

**Florida Department of Health
Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program
Calls for Grant Applications Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

**Questions and Answers
Last Updated January 10, 2012**

Questions are presented as received, with the exception that all identifying information has been removed.

The “Call for Grant Applications: New Investigator Research (NIR) Grant for Cancer Fiscal Year 2012-2013” is herein referred to as the “NIR Call.”

The “Call for Grant Applications: Bridge Grant for Cancer Fiscal Year 2012-2013” is herein referred to as the “Bridge Call.”

Reminder: The Bankhead-Coley Program Calls for Grant Applications are posted on the Program website: http://www.floridabiomed.com/bc_call.

General Grant Question and Answers

1. *What is needed before the application deadline? Is there a short letter of intent that is due earlier? (posted 11/11/11)*

No document or correspondence is required before the application deadline. A letter of intent is not required. “Applicants must register online at www.floridabiomed.com/login.html to be able to submit an application.” **(NIR and Bridge Calls, Part III, Ch. 1 B)**

2. *Is U.S. citizenship or a green card required before being awarded a grant? (posted 11/11/11)*

No, “There are no citizenship or residency requirements to be eligible. **However, unauthorized aliens shall not be employed pursuant to §§274A(e) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a), section 101 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and Florida Executive Order 11-02. The Grantee must agree to utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify system, <https://e-verify.uscis.gov/emp>, to verify the employment of all new grant personnel, subcontractors, and consultants who will perform work on the project.**” (NIR and Bridge Calls, Part II, 3A)

3. *Regarding the budget form, what is the difference between percent effort and percent salary? (posted 11/11/11)*

The percent effort on a project is the amount of an individual’s time that is spent on this project. Percent salary is the percent of the person’s salary that is funded by this project. For example, an individual could work 50% of his/her time on a project but only request funds for 40% of his/her salary. Most often these two numbers are the same. “Percent salary requested cannot exceed percent effort on the project.” **(NIR**

Call, Part III, Ch. 8, Section P, p. 38 and Bridge Call Part III, Ch. 7, Section F, p. 39)

4. *Are consortiums restricted to charging 15% in indirect costs? (posted 11/11/11)*

“Consortium indirect costs are also limited to 15%. The institution and the consortium/contractor cannot both charge indirect costs on the consortium/contractor direct costs, one or the other may charge indirect costs.” **(NIR and Bridge Calls, Part II, Ch. 5 B)**

5. *When calculating indirect costs in a grant that contains a consortium contract (where the consortium charges indirect costs included in the total cost of the contract that then shows up as an expenditure as direct costs for the primary institution): are the indirect costs for the primary institution calculated on the total of the consortium contract (direct plus indirect), or only on a portion of the consortium contract. If it is the latter, what amount? (posted 11/11/11)*

As specified in Part II, Ch. 5 B, “Indirect costs are limited to 15% of the direct costs requested.” Additionally, “Consortium indirect costs are also limited to 15%. The institution and the consortium/contractor cannot both charge indirect costs on the consortium/contractor direct costs; one or the other may charge indirect costs.” **(NIR and Bridge Calls, Part II, Ch. 5 B)** If your consortium contract includes the maximum permissible indirect cost, you must deduct the full value of the consortium contract from the primary institution’s direct costs in calculating its indirect costs in order to avoid double billing.

For example:

Case 1 – Consortium contract includes indirect costs:

Budget items:

Personnel	\$50,000
Supplies	\$20,000
Consortium Contract	\$11,500 (\$10,000 direct + \$1,500 indirect)
Direct Costs	\$81,500

Then the applicant institution’s indirect cost is limited to 15% of \$70,000 (\$50,000 + \$20,000) or \$10,500.

Total Direct and Indirect Costs - \$92,000

Case 2 – Consortium contract excludes indirect costs:

Budget items:

Personnel	\$50,000
Supplies	\$20,000
Consortium Contract	\$10,000 (all direct costs to the consortium)
Direct Costs	\$80,000

Then the applicant institution’s indirect cost is limited to 15% of \$80,000 (\$50,000 + \$20,000 + \$10,000) or \$12,000.

Total Direct and Indirect Costs - \$92,000

6. *Can a Principal Investigator submit the same project to both the Bankhead-Coley Program and the James and Esther King Program?* (posted 11/11/11)

No. Applicants shall not “submit duplicate projects or projects with significant scientific or financial overlap to both the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program during the same competition year.” **(NIR and Bridge Calls, Part II, Ch. 3 D)**

7. *Can a Principal Investigator submit two different projects to the Bankhead-Coley Program and the James and Esther King Program?* (posted 11/11/11)

“The Principal Investigator may submit two or more completely different projects at the same time to the two Programs (King and Bankhead-Coley).” **(NIR and Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 D)** There shall be no scientific, commitment, or financial overlap between the projects. The Principal Investigator can receive funding from both programs for completely different projects.

