

**The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
Research Development and Enhancement Awards Program**

Guidelines for Bridge Grant Program

Recommended by Research Advisory Council: April 24, 2008

1. OVERVIEW

An overriding goal of the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (OVPRGS) is to stimulate, coordinate, and facilitate efforts to develop new initiatives and enhance existing research programs within the HSC.

In an increasingly competitive environment for research support, it is difficult to sustain uninterrupted funding of existing research programs. The goal of the Bridge Grant Program is to provide support for existing funded research projects that have a demonstrated likelihood of continued funding after resubmission. The Bridge Grant Program thus provides a mechanism for maintaining viability of existing research programs and thereby mitigating against the loss of trained research staff due to a temporary interruption in extramural support.

2. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 2.1. The Bridge Grant Program requires at least a 1:1 matching commitment from the PI's HSC Component. This match may come from the Dean/Director and/or the Department Head/Center Director.
- 2.2. The maximum amount of bridge funds available from the OVPRGS per request is \$25,000 per year. Therefore, considering the required component match, the total bridge funding per PI could be up to \$50,000 per year or more depending on the amount provided by the component.
- 2.3. Component matching funds must be spent first, prior to the distribution of funds from the OVPRGS.
- 2.4. If any other source of funds becomes available to the PI, spending on bridge grants provided by the OVPRGS will cease, with any remaining funds being returned to the OVPRGS for other faculty to advantage.
- 2.5. Bridge Grant Program awards will be made for a one-year period, with the possibility of a second year of support.
 - 2.5.1. Funding after the first year will be available contingent on adequate progress in meeting the stated project goals for the bridge period and on resubmission of the extramural project within the approved timeline of the bridge award.
 - 2.5.2. Renewal of Bridge Grant Program awards for a second year will follow the same process as the initial bridge funding request.
 - 2.5.3. Support from the Bridge Grant Program will stop once the project has successfully re-competed.

3. EXPENDITURE RESTRICTIONS

Salaries and benefits for technical staff members, lab supplies, and animal care charges are appropriate uses of bridging funds. Faculty salaries, travel, and equipment expenditures are not allowed through the Bridge Grant Program.

4. ELIGIBILITY

A faculty member may request bridge funding if he/she is:

- 4.1. A Principal Investigator of an existing major competitively reviewed funded grant (eg. R01, P01, etc), which has been submitted for competitive renewal but will not be funded; or
- 4.2. A Principal Investigator who has unsuccessfully attempted to convert a smaller grant (e.g., R03, R21, AHA or JDRF Grant-in-Aid, etc.) to an R01 or equivalent level grant. NIH K awards are not eligible for the Bridge Grant Program.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

Requests for Bridge Grant Program grants will be accepted at any time using the standard process for applications to the Research Development and Enhancement Program:

(<http://www.tamhsc.edu/departments/orgs/research/RDEAP.html>).

- 5.1. Letters of support from the appropriate Dean/Director and/or Department Chair/Center Director that clearly indicate the commitment to providing the required matching funds as described in section 2.1;
- 5.2. Grant summary statements for all renewal reviews;

6. APPENDICES

The following additional items should be submitted as appendices to the application:

- 6.1 Expected timeline, include:
 - 6.1.1. Date of resubmission;
 - 6.1.2. Date of expected notification; and
 - 6.1.3. Date of expected funding.
- 6.2. Detailed budget justification. Indicate how current funding is supporting the lab (supplies/personnel) and how the Bridge Grant funds will be used.