

CPH Bridge Funding Program

(Note: 2024-2025 will be a pilot year for the CPH Bridge Funding program)

The purpose of this program is to “bridge” external funding to ensure the continuation of productive externally funded CPH research programs and research teams in the process of applying for additional extramurally funded research awards. This program is part of the CPH strategic initiative for expanding CPH externally funded research by supporting CPH principal investigators (PIs) as they span from one extramurally funded research project to another.

Funds are intended primarily to cover time for grant-funded professional staff and preserve productive research teams that are critical for the CPH PIs’ future research programs.

■ Eligibility:

- The Bridge Funding PI must be a CPH full-time faculty member (any title series) who is a PI on an extramurally funded program that is within the last 6 months of the project period; CPH department or center should be the responsible unit for the grant/program to be bridged
- The PI applying for bridge funding should have a plan to submit a new extramural application before the end of their current project;
- Faculty can be PI only on one bridge-funded award at a given time;
- PIs should be in good standing with the CPH bridge funding program (see section, Award Conditions); and,
- Faculty start-up funds should be exhausted first or factored into the proposed bridge funding budget.

■ Funding:

- Bridge funding should be used to sustain key research staff and essential research activities that are needed for a successful externally funded program;
- Bridge funding can be used for salaries and benefits for research staff, research supplies, data collection activities, compensation of study subjects, and other

allowable research expenses that are needed for the development or re-submission of a competitive application for externally funded research;

- Bridge funding cannot be used to charge/support faculty salaries;
- Priority for bridge funding will be given to PIs with matching funds from academic departments, research centers, or other funding sources;
- Priority will be given to PIs who have already applied for external funding or had an application submitted and scored but not funded, e.g. working on a resubmission;
- Maximum budget period is 1 year (12 calendar months);
- Maximum amount of \$120,000 with no indirect cost allowed;
- Proposed budgets will be reviewed by the CPH Associate Dean for Research and the Assistant Dean of Finance;
- Funding decisions will depend on the availability of funds and will be made at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Research;
- Awarded funds must be spent according to an approved budget as use of funds for other activities will result in cessation of the award.

■ Application Process:

The application package will be submitted via a CPH Bridge Funding Portal

link: <https://redcap.uky.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=78FLAFRFP44D99JM>).

The proposal will not be reviewed by OSPA.

The formatting requirements are narrow page margins (0.5”), font size 11.

Required:

- 1) Cover letter (incl. rationale for funding, timeline on a specific extramural funding application to be submitted, potential collaborators and co-investigators for the external application);
- 2) Abstract on the bridge-funded scope of work (250 words);
- 3) Research plan for the bridge-funded scope of work (2 pages) describing the specific aims and research activities during the bridge-funded period, their relevance and importance for developing/revising/re-submitting a successful externally funded application by the PI, and a timeline for the scope of work during the bridge-funded period;

- 4) Budget and budget justification for the bridge-funded scope of work (if you need help with budget development, please email CPHResearch@uky.edu)
- 5) NIH-style Biosketch for the PI on the bridge funding application;
- 6) A letter of support from the applicant PI's department chair, outlining any specific department support, and the impact of the applicant PI's research program to the department/college.

■ Application Deadlines:

- Applications can be submitted at any time but at least three months before the desired start date of the bridge funding;
- Applications will be reviewed, and notifications will be made within 2 months of submission; and,
- Project start date will be within a month of the notification date.

■ Award Conditions

- Before the end of the bridge-funded period, the PI is expected to apply (as the PI or multiple PI) for an externally funded award to maintain good standing with the CPH Bridge Funding program
- Quarterly bridge funding progress reports should be submitted on time to the CPH bridge funding progress reporting system; The progress report will include a summary on research progress, and external grant application progress update
- A final close-out report is due one month after the end of the bridge funding period.
- IRB approval is required before the bridge-funded project start date if the research involves human subjects
- Funding can be withdrawn for lack of performance; Funding may also be withdrawn if sufficient progress is not made within 6 months of the bridge-funded project start date. If funding is withdrawn or reduced due to performance, the PI will be considered not in good standing with the CPH Bridge Funding Program;
- If external funding is obtained prior to the end of the bridge funding period, the bridge funding may be reduced, withdrawn, or closed out (Early ending of bridge funding in this case will preserve the PI in good standing);

- Research outputs will include the following acknowledgement: “This work was supported by the University of Kentucky College of Public Health Bridge Funding Program”;
- Program awardees agree to participate in CPH research events when invited by the CPH Associate Dean for Research;
- The award is not renewable.

■ Review Criteria

- Proposals will be evaluated for significance, innovation, approach, research team/investigators, and evidence for potential for future external funding.
- Funding decisions will be made at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Research, in consultation with the Assistant Dean for Finance.

■ Program Contact Information

7) CPH Office of Research

CPHResearch@uky.edu

Version	Author	Comment
1.0	S. Slavova	Original draft created 11/30/2023
2.0	S. Slavova	Revised based on input from CPH department chairs 12/11/2023
3.0	S. Slavova	Revised based on input from the CPH Research Committee 12/18/2023
4.0	S. Slavova	Revised based on input from the CPH Assistant Dean of Finance 7/25/24
5.0	HM Bush	Revised based on DOE standardization and to facilitate access 08/01/24