Busch Biomedical Grant

2021 Guidelines

Proposal Deadline: July 1, 2021

Apply Here

I.   Program Overview

The Busch Biomedical Grant program is designed to enhance biomedical research at the University and to strengthen the competitive position of faculty members who seek external research funds. The Busch Biomedical Grant Program is funded by the interest income from the Charles and Johanna Busch bequest to reflect the wishes of Charles Busch. The program supports two funding mechanisms:

1. **Bridging Grants**, extramural competitive renewal grant applications to federal sponsors from established investigators that were reviewed and received a score but were not funded.
2. **Pilot Grants,** to facilitate exploration of innovative new projects in basic or fundamental biomedical research.

II.   Award Information

The Busch Biomedical Grant program will support research projects up to a total of $60,000 over two years.

III.   Eligibility

Who Can Apply

- Applicants must have a Full-Time Faculty appointment (Tenure Track Faculty and independent NTT Faculty).

Not Eligible to Apply

- Postdoctoral associates, teaching and research assistants, coadjutant appointees, clinical and adjunct faculty defined as part time positions and visiting faculty members.
- Individuals who have received a Busch Biomedical Grant in the last five years.
- Individuals who have applied for or received concurrent internal grant funding (e.g., Research Council Grant) in the past 12 months.

Bridging Grants Eligibility

- Current total annual extramural support (federal and private) as principal investigator cannot be greater than $75,000 in direct costs as of October 1, 2021.
- Prior federal funding is required.
- Applicant must have submitted a renewal application for a major federal grant (over 150K per year in direct costs) in the 24 months preceding this application. That grant must have received a score but was not funded.

Pilot Grants Eligibility

- Faculty at all career stages are welcome to apply.
- Submissions must demonstrate that the project represents a distinctly new direction from the applicant's previously funded work.
- Current total annual extramural support (federal and private) as principal investigator cannot be greater than $400,000 in direct costs as of October 1, 2021.

Limitations

- Individuals are permitted to submit only one application per cycle in total.

IV.   Proposal Preparation and Submission

All Proposals

- All proposals must be submitted via the application portal, InfoReady.
- Format and order of documents must be strictly adhered to. Submissions that do not meet the following guidelines will be returned without review.

Bridging Grant Proposals

Submissions must include:

1. **Table of Key Personnel**
   a. Please see provided template.
   b. Include Name, Title, Email, Role in the project, and Affiliation for each PI.
2. **Biosketch for PI and Key Personnel**
   a. Use format currently required by NIH or NSF.
3. **Current and Pending Support**
   a. List all current external and internal research support regardless of relevance to this application, including pending applications.
   b. Provide grant number, title, duration, annual direct costs, total value of award, and source of support.
4. **PDF of prior federal submission that was scored but not funded**
   a. For NIH, only include the Specific Aims, Research Strategy, and References sections.

b. For NSF, only include the Project Summary, Narrative, and References sections.

c. For all other agencies, include the analogous sections of the submission to those described in 4a or 4b.

5. **Scores and Comments**

   a. Provide a copy of the summary statement or review sheet from the federal sponsor.

6. **Response to Reviewer Comments**

   a. Provide a one-page description of how the reviewer comments will be addressed, specifically within the budgetary constraints of a Busch Biomedical Grant.

7. **Budget and Budget Justification**

   a. Use the provided Busch Biomedical Budget Template.

   b. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary, memberships, travel to meetings of professional societies, food, drink, or lodging.

Pilot Grant Proposals

- Format Requirements:
  - **Font**: Arial 11 point or larger. A smaller type size may be used for figures and graphs but must be legible.
  - **Line spacing**: must be no more than six lines per vertical inch.
  - **Margins**: use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages.
  - **Hyperlinks and URLs**: may not be used to provide information necessary to application review.
- Section and Page Requirements:
  1. **Table of Key Personnel**

     a. Please see provided template.

     b. Include Name, Title, Email, Role in the project, and Affiliation for each PI.

  2. **Biosketch for PI and Key Personnel**

     a. Use format currently required by NIH or NSF.

  3. **Current and Pending Support**

     a. List all current external and internal research support regardless of relevance to this application, including pending applications.

     b. Provide grant number, title, duration, annual direct costs, total value of award, and source of support.

  4. **Research Narrative**

     a. Limited to 5 pages (not including references).

     b. Sections include:
        i. Abstract (250-word limit)
        ii. Significance
        iii. Innovation
        iv. Approach
        v. Statement of the New Direction

     c. See InfoReady Application Form for additional information about the content for each section.

5. **Literature Cited**
6. **Budget and Budget Justification**
    a. Use the provided [Busch Biomedical Budget Template](#).
    b. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary, memberships, travel to meetings of professional societies, food, drink, or lodging.
    c. Funds cannot be used to purchase major equipment (items over $5,000).
7. **Additional Sections**
    Include the following sections as relevant to the proposed project. Please see the InfoReady application form for instructions for each section.
    a. **Protection of Human Subjects**
    b. **Vertebrate Animals**
    c. **Select Agent Research**
    d. **Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources**

V.   General Review Criteria
Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Significance of the proposed research and hypothesis.

2. Scientific evidence supporting the hypothesis to be tested.

3. Feasibility and adequacy of the procedures to be used in the research.

4. An explicit statement of the significance of the proposed study for human health.

5. Evidence of research experience of the PI and staff in the proposed research area.

6. Reasonableness of the budget in relation to the objectives, methods, approach, procedures, and data analysis proposed.

7. Likelihood that the project will lead to future outside funding.

8. Novelty of research project and clear evidence that the proposed project is distinct from prior work of the PI.

9. Bridging Grants Only: prior scores and the extent to which the applicant addresses previous reviewers' comments.

VI.   Review Process
Reviews and recommendations for funding will be conducted by a committee of Rutgers faculty experts. The committee will make evaluations and recommendations for funding based on the general review criteria listed above. The recommendations will be submitted for approval by the Senior Vice President for Research.

VII.   Terms of Agreement
Busch Biomedical Grants will have two-year terms, commencing on October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023. All awardees will be required to provide a final financial report and external funding submissions at the end of the grant term.

All grant recipients will be asked to present progress reports to the cohort at least one time throughout the grant term during the Annual Busch Biomedical Symposium.

As an additional benefit, Busch Biomedical Grant awardees will be eligible to receive proposal development support for external submissions through proposal review sessions or grantsmanship workshops from the Research Development team.

VIII.   **Questions**
Contact Research Development staff at researchdevelopment@research.rutgers.edu