8. *Does the Program solely fund cancer research or does it also fund projects pertaining to motivational and behavior problems relevant to cancer?* (posted 11/11/11)

Refer to Part II, Ch. 1, Cancer-Relatedness, which addresses behavioral research proposals. **“Social scientific and behavioral** proposals must address the development, implementation, and/or evaluation of existing or novel approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment.” **(NIR and Bridge Calls, Part II, Ch. 1)** Motivational and behavioral research proposals related to cancer are appropriate and encouraged.

9. *Normally, in my experience with electronic submissions, the agencies require that the authorized official and the institution register in order to be notified when a proposal is ready for approval (if required by the agency). As the authorized official that signs grants and contracts for the [institution], do I need to register myself and/or [my institution] for these grant programs?* (posted 11/11/11)

No, only one registration is required for each application; this is normally the Principal Investigator. Certain sections of the application require the Principal Investigator to download and complete forms that must be signed by the Authorizing and/or Administrative Official(s) before being uploaded into the online application. Examples include the cover/certification page and the budget form.

10. *Are IRB or IACUC approvals needed before the application deadline, or can I submit them later?* (posted 11/11/11)

IRB and/or IACUC approvals are not required before the application deadline. You may submit an application without the necessary IRB or IACUC approvals. Immediately after award notification, grantees must submit all necessary applications to regulatory authorities including, but not limited to, the IACUC, local or institutional IRB, and if necessary the DOH IRB. Project work may not begin until all approvals are obtained. To determine if you will need to obtain the DOH IRB approval, please review the definition of DOH IRB in Part II, Ch. 8, Definitions.

11. *What are the numbers of awards that will be made?* (posted 11/11/11)

There is no predetermined number of grants. The quality of the proposals, cancer-relatedness, and the amount of available funding are considerations used in making award decisions.

NIR Grant Questions and Answers

12. *Can a NIR Principal Investigator have more than one mentor (provided they will be within the total budget limit for mentors)?* (posted 11/11/11)

The NIR Principal Investigator may have more than one mentor. It is not recommended, but it will not affect the merit score. The application must contain a mentorship plan for each mentor that describes the mentoring relationships.

13. *Can the senior investigator-mentor also be a collaborator on the proposal?* (posted 11/11/11)

The Program does not prohibit a mentor from also serving as a collaborator on a grant; however, "the maximum amount that a mentor can request for participating in the project is \$25,000 per year." (NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 13)

14. *Can someone serve as a mentor to more than 1 grant applicant? Also, is there a minimum percentage that the mentor must allocate to each grant?* (posted 11/11/11)

The Program does not prohibit a mentor from serving on more than one grant, as long as there is no scientific, financial, or commitment overlap (commitment greater than 100%). "The percent effort of the mentor must be at least 3% FTE each year." (NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 12) This minimum would apply to each Program grant on which the mentor is serving.

15. *If I have a Bankhead-Coley NIR Grant that ends in 2011, am I still eligible to apply for another NIR Grant this year?* (posted 11/11/11)

"The Principal Investigator may not submit an application if he or she was a previous recipient of a Bankhead-Coley NIR grant." (NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 D, p. 14) Previous NIR recipients may apply for other Program grant mechanisms or a James & Esther King NIR Grant. There can be no scientific, financial, or commitment overlap between the active grant and the grant proposal unless the active grant will end before the new grant begins.

16. *I was a Postdoctoral Fellow from 2003-2004 at an institution in a foreign country and an Assistant Professor from 2004-2005, also at a foreign institution. However, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at a United States university from 2006-2010 before becoming a Research Assistant (Full-time faculty) in 2010. Am I eligible to apply as a New Investigator?* (posted 11/11/11)

The Program would consider the Assistant Professor position held at the foreign institution as your first full-time faculty position; because it has been longer than six years since you accepted that position, you would not be eligible to apply for a New

Investigator Award. “No more than six (6) years may have passed since the Principal Investigators’ first Full-time Faculty appointment at any university or equivalent appointment at a research institution, **regardless of location**, as of the grant start date.” **(NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 12)**

17. *I am interested in NIR of the Bankhead-Coley Program. I had the following positions:*

[graduate positions]

1999: got PhD [at foreign university]

1998-2001: [foreign pharmaceutical company positions]

2001-2005: Post Doc Fellow, [USA university]

2005-2007: Research Scientist [USA university]

