ARD Strategic Funding

Requests must be submitted using NUgrant; applications will be reviewed within 2 weeks. Funding decision timelines will vary depending upon the complexity and scope of the request. Project titles and funding amounts of successful applications will be posted on the ARD website.

DESCRIPTION, INTENT, EXPECTATIONS and OUTCOMES: The intent of this program is to provide funding support for unique short-term needs not met by state allocations, grants, or other internal funding programs. We anticipate evaluating funding requests for travel to research sites, temporary operating and/or personnel salary shortfalls, equipment/equipment repair, cash-flow loans, facility upgrades, and other miscellaneous items. Faculty requests must have the full support of the appropriate unit administrator; awards will frequently require unit cost-share. Prior to making an application, faculty and unit administrations should determine if there are other existing internal competitive programs designed to address the need(s). Faculty travel support to make presentations, foundation-funded programs, multistate projects, and grant-related bridge funding support opportunities are available from ARD; the Office of Research Economic Development, the Research Council, and IANR affiliated colleges/divisions (CASNR, CEHS and/or Extension) are also potential funding sources. Funding requests for projects previously declined for funding under ARD’s other competitive internal grant programs should not be made, unless the original application was determined to be ineligible based on not meeting programmatic or eligibility requirements. We expect all funding provided under this program to strengthen and support ARD’s and UNL’s research mission.

ELIGIBILITY and ADMINISTRATION: On the project start date, the Project Director/lead Principal Investigator (PI) must have a tenure-track appointment with ARD; those with adjunct appointments or those with research assistant, associate or full professor titles are also eligible if they have been previously grant active and such grants or proposals have been recorded with a PCS code of “Research” and routed via IANR within UNL’s NUgrant system.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS and APPLICATION FORMAT: Applications for these awards will be accepted ONLY via NUgrant (http://nugrant.unl.edu). Paper, emailed, or oral requests will not be accepted. To start your application, after login, click “[add new]” next to the “Internal Competitions” link. Select “ARD Strategic Funding.” There is no maximum or minimum funding request amount for this program.

Funding requests should be prepared within NUgrant and submitted according to the guidelines outlined below:

1. PI(s) and Key Personnel (NUgrant online form). A 2-page biographical sketch/vitae summary for all faculty involved in the request is required.
2. Project Title, Start and End Dates include only the time period for which grant support would be provided/the period of time expenditures would occur. If a loan is requested, do not include the pay-back period in this section.
3. Other Project Support Indicate availability of unit/department cost-share, specific source, and amount.
4. Internal, Current, and Pending Support (NUgrant will populate most of the data)
5. Funding Request Description (Text box, 2500 character maximum) The request must include:

   - Goals/Objectives/Expected Outcomes
     As applicable, clearly state funding goal(s), objective(s), and how the funding supports UNL/ARD/Unit research programs. Also indicate the expected outcome(s) that would result if the funding request was granted.

   - Timeline
     Provide a timeline associated with the request (for example, when a loan would be repaid, when experimentation with a new pieces of equipment would commence, when a new grant would begin to cover expenses, etc.)

   - Future Funding Requests
     Outline how the requested funding will assist with future funding applications. As applicable, clearly specify specific agency (or foundation/industry) programs from which the PIs will seek future support.

6. Project Budget and Budget Justification (NUgrant online form): Budget and justification for the total amount requested. Do not include the cost-share amount in the budget form, but do outline total project costs and cost share details (including loan payback, if applicable) in the budget justification narrative. Seek assistance from your grant specialist regarding current rates for employee/student benefits. If a multi-year budget, the budget justification should include per-year totals that equal the total amount(s) requested.