



Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Notification date: 2/16/2024

FY24
Bridge Funding Partnership Program
Application Guidelines
DEADLINE: April 4, 2024

The **Bridge Funding Partnership Program (BFPP)** is a partnership between the Office of the Provost and the Schools designed to support the research program of faculty who are experiencing lapses in funding and require institutional support to maintain their research program. The BFPP is guided by two principles. First, the matching funds from the Provost's Office are viewed as a co-investment to enhance the ability of the schools to fund the maximal number of deserving proposals and maintain productive research programs. Second, the review process is best managed by individual schools, as local decision-making maximizes the chances of identifying the most deserving applicants with the best chance of renewing their extramural support.

General Program Guidelines: Some general principles are offered for consideration for the school planning and peer review processes. However, each individual school should develop and implement a bridge funding program best tailored to their unique needs. Suggested guidelines include:

1. Program Eligibility

- Bridge funding program awards will be restricted to full-time members of the faculty (tenure, C-E, and research tracks) with established records of external funding.
- Bridge funding awards will be targeted towards recently unfunded but established research programs with associated support personnel.
 - Applications should have been submitted for renewal to the original funding agency at least once prior to the request for bridge funding.
- To best utilize limited resources, prospective awardees will have already explored other sources of potential interim support, such as any discretionary or departmental funds.
- Investigator proposals that have exceeded all opportunities for renewal should not be considered.

2. Applicant Submissions

- Applicants must document their history of extramural funding, both lapsed and active.
- Applicants must indicate the way bridge funds will be used to maintain the productivity of their unfunded research program.
- Applicants must provide a detailed research sustainability plan.
- Reviews of unfunded applications will be made available upon request.

3. Selection Process

- Long term funding sustainability of the research program being supported after bridge

funding is exhausted will be the primary driver for award selection.

- Peer reviews of proposals should be taken into consideration as this is a major indicator of renewal potential.
- Schools will have clearly defined administrative oversight of the bridge funding mechanism and ultimate decision-making authority.

4. Request for Support & Reporting

- Upon completion of their internal review, schools will request central matching funds by submitting the PI names, titles of proposals, and award amounts by category to the Senior Vice Provost for Research.
- Schools will ensure accountability by monitoring the progress of the laboratory, expenditures, and provide final financial reports to the Senior Vice Provost for Research.
- Schools will notify the Office of the Vice Provost for Research if extramural funding is awarded prior to or at the completion of the one-year bridge funding.

Securing Supplementary Support: Under all circumstances, the Provost's Office will strive to provide equivalent matching support to a school's bridge program funding request.

1. Funding Parameters

- The Provost's Office will provide a maximum, dollar-for-dollar, match against school funds up to \$50,000 per faculty applicant.
- Given the mission of this partnership program and limited resources, faculty salaries, capital equipment, and infrastructure expenditures will not be considered for matching support from the Provost's Office.
- All other forms of program support will be considered including research associates, postdoctoral fellows, lab technicians, graduate students, and travel expenses.

2. Provisions

- Schools may choose to award bridge funding at any point they deem necessary, but for financial management purposes, the Provost's Office would prefer to limit payment of matching funds to once annually.
 - Bridge funds will be deposited into the appropriate school accounts.
 - The duration of individual bridge funding awards and the Provost's commitment is limited to one-year or until the start date of renewed external project funding, whichever comes first.
-
- Requests for BFPP support should be submitted as a single PDF file to yprgrant@upenn.edu.
 - Requests for bridge funding for faculty should be submitted in a prioritized list.
 - Subject line of email submission should be, BFPP and School name, e.g. BFPP_SAS
 - If you have any questions, please contact James McGonigle at jmcgon@upenn.edu.
 - Deadline for submission for FY24 is **April 4, 2024**.