University of Michigan Office of Research
Faculty Grants & Awards: **Bridging Support for Research Faculty**
Proposal Guidelines

**OVERVIEW**
The U-M Office of Research (UMOR) offers support for research, scholarship, and creative activities in all fields. The focus of the **Bridging Support for Research Faculty** funding program is to provide interim salary and fringe benefit support to research faculty who are experiencing a temporary loss in external (sponsored) funding due to factors beyond their control.

UMOR funds complement and supplement, but do not replace, funds provided by the department, school/college, or institute/center.

**ELIGIBILITY**
Research Faculty are generally eligible for Bridging Support except when:
- leaving the University, as funds are not intended to cover severance pay or terminal leaves;
- a tenured instructional track appointment is also held;
- the primary appointment is a 0% (dry) appointment; or
- the primary appointment is held in the Institute for Social Research (ISR), as the ISR has a separate bridge funding program.

The support available varies by academic rank and years of service at the University of Michigan as detailed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEARS OF SERVICE</th>
<th>FUNDING ELIGIBILITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Investigator</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant, Associate &amp; Research Scientist and Research Assistant Professor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 3 years of service</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5 years of service</td>
<td>Up to 2 months of salary &amp; benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-10 years of service</td>
<td>Up to 3 months of salary &amp; benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>10+ years of service</td>
<td>Up to 6 months of salary &amp; benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Associate Professor and Research Professor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 3 years of service</td>
<td>Up to 6 months salary &amp; benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more years of service</td>
<td>Up to 12 months salary &amp; benefits</td>
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Includes all years above the rank of Research Investigator. Research faculty in the above ranks who hold joint research and non-tenured faculty appointments in any faculty track are eligible for bridging on the research appointment. Part-time research faculty in these ranks are eligible for bridging based on their reduced effort if they have met the years of service requirement.
PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS
The following sections are required (unless otherwise noted) and must be included in this order:

A. Application Form
   a. All signatures must be obtained, but may be electronic or ink.

B. Proposal Narrative (5 pages)
   a. Must contain:
      • Discussion of the circumstances that have led to the need for bridging support
      • Description of any previous UMOR bridging support (amounts, dates)
      • Description of the activities the researcher intends to undertake during the bridging period
      • Description of the researcher’s proposed program of research for the next 2 years, including a discussion of the prospects for obtaining external funds for this work

C. Budget (1 page)
   a. A 1:1 match from the unit, school/college, department, or other internal sources is required. Matching funds must be transferred to the chartfields provided upon award.
      i. In addition to the required match, the appointing unit is required to provide 5% non-sponsored effort as outlined in the Best Practice for Research Faculty Effort during the bridging period.
   b. Submit a budget for the total salary/fringe benefits to cover the lost sponsored funding for the requested bridging period (using the table above). Lost funding % should be calculated using the average % effort that has been provided by sponsored funds over the last 5 years or duration of time in a bridging eligible title, with a maximum of 95% (per the Best Practice for Research Faculty Effort).

D. Past 5 Years External Funding
   a. Include a list of external funding received by researcher over the last five years including title of the project, sponsor, amount, and duration.

E. Pending Support
   a. List of pending internal and external proposals submitted by the researcher including title of the project, sponsor, amount, duration, anticipated decision date, and PAF number.

F. Summary Reviews or Feedback from External Funding Agency (if available)

G. Statement from the Chair/Director
   a. Must include:
      i. Relationship between the researcher’s proposed research directions and the priorities of the unit
      ii. Commitment of the employing unit to the continued employment of the researcher if external resources are made available
      iii. Support that has been, or will be made available by the employing unit to address the current gap in external funding

H. Project Director’s Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Biosketch (3 pages)

I. Appendix
   a. Include other pertinent items such as proposed survey or interview questions, letters of support, etc.

Questions? Contact UMOR-FGA-Submissions@umich.edu.
EVALUATION CRITERIA
A Faculty Grants & Awards Panel Member will review the proposal and provide recommendations.

Key considerations during review include:
• The quality and significance of the researcher’s work;
• The researcher’s past experience in obtaining external support for his/her work;
• The researcher’s potential for obtaining such support in the future;
• Evidence that the researcher has a pending grant application that is expected to be funded in the near future (1-6 months) by an external agency;
• Evidence that the researcher’s work is in line with unit and institutional priorities; and
• A statement by the applicant’s appointing unit as to the applicant’s continued employment.

All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION*
*For all except LSA Faculty who must apply through the Gateway to Internal Funding (eGIF)
Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 PM (EST). One complete PDF (containing all required elements as detailed above) should be emailed to UMOR-FGA-Submissions@umich.edu. Received proposals will get a notice of receipt in the form of a reply. Late applications will not be processed until the next application deadline for that program.

AWARD NOTIFICATION
Notification of funding decision is typically made within 12 weeks of the application deadline.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION
A new project/grant will be established in the recipient’s academic unit for a specified amount and duration. These funds should only be used for the researcher’s salary and fringe benefits. The recipient is responsible for ensuring good stewardship of funds. All applicable University policies and procedures must be followed. Overruns and unallowable expenses are the responsibility of the recipient and the academic unit holding the project/grant.

Each award stipulates an end date, after which any remaining balance will be returned to the original contributing sources. As Bridging Support for Research Faculty awards are for a specific period of time, this award will not be extended.