

## ARD Bridge or Revision Funding Program

### Request for Applications

Jan 2017

---

IANR faculty seeking revision funding may be eligible for ORED Revision funding and should consider which program is appropriate for them prior to submission.

#### ARD Bridge or Revision Funding

**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.

#### ORED Revision Awards

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 Gary Brewer ([gbrewer2@unl.edu](mailto:gbrewer2@unl.edu)) or Nathan Meier ([NLM@unl.edu](mailto: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 through NUgrant by following this link, <https://research.unl.edu/internal-funding-opportunities/>, and clicking on Revision Awards, APPLICATION INFORMATION.

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

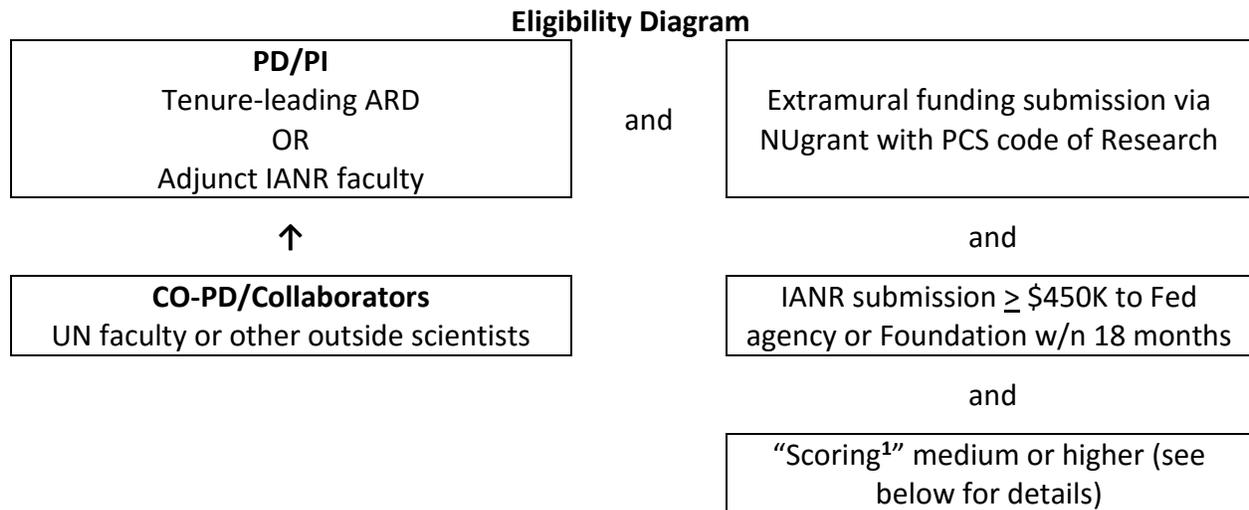
Before applying for **ARD Bridge or Revision Funding** IANR faculty must communicate with

appropriate IANR Unit Administrators (e.g., Department Head/Chair and/or Center Director) to discuss the availability of matching funds from the unit(s). ARD Bridge or Revision grants will *usually* require matching funds from the unit.

**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. Please allow at least six weeks between submission of an application and a final decision.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Eligibility is determined by your faculty appointment and by your external funding history.

Applications require the Project Director (PD) or Principal Investigator (PI) to meet the following requirements. Applications may include CO-PD and Collaborators from within or external to the UN system.



<sup>1</sup> **Scoring Information.** 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.

Check with Jared Evert in the ARD office ([jevert2@unl.edu](mailto:jevert2@unl.edu)) if you are unsure of your eligibility.

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION FORMAT:**

Applications will be accepted **ONLY** via NUgrant (<http://NUgrant.unl.edu>). 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. In the “Route Setup” screen, if multiple options exist for your department, select the internal competitions route that includes

Gary Brewer in IANR (**not** the CASNR internal competitions route). 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—limit of 250 words): 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 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.*

- A. Original Grant Application Description (basis of Bridge or Revision funding request)
  - i. Goals/Objectives/Expected Outputs from the original application (one-page limit). Do **not** include the entire original application.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. Applicant’s response to previous review (three-page limit).
- B. ARD Bridge or Revision Application
  - i. Describe the work that will be performed with this ARD Bridge or Revision funding. Cannot be the same as those to be performed in the revised application for extramural funding.

- a. 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.
  - ii. Revised (or new) goals/objectives/expected outputs for the revised application to be submitted (one-page limit).
  - iii. Roles and responsibilities of key personnel on this project, including amount of time committed to this project (one-page limit).
  - iv. Timeline for completing the proposed studies and resubmitting the revised application to specific grant programs (one-page limit).
  - v. Literature citations (one-page limit).
  - vi. Plans for submitting other applications for extramural funding and how these applications relate to the current project (one-page limit).
  - vii. Include evidence of communications (e.g., email message or letter) with relevant IANR Unit Administrators (e.g., Department Head/Chair and/or Center Director) regarding the availability of matching funds for this project.
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:** ARD Bridge or Revision grants are limited to a total of \$50,000 for one year. Applicants are encouraged to prepare and submit annual and total budgets using the Budget Template 10/11/16 (old format) available at: <https://unl.app.box.com/s/guh578jtb4d88tqys3pmsk6n53rsgtfc> . Enter budget information for the project, save the file as a PDF to your computer, and upload the PDF into your NUgrant application. 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>. 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 ARD Dean and Associate Deans will make final funding decisions. Award announcements will *usually* 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.

ARD expects funds to be spent as described in the budget in the application. Requests to carry forward funding will usually not be approved. If significant changes are needed to the proposed budget or the plan of work, ARD must approve these changes as soon as possible. Note that if you receive external funding for this project before the termination of this ARD Bridge or Revision grant, ARD may ask that you return the unspent funds from this award. In addition, ARD reserves the right to withhold indirect costs from future externally funded grants (related to the topic supported by this ARD Bridge or Revision grant) in an amount equal to the amount of this award as repayment for this ARD Bridge or Revision grant. This will help ensure future ARD support for additional requests for ARD Bridge or Revision grants.



Questions about the submission process should be directed to Gary Brewer, Interim Associate Dean in ARD ([gbrewer2@unl.edu](mailto:gbrewer2@unl.edu) or 402-472-8040).