

Busch Biomedical Grant

2020 Guidelines

Application Portal Opens: April 1, 2020

Proposal Deadline: May 11, 2020

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 three funding mechanisms:

1. **Bridging Grants**, extramural competitive renewal grant applications from established investigators that were reviewed and received a score, but were not funded
2. **Seed Grants** for early stage faculty
3. **Collaborative “High Impact” Grants** from two or more faculty members

II. **Award Information**

The Busch Biomedical Grant program will support research projects up to a **total** of \$40,000 for up to 2 years (\$20,000 per year).

III. **Eligibility Information**

Who Can Apply

- Applicants must have a Full-Time Faculty appointment (Tenure Track and 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 three years.
- Individuals who have applied for or received concurrent internal grant funding (e.g. Research Council Grant).

Bridging Grants Eligibility

- Current total annual extramural support (federal and private) as principal investigator cannot be greater than \$75,000 of direct costs as of September 1, 2020.
- Must have prior NIH or NSF funding.
- Applicant must have submitted a major NIH or NSF grant (over 150K per year in direct costs) in the 24 months preceding this application, and that grant must have received a score (triaged proposals will not be considered for bridging).

Seed Grants Eligibility

- Faculty appointment must have been made within 4 years of the submission date (on or after July 1, 2016). Life events that qualify for a delayed tenure clock qualify for time added to this restriction.
- Current total annual extramural support (federal and private) as principal or co-principal investigator cannot be greater than \$150,000 of direct costs at the time of application.

Collaborative “High Impact” Grants Eligibility

- High impact collaborative proposals from two or more Rutgers faculty members.
- Current total annual extramural support (federal and private) as principal investigator cannot be greater than \$150,000 of direct costs at the time of application. **This restriction applies to the lead PI only.**
- The likelihood that the collaborative proposal could develop into a multi-investigator grant application will be considered in the review.

Limitations

- Individuals are permitted to submit only one application per cycle

IV. Proposal Preparation and Submission

Bridging Grant Proposals

- All proposals must be submitted via the application portal (link will be posted on 4/1/2020) as a single PDF file and titled: LastName_FirstName_Bridging_BBG2020.pdf
- Format and order of documents must be strictly adhered to. Submissions that do not meet the following guidelines, will be returned without review.
- Submissions must include:
 - 1. Table of Key Personnel**
 - a. Include Name, Title, Role in the project and Affiliation for each PI.
 - 2. NIH Biosketch for PI and Key Personnel**
 - a. Use format [currently required by NIH](#).
 - b. Include Other Support
 - i. List all external and internal research support regardless of relevance to this application, including pending applications. Give grant number, title, duration, annual direct costs, total value of award, and source of support
 - 3. PDF of prior NIH or NSF Submission that was scored but not funded**
 - a. Only include the Specific Aims, Research Strategy, and References sections
 - 4. Summary statement (NIH) or review sheet (NSF)**
 - 5. One page description of how reviewer comments will be addressed, specifically within the budgetary constraints of a Busch Biomedical Grant**
 - 6. Budget**
 - a. Budget form can be found on page 5 of the guidelines
 - b. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary, memberships, travel to meetings of professional societies, food, drink, or lodging, or the purchase of books or subscriptions.
 - 7. Budget Justification**
 - a. As per NIH guidelines

Seed and Collaborative Grant Proposals

- Except for the page limit (see below) Format and document requirements are identical to those specified for the NIH R21 mechanism. Please see the [SF424 Forms version E](#) instructions for details.
- Font: Arial 11 point. (A smaller type size may be used for figures and graphs but must be legible.)
- Margins: Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages.
- Proposal must be submitted via the application portal (link will be posted as of 4/1/2020) as a single PDF file and titled:
LastName_FirstName_[Type of Grant]_BBG2020.pdf
- Format and order of documents must be strictly adhered to. Submissions that do not meet the following guidelines, will be returned without review.
- Submissions must include
 1. **Table of Key Personnel**
 - a. Include Name, Title, Role in the project, and Department
 2. **NIH Biosketch for PI and key personnel**
 - a. Use format [currently required by NIH](#).
 - b. Include Other Support
 - i. List all external and internal research support regardless of relevance to this application, including pending applications. Give grant number, title, duration, amount for current year, total value of award, and source of support.
 3. **Abstract**
 - a. Limited to 250 words
 - b. Make sure your abstract is understandable to a scientist not familiar with your specific field of investigation.
 4. **Specific Aims**
 - a. Limited to one page
 5. **Research Strategy**
 - a. Limited to 4 pages (not including references, budget and budget justification)
 - b. Sections include (See SF424 guide for detailed suggestions)
 - i. Significance
 - ii. Innovation
 - iii. Approach
 6. **Literature Cited**
 7. **Protection of Human Subjects**
 8. **Vertebrate Animals**
 9. **Select Agent Research**
 10. **Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan (collaborative grants only)**
 11. **Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resourced**
 12. **Budget**
 - a. Budget form can be found on Page 5 of these guidelines
 - b. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary, memberships, travel to meetings of professional societies, food, drink, or lodging, or for the purchase of books or subscriptions.
 - c. Funds cannot be used to purchase major equipment (items over \$5,000)
 13. **Budget Justification**
 - a. As per NIH guidelines

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. Bridging Grants Only: prior scores and the extent to which reviewer comments were addressed.

VI. Review Process

Expert reviews will be recruited from Rutgers faculty. Reviews and scores will be submitted online and a separate executive panel of faculty will review the comments and scores and make recommendations for funding in line with BBG funding priorities. The recommendations will be submitted for approval by the Senior Vice President for Research.

VII. Questions:

Please contact Tanya Volkert at res-dev@rutgers.edu