2007-Present: Associate Scientist [Florida university]

Am I eligible for an NIR? (posted 11/11/11)

If any of the foreign pharmaceutical company positions are equivalent to a Full-time Faculty appointment based on the definition provided in Part II, Chapter 8 then you would not be eligible. “No more than six (6) years may have passed since the Principal Investigator’s first Full-time Faculty appointment at any university or equivalent appointment at a research institution, **regardless of location**, as of the grant start date. See Full-time Faculty definition in Part II, Chapter 8.” **(NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 12)** The six year limitation includes all positions during those years, regardless of location and/or employer. Industry positions count against the six-year limit. Final eligibility determination can only be made after a thorough review of a completed application.

18. *I started a first full time Faculty position in Aug 2009; however, I was hired as an Associate not an Assistant Professor in the [Department] at [a Florida University]. I received a Ph.D. [before 1990] and worked as a Staff Scientist at the [Federal] Institute (starting in 1998) before taking this independent faculty position at [a Florida University]. I’ve never had a federally sponsored grant. Am I eligible to apply for the NIR Grant? (posted 11/14/11)*

Since you worked as a Staff Scientist longer than six years, you would not be eligible for an NIR, because this position would be considered “equivalent” to a full-time faculty position under Program policy (see **NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 8, p. 22**, for the definition of “Full-time Faculty”). This assumes that the Staff Scientist position involved “teaching, clinical, and research appointments carrying classroom teaching, laboratory teaching, clinical teaching or service, OR (emphasis added) **research assignments equal to at least nine months per fiscal year or 0.75 FTE.**” Final eligibility determination can only be made after a thorough review of a completed application.

19. *Is there a limit to the number of times a Principal Investigator can resubmit an unfunded NIR grant application? (posted 11/11/11)*

There is no limit on the number of times a Principal Investigator can resubmit an unfunded application in a subsequent competition provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

20. I am a postdoctoral fellow in my fifth year of training. I would like to apply for the NIR Grant. The description of eligible Principal Investigator for NIR is quoted below:

"To be eligible as a Principal Investigator at an eligible institution, the individual must be a full-time faculty member or a postdoctoral fellow in his/her final fellowship year, by the grant start date."

My questions are:

- A. Is a postdoctoral fellow position considered a full-time faculty position?
- B. Does it mean that a postdoctoral fellow can apply for the NIR grant but if awarded, the institution needs to promote him/her to be full-time faculty, such as a research assistant professor?
- C. If question B is true, should the salary for the Principal Investigator requested in the grant application be the projected salary for a full-time faculty position or the current salary for the postdoctoral fellow? (posted 11/11/11)

(Question A) A postdoctoral fellow is not considered a full-time faculty position; however, a fellow may apply for the NIR Grant as long as s/he is promoted to a full-time faculty position prior to the grant start date. "Postdoctoral applicants must be a Full-time Faculty member or equivalent by the grant start date." (NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 A, p. 11)

(Question B) Awards will be announced on or around June 1, 2012. If awarded, the grant would begin on or around July 1, 2012 and the applicant would need to be Full-Time faculty by that time. The grant would not be approved to start until the proof of the faculty position was provided. "If any additional information or explanation needs to be made regarding the justification of the Principal Investigator's eligibility as a New Investigator, please include it in the Department Head/Chair Letter of Assurance." (NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 12)

(Question C) The application budget should reflect the projected salary. The budget may be adjusted after award if the actual salary differs from the projection.

21. I have been the recipient of a K01 from the NIH, which covers a significant part of my salary but very little research or personnel expenses. Can I submit a NIR grant and request funds to cover research expenses of studies proposed in the K01? (posted 11/11/11)

No, the Program does not fund partial grants or budget shortfalls of currently funded grants. "Applicants must ensure that their proposed project does not duplicate or significantly **overlap**, scientifically or financially, with other projects in which they or any key personnel are involved." (NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 D, p. 14)

22. In the NIR call, it states, "The Principal Investigator **must not** have achieved the status of independence defined by successfully competing as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator (equally responsible independent investigator) for a non-mentored, peer-reviewed, national grant with a budget of \$100,000 or more per year in direct costs as of the application date."

If I don't have a national grant when I apply for NIR (as of the application date), but obtain one before NIR is awarded in June. May I still accept the NIR award? (posted 11/11/11)

Yes, you may still accept the NIR award as long as there is no significant scientific or financial overlap between the national grant and the NIR Grant. Effort commitment greater than 100% is also prohibited. See NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 D, p. 14 for Overlap Limits.

