Social Science Research Institute Announces Expedited SSRI Bridge Funding

The Social Science Research Institute considers our five strategic research foci as key to building interdisciplinary research here at Penn State.

- Causes and Consequences of Inequality
- Human Development and Behavior
- Social and Environmental Determinants of Health
- Innovative and Data Intensive Research Methods
- Individual and Community Impact

SSRI continues to advance work within these research foci and facilitate social and behavioral sciences faculty members' pursuit of external funding opportunities to support their research. We are committed to working with the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research, the Commonwealth Campuses, and College deans to ensure that Penn State continues to be a great place to build a career in social and behavioral science research.

This new limited-term funding mechanism is intended to address changes in the research funding environment that may impact Penn State social and behavioral science researchers. This includes immediate terminations of funding, elimination of specific funding mechanisms, and shifts in priority research areas that lead to delays in the review and funding decisions of non-competitive renewal awards. The initial priority will focus on projects that have lost current or ongoing funding. All Penn State faculty in the social and behavioral sciences with active Federal research grants and contracts are eligible to apply.

Bridge Funding is intended to be used to fill unanticipated short-term gaps for Principal Investigators with active federal awards that occur through the following scenarios:

- Grant (prime or subaward) has been terminated by the Federal Agency.
- The investigator of a multi-year active project was notified by the agency or program officer that they will not receive funding for a non-competitive renewal for the next project period.
- There is a delay in the issuing of an expected NOA of a renewal application.

Bridge Funding will be **short-term** and will not fully replace cancelled grant dollars in amount or duration. Funding is limited and will continue only as resources are available. This is intended to support the PI and research staff while they prepare other grant applications for near term deadlines to minimize impact on the PI's career.

Awarded bridge funds **may be used to support** research costs, the use of SSRI core facilities, and other needed direct expenses for staff and students who cannot be reassigned to other work and have lost salary coverage as a result of the grant termination. Funding **cannot be used** for faculty salary support (e.g., course release or summer salary), external collaborators, service delivery, conference travel, or publication costs. Graduate students should be supported with funds from their home college. Support for community partners will be considered.

Expedited SSRI Bridge Funding proposals may <u>be submitted at any time before June 30th, 2025</u>. As the research landscape unfolds, future calls or revisions to the current priority and timeline will be announced.

Expedited Process

- PIs who lost Federal research funding through one of the scenarios described, and plan to seek bridge funding, should contact their Associate Dean for Research and the SSRI Director immediately for a consultation.
- The PI should complete the proposal submission form in consultation and coordination with the PI's Department Head/School Director, and the submitting college/unit Associate Dean for Research, and the SSRI Director.
- Proposals must be submitted as one document via email to ssri-seed-grant@psu.edu.
- An SSRI committee will review each proposal. Funding decisions will be based on a number of considerations including the availability of other resources including individual faculty reserves, support from the home college, alignment of the research with SSRI strategic priorities, and faculty career stage.
- The PI, Department Head/School Director, and their Associate Dean will be notified of a funding decision within two weeks of a completed submission.

Resources to support faculty whose research focus is no longer prioritized by Federal funding agencies may be available through other mechanisms (anticipated posting Summer 2025).

Please contact SSRI Director Deborah Ehrenthal for questions about this call or Jason Shumberger for help with the submission process.

Progress Reports

- Investigators are expected to provide an annual project status update and a brief (one page) final report upon completing the project. These materials allow us to track and report outcomes as well as monitor the success of our bridge grant program.
- If you need to make changes to the project team, description, design, or budget during the course of your projects, please send a request to ssri-seed-grant@psu.edu with the specific details of these changes.

Acknowledgement of SSRI Support

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM REQUIREMENTS

To complete your proposal submission please prepare the information and documents listed below for submission via the Penn State InfoReady internal grants submission site at this link. We will share access to these materials with your Department Head and Associate Dean for Research.

I.   Title of Original Proposal and Name of PI
II.   For the award to be bridged:
    a. A copy of the relevant termination notice
    b. Federal Agency and Award number
    c. OSP Number
    d. Grant Narrative
    e. Grant Abstract
    f. NOA
        i. Attach a copy of the original and the most recent from the prime award
        ii. If this is a subaward please attach the relevant agreement
    g. Funding (sponsor dollars, cost-share dollars) lost by period of award
    h. Please attach:
        i.   Specific aims page
        ii. Most recent progress report (if available)
        iii. PI(s) ScienCV or Biosketch
        iv. Up to date "Current and Pending"
        v.   Rationale for bridge fund request including a description of the remaining aims and the unrecovered costs needed to achieve those aims.
    i. Attach a document that describes funding available to the PI:
        i.   All available resources, if any, including plans to exhaust them (eg. start-up funds, balances in faculty accounts from RIF or other sources, department, college commitment).
        ii. All current and prior awarded internally funded pilot/seed grant projects on which you have been a PI or Co-I during the past 3 years.
        iii. Expected timeline for use of bridge funds
        iv. Future Plans
III.   Budget Requested
    a. Spreadsheet
    b. SSRI Services to be used if applicable: Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC), Survey Research Center (SRC), Social, Life, and Engineering Sciences Imaging Center (SLEIC), Quantitative Developmental Systems Methodology
    c. All contributors to bridge funding
    d. Budget narrative