

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Medicine, Office for Research**

Bridge Funding Policy

The Department of Medicine Bridge Funding Program is intended to minimize disruption of existing research projects that have temporarily lost funding, but which received evaluations indicative of success in the next round of competitive review. Department of Medicine faculty investigators who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for bridge funding from the Department of Medicine.

I. Criteria for Eligibility

The investigator's NIH (R-series only), NSF or VA competitive renewal application was not funded.

A new application is not eligible, unless it substitutes for an existing research grant or represents the equivalent of an "A2" resubmission.

The competitive renewal must have scored better than the 35th percentile, or received excellent (or equivalent) ratings from NSF and VA applications.

Bridge funding is typically a one-time request but a second request may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Priority will be given to those investigators who lead two or less R-series or equivalent grants

II. Application Procedure

The investigator should submit the following to ShaDel Nix Williams (shadel@uab.edu)

- A copy of the grant application
- The NIH study section critiques or NSF or VA evaluations of the competitive renewal application
- A letter from the investigator indicating the specific consequences to the research program and laboratory personnel of losing the grant, the termination date of the current grant, and plans for resubmission including responses to major criticisms of the grant. The letter should also state that bridge funds will be relinquished as soon as additional funding is secured. Any research or salary support available to the investigator that was not reported to NIH, NSF or VA must be reported (e.g., foundation awards, discretionary funds, gifts). A granting agency contact (name and phone number) must be provided, which allows us to contact NIH to determine the current pay line.
- A letter from the investigator's Division Director that should include the Division's planned fiscal support for the investigator. If the investigator is an Assistant Professor, the letter should indicate the degree of enthusiasm for the investigator's research program and plans for promoting the investigator into a tenured position.

III. Selection and Funding Procedures

At least three DOM investigators will evaluate requests and recommend action. Awards will depend on availability of funds and be made at the discretion of the Chairman. The Chairman will also make a determination on whether to submit the application to the School of Medicine.* The total of any bridge award, including the funds provided by the Department of Medicine and the Division, will not exceed 50% of the direct costs of the competing renewal, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Bridge funds must be relinquished as soon as additional funding is secured.

*If the Chair determines that the application should be submitted to the SOM, the applicant's Division Director is responsible for drafting the Chair LOS.