Research Catalyst Award

Purpose
Rush University has committed resources to provide interim support (bridge funding) to researchers who have recently received strong scores on R- or P-type grants (or equivalents) from federal granting agencies (e.g. NIH, DOD, NSF) and just missed funding. Applications will be accepted by researchers that have submitted basic, translational, clinical, population-based or health services grants. The intent of this program is to provide resources to enable researchers to produce information that bolsters their grant application to increase the likelihood of funding upon resubmission. The period of support is for one year.

Submission Process & Review Timeline
Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed rapidly. The following should be submitted to the Vice Provost for Research Office (Norma Sandoval via this link):

- NIH bio sketch of the principal investigator
- Scored grant
- Summary statement (pink sheet)
- Priority score
- Two-page plan describing how the investigator will respond to the critiques and what experiments or additional research the investigator will undertake to strengthen their resubmission application
- Budget (PHS 398, pages 4 and 5)

Funds Available
Four awards of up to $50,000 each for one year will be made subject to available funding. Applicants may receive only one year of bridge funding for a particular proposal and are eligible for only one award every three years. If the applicant is successful in receiving the grant within the year, unused funds will be returned. No cost extensions will not be allowed.

Eligible Investigators
Applicants must be the Principal Investigator (PI) on recently scored federal grant in the 20th percentile or better that did not receive funding. The applicant must be an active faculty member of Rush University at the Assistant Professor level or above. Instructors are eligible to apply if their departmental chairman provides a letter indicating that they will be promoted to Assistant Professor by the time of the award date. Applicants who are the PI on other active federal R- or P-type grants (or their equivalents) are not eligible unless the area of science of the just missed proposal is a major departure from their federally funded area of research. Awardees are required to commit at least 10% of their research effort to the proposed research and PIs may request salary coverage for this effort. Early investigators, women and members of groups underrepresented in biomedical or behavioral research are encouraged to apply. There are no citizenship or residency requirements, other than the typical employment requirements of individuals having to satisfy their eligibility to work in the United States.
**Review Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed, and awards made based on the priority score, the remediation plan, and the perceived feasibility of mounting an adequate response to the reviewer’s critiques within one year.

**Requirements**

Applicants are expected to resubmit the just-missed proposal to a federal funding agency within one year of the receipt of bridge fund award. In addition, applicants are expected to serve on internal grant review committees during the period of this award. A progress report is required six-months and one year after the receipt of the catalyst fund award.

This program will be periodically evaluated to determine its effectiveness.