ARD Bridge or Revision Funding Program
Request for Applications
January 2015

PURPOSE: The goal of this program is to provide funding to IANR faculty with an ARD appointment whose recent applications for extramural research funding received favorable reviews but were not funded. This program will support two categories of projects:

1) **Bridge** funding is meant to provide support between one extramurally funded project and another, with the intent being to sustain research projects while faculty reapply for extramural funding.

2) **Revision** funding is meant to provide support for faculty to revise and resubmit a new application to a federal research agency or a foundation that received meritorious scores, but was not funded. See “eligibility” for additional details.

This bridge or revision support mechanism is designed to provide a limited level of funding to maintain salaries for current project employees and/or trainees, collect additional preliminary data, and address the concerns of external reviewers thereby enhancing the competitiveness of IANR faculty for extramural research funding. This program is not designed to provide seed funding for collection of preliminary data used to support new applications for research funding.

TIMELINE: ARD will accept applications for bridge or revision funding on a quarterly basis throughout the year. Applications must be submitted and administrative routing completed in NUgrant by 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday of March, June, September, and December, 2015. Please allow at least six weeks between submission of an application and a final decision.

ELIGIBILITY: The Project Director (PD)/Principal Investigator (PI) must have a tenure-track appointment with ARD. Faculty with an adjunct appointment in IANR are also eligible if they have been previously grant-active and such grants were recorded as IANR research grants (PCS code - Research) in NUgrant. Applications may include co-PDs and collaborators that are affiliated with any University of Nebraska campus or be employed outside the University of Nebraska system; they need not be in a tenure-track position.

Applicants to the ARD Bridge or Revision Funding program must have been the PD/PI on an IANR-led competitive application for at least $450,000 (total costs) in research funding that was submitted to a federal agency or foundation within the previous 18 months. If the application was submitted to NIH, the application must have been scored. NIH applications that are not scored are not eligible for the ARD Bridge or Revision Funding program. If the application was submitted to USDA, NSF, or other federal research agencies or foundations, the application must have ranked in medium priority (or higher) or ranked in the top 33% of all applications submitted to the competitive grant program during the most-recent submission cycle. If the application was ranked in medium priority, the applicant must include evidence of communication with the federal Program Officer regarding their level of enthusiasm for resubmission of a revised application.

IANR faculty are also encouraged to consider applying for a Revision Award from the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED). Faculty are encouraged to consult with Deb Hamernik (dhamernik2@unl.edu) or Nathan Meier (NLM@unl.edu) to determine which program is a better fit for their project. IANR faculty will be limited to receiving one award from either the ARD Bridge or Revision Funding program or the ORED Revision Awards program during a
calendar year. The ORED Revision Awards are designed to provide a framework for dedicated technical and research administration assistance and, in cases where additional data collection or prior work is critical, funding to support further preliminary study. The RFA for ORED Revision Awards is available at: (http://research.unl.edu/facultyresources/docs/RevisionAwardsRFA.pdf)

Faculty interested in revising and resubmitting unfunded proposals that do not meet the eligibility guidelines described above are encouraged to contact Tisha Gilreath Mullen, Director Office of Proposal Development (TGilreathMullen2@unl.edu) and to utilize the ORED program for expert review of grant proposals (http://research.unl.edu/events/event2.php?eventID=345).

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION FORMAT:
Applications for bridge funding will be accepted ONLY via NUgrant (http://nugrant.unl.edu). Paper or emailed applications will not be accepted. If you do not know your login name and password please go to http://my.unl.edu/. To start an application, after login, click “[add new]” next to the “Internal Competitions” link. If you need additional assistance, please contact the grant specialist in your business center.

Failure to follow submission instructions or application format rules will result in the application being returned without review. Applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain answers to questions prior to submission and to obtain a scientific/technical review of their application from an experienced colleague prior to submission to this program.

Information required as part of the electronic NUgrant application:

1. **Abstract/Non-Technical Summary** (NUgrant form): Provide an overview of the plan to revise and resubmit an application for extramural research funding. The abstract should describe a plan for how the requested ARD bridge or revision funding will be used to maintain research programs and address reviewer concerns; abstracts should **not** summarize the revised application to be submitted for extramural funding. Describe the situation that creates a need for this bridge funding as well as the purpose or rationale for the project. Also include general statements describing the methods to be used to collect additional data/maintain research activities that will contribute to successful revision of an application, the expected outcomes/impacts, and the anticipated benefits. Provide information at a level that a scientist who is **not** a specialist in the field will understand.

