

## Office of Research Bridge Funding Program

*Up to \$50,000 total is available for this program*

### Background

Unpredictable shifts in federal research funding can abruptly interrupt progress, regardless of a project's quality or impact. Bridge funding is essential to sustain momentum during these disruptions. By supporting investigators during temporary disruptions, we protect critical talent, preserve core research infrastructure, and ensure the continuity needed for long-term competitiveness. This strategic investment strengthens our ability to retain top faculty and students, sustain high-value research programs, and uphold the university's research excellence. The Office of Research will centrally manage the application, review, approval, and distribution processes for investigators seeking bridge funds through this mechanism. Up to \$50,000 is available for the program in total.

### Purpose

This program is for faculty who have a history of federally funded external research and who have experienced a disruption in their external funding over the past 18 months. Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interruption in funding due to circumstances beyond their control in order to qualify for bridge funding. They must also be pursuing external funding opportunities to sustain the project beyond the bridge funding award period.

### Key Dates

- RFA Release: April 22, 2026
- Application Deadline: May 20, 2026 at 5:00PM ET
- Award Notification: Week of June 1, 2026 (*anticipated*)
- Award Period: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

### Eligibility

Investigators with a primary appointment in the following colleges are excluded from the funding provided in this call and should contact their college leadership for alternative bridge funding resources: College of Arts & Sciences; College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services, & Information Technology; College of Engineering & Applied Science; College of Medicine; College of Pharmacy.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Individual faculty or teams of faculty may apply. For teams, a Primary Investigator (PI) must be identified as the lead applicant.
- The PI must be a faculty member with a primary appointment in one of the applicable colleges/divisions as outlined above. PIs holding a primary appointment at one of UC's affiliates (CCHMC, VA) are ineligible.
- The PI must be a faculty member with at least an 80% FTE appointment.

## Application Submission

Applicants must submit applications via e-form: [OoR Bridge Funding Application Form](#)

Applicants are expected to adhere to the guidelines. Applications that do not adhere to program guidelines may not be reviewed.

## Application Information Required

### Applicant Information

1. The PI must provide their name, contact information, and appointment information.
2. If applicable, provide names and affiliations of team members.

### Project Disruption Information

3. **For a disrupted grant** where the existing award has been terminated or is on hold, applicants will provide information on the sponsor and award.
  - a. **For existing awards that have not received an anticipated non-competitive renewal** for more than 30 days after the end date of the previous segment, the PI must provide the award number and the previously approved budget for the anticipated new award period.
4. **For a disrupted program** where the federal program or agency has been terminated, applicants shall provide documentation of the program termination, proof of funding in that topic within the last 5 years, and the identification of potential future funders.
5. **For disrupted review** where proposals have received a review that indicates likely funding but received no notification for a minimum of 3 months after the proposal review, applicants shall provide reviewer feedback and scores.
6. **For disrupted review** where proposals were submitted but funders delayed the anticipated review of more than 2 months, the PI must provide the proposal and documentation of the delay.

### Bridge Funding Request

7. Budget
  - a. Individual requests may be up to \$50,000; however less is encouraged as the program budget is \$50,000 in total.
  - b. Note: Bridge funds are not intended to replace the full amount of lost/expected funding; rather, they are used to sustain essential expenses that enable research continuity.
  - c. Funds may be requested to cover any essential expenses except student tuition or extra compensation for faculty salary.
8. Budget Justification

### Project Sustainability Plan

9. Future Extramural Proposal(s)
  - a. Detailed explanation of external funding being sought to sustain this project, including sponsors, programs, deadlines, and award amounts.

### **Review Process & Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed by the Office of Research using the following criteria:

- Severity of impact of the disrupted funding
- Clarity of project sustainability plans and likelihood of success

Priority will be given to applications with a documented disruption to student/staff support, a short term funding gap, and a clear path to external funding. A strong justification must be provided for requested funds. Feedback will not be provided to applicants.

### **Award Conditions**

- Awardees must submit a brief report of activities pertaining to the award 6 months into the project period and two months after the conclusion of the project period. A report template may be provided by the Office of Research.
- Funds must be used for the designated purpose(s) as outlined in the approved budget. You must receive written approval from the program office to repurpose or reallocate your funds.
- No-cost extensions are not allowed.
- Funds that will be reclaimed by the Office of Research include unused funds at the end of the award period, remaining funds if an awardee leaves the University, or overlapping funds obtained through additional support.
- University financial policies and related financial practices apply: [Financial Policies](#)

**QUESTIONS? Contact [research@uc.edu](mailto:research@uc.edu)**