities and Administrative (F&A, indirect
cost) expenses will not be reimbursed. Funds may not be used to support the salary of the PI(s), faculty-level collaborators, or graduate students. Although the PI(s) should be listed in the personnel section of the summary page, there is no minimum effort requirement. Salary (plus associated fringe benefits) may be requested for non-faculty support staff, including post-doctoral fellows.

Other allowable expenses include: equipment essential for the project (maximum $10,000, including computer hardware); PI or Co-PI travel to relevant scientific meetings (maximum $1,500); consumable laboratory supplies; animal purchase and per diem; IIMS, CTRC, GCCRI, UTSA, or other core facility fees; consultation fees (maximum $5,000); computer time; software; publication / presentation expenses; costs related to human subject enrollment and management (listed as “Patient Care Costs” on budget page). Other expenditures will be allowed that can be justified as essential for the completion of the project. Account management will be centralized within the LSOM.

Review process and criteria will include: Merit will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Productivity of research program
- Funds available to support research program
- Reviewer comments from recent grant submissions
- Likelihood of obtaining extramural funding
- Fit with priorities identified in the SOM Research Strategic Plan (Visit http://som.uthscsa.edu/Research/strategicplan.asp for more information)

Review Committee: A standing committee of Long School of Medicine faculty members will review applications to this program. All committee members must have a long-standing history of extramural funding and peer-review experience. The Committee will reflect the diversity of research within the LSOM with faculty members from both basic science and clinical departments. Each member agrees to serve a 12-month term, with the possibility one additional term beyond the initial commitment. Reviewers will receive $1,000/year into a discretionary account of their choosing, the committee chair will receive $1,500.

Bridge funds will be awarded based upon quality of the application, candidate’s productivity and potential for receiving external funding including scientific accomplishments and summary sheets from recent grant application reviews, availability of funds, and alignment of the application with strategic initiatives within the School of Medicine.

Awards will be made for a one-year project period. Progress reports will be requested at 6, 12, and 24 months after the initiation of funding in order to assess the long-term success of the Bridge Funding Program. Applicants must be up to date on compliance with institutional conflict of interest disclosure policies. UTHSCSA Certificate of Proposal (COP) is not required. If external funds are acquired at any point after initiation of bridge funding and before the end of the 12-month funding period, residual funds must be returned to the Dean’s Office.