2. **Project Description** (attached as a PDF): The project description should describe the plan of work for the requested ARD bridge or revision funding and **not** a plan of work for the revised application to be submitted for extramural funding. Include sufficient detail to convince reviewers of the project’s scientific merit consistent with the requirements of the federal funding agency. This section must be **written in language understandable to scientifically trained non-specialists**. The project description should also include information to demonstrate that the proposed work is important/relevant to Nebraska and that the revised application will adequately address comments from the previous review.

Type size must be 11 points or larger. Margins must be at least 1 inch on all four sides, and line spacing should not exceed 6 lines of text within a vertical space of 1 inch.

The project description must include the following:

a. Goals/Objectives/Expected Outputs from the original application (one page limit). Do **not** include the entire original application.

b. Complete copy of the reviewers’ recommendations, individual reviews, and summary
statement from the original submission. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include relevant correspondence with the Program Officer describing the relative level of enthusiasm for a revised application and evidence that the project fits the funding opportunity.

c. Applicant’s response to previous review (three page limit). Describe the work that will be performed with this ARD bridge or revision funding (not the work to be performed in the revised application for extramural funding). Also describe how each major issue cited in the previous review will be addressed in a revised application. Provide sufficient experimental methodology (including data analysis and interpretation) to convince reviewers that all of the previous reviewers’ concerns will be addressed. **Describe what the bridge funds will accomplish that cannot be achieved through other means.**

d. Revised (or new) goals/objectives/expected outputs for the revised application to be submitted (one page limit).

e. Roles and responsibilities of key personnel on this project, including amount of time committed to this project (one page limit).

f. Timeline for completing the proposed studies and resubmitting the revised application to specific grant programs (one page limit).

g. Literature citations (one page limit).

h. Plans for submitting other applications for extramural funding and how these applications relate to the current project (one page limit).

3. **List of Key Personnel** (NUgrant online form): Include a 2-page biographical sketch/vitae summary for the PD.

4. **Current & Pending Support** (NUgrant online form): List all funded and pending *internal* and *external* grants of all UNL faculty involved in the project. This form is available in NUgrant and this information is automatically provided for applications that have been routed through NUgrant. Key personnel that are not employed by UNL are not required to provide this information.

5. **Project Budget** (NUgrant online form): ARD bridge or revision grants are limited to a total of $50,000 for one year. Provide a budget and justification for the total amount requested for the entire project period. Salaries for technicians, postdoctoral fellows, or undergraduate students and stipends for graduate research assistants (GRA) are allowable expenses. Tuition remission is an allowable expense. Information regarding current rates for employee/student benefits is available at: [http://research.unl.edu/sp1/fringerates.shtml](http://research.unl.edu/sp1/fringerates.shtml). If funding is to be used for a full or partial GRA, a suitable graduate student must be available to start the project within 30 days of the project initiation date. If a student has not yet been identified by the end of that period, ARD will reevaluate the status of the application for funding. Funds from this program must not be used for construction, renovation, administrative assistance, international travel (including lodging or meals in a foreign country), summer salary for faculty, release time for teaching, or to purchase equipment. Sub-awards outside the UNL system are not allowed; however, collaborators at other institutions may invoice expenses to this project.

Departments/Units of PDs will be responsible for expenditures beyond the approved budget. Unless a formal request for a no-cost extension has been made and approved prior to the project’s termination date, any funds remaining after the end of the project will be transferred back to the ARD office.
REVIEW PROCESS:
The complete evaluation form will be available on the ARD website (http://ard.unl.edu). The ARD Dean and Associate Deans will make final funding decisions. Award announcements will be made within six weeks after the submission deadline.

If all application submission and format rules are met, applications will be evaluated on:
- Applicant’s response and plans to address the previous reviewers’ comments (40 points);
- Scientific merit, relevance, alignment with goals of the federal funding agency or foundation, and potential for funding (40 points);
- Qualifications of the project personnel (10 points); and
- Budget and budget justification (10 points).

OUTCOMES AND EXPECTATIONS:
All applicants for ARD bridge or revision funding are expected to participate in at least one proposal writing seminar sponsored by the Office of Research during the award period, if they have not already done so. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to work with the Office of Proposal Development (http://research.unl.edu/proposaldevelopment/home/) and to obtain an external review of their application (http://research.unl.edu/facultyresources/exreview.php) when preparing and submitting a revised application for extramural funding.

Questions about the submission process should be directed to Deb Hamernik, Associate Dean in ARD (dhamernik2@unl.edu or 402-472-2045).