23. *We have a faculty member who wishes to resubmit an NIR application that was not funded last year, with changes that take into account the previous reviewers' concerns. Is there a mechanism for doing this? (posted 11/11/11)*

Provided that the faculty member still meets all NIR eligibility criteria, they may submit an application that has been modified to address previous reviewer comments. There is no specifically designated location in the application to include previous reviewer comments and your response. Changes made in response to previous peer reviewer comments should be incorporated into the appropriate section of the Research Plan.

24. *I am a new faculty equivalent Ph.D. research scientist in a small business in Florida. I work in our basic research branch. Our research is fully supported by grants. Am I eligible to submit a NIR proposal? (posted 11/11/11)*

No, a small business is not an eligible applicant institution. "For the purposes of this program, **eligible institutions** are: state universities, nonpublic institutions, and established research institutes (see definitions provided in Part II, Chapter 8)." (**NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 A, p. 11**) The eligible institution must be the applicant and the Principal Investigator must be a full-time faculty member of the eligible applicant institution (or a postdoctoral fellow in his/her final fellowship year, by the application due date). (**NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 A, p. 11**)

25. *Are Co-Principal Investigators allowed on NIR grants? (posted 11/11/11)*

The Principal Investigator role is limited to the person submitting the grant application. The Principal Investigator is "the one individual designated by the applicant organization to direct the project to be supported by the grant." (**NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3 A, p. 11**) Co-Investigators and collaborators may be listed as Key Personnel, which are "individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive way, whether or not salaries are requested." (**NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 8, p. 22**)

26. *I was a research instructor at the [non-Florida institution] for three years. I worked under a PI supporting his research projects and did not have independent lab space, technical support or research funds, pretty much like a post-doc. Then I was hired at [a Florida institution] in 2008 as a research assistant professor. The appointment included research funds, independent lab space and technical help, which is more consistent with a faculty appointment. For the six-year eligibility do I count the years at the [non-Florida institution] even though I was not a principal investigator? (posted 12/07/11)*

Yes, your time as a Research Instructor would count, because this position would be considered “equivalent” to a full-time faculty position under Program policy (see NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 8, p. 22, for the definition of “Full-time Faculty”). This assumes the Research Instructor position involved “teaching, clinical, and research appointments carrying classroom teaching, laboratory teaching, clinical teaching or service, OR (emphasis added) **research assignments equal to at least nine months per fiscal year or 0.75 FTE.**” Final eligibility determination can only be made after a thorough review of a completed application. No exceptions are allowed regarding the six years limitation.

27. *I am interested in applying for a Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research New Investigator Research (NIR) Grant for the upcoming academic year. However, I am a few months beyond the first 6 years of academic appointment (full-time appointment date: September 13, 2005). I am not yet an independent researcher. I am currently an Associate Professor of [Department] with substantial clinical duties and teaching responsibilities that preclude me from participating and dedicating at least 20% of my time in translational research with the additional goal of developing a research career.*

This past year, I was awarded a one year institutional [specific national agency] grant for research involving [specific subject] under the mentorship of [an individual]. I wish to apply for a New Investigator Research (NIR) Grant to continue my research efforts in this area with dedicated and protected time from clinical responsibilities to eventually become an independent investigator as a clinician conducting [type of] research specifically in [specific field]. My wish is to acquire the research training, mentoring and experience necessary for a transition into a successful career as an independent investigator during the 3 years of this award.

I would greatly appreciate the consideration from the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program as a candidate for this New Investigator Research (NIR) Grant Award despite slightly being beyond my first 6 years of academic appointment. It is my sincere hope to be confirmed eligible to apply and submit a grant for this prestigious award. (posted 12/07/11)

Since you worked as an Associate Professor longer than six years, you would not be eligible for an NIR, because this position would be considered a full-time faculty position under Program policy (see NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 8, p. 22, for the definition of “Full-time Faculty”). This assumes the Associate Professor position involved “teaching, clinical, and research appointments carrying classroom teaching, laboratory teaching, clinical teaching or service, OR research assignments equal to at least nine months per fiscal year or 0.75 FTE.” Final eligibility determination can only be made after a thorough review of a completed application. No exceptions are allowed regarding the six years limitation.

28. *I am the recipient of a NIH K99/R00 grant that has direct costs >100,000 per year. The mentored K99 phase is peer reviewed and the transition to the R00 phase (non-mentored) is NOT peer-reviewed. I am in the R00 phase and reading the instructions it appears that I am eligible to the NIR grant ‘The Principal Investigator **must not** have achieved the status of independence defined by successfully competing as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator (equally responsible independent investigator) for a non-mentored, peer-reviewed, national grant with a budget of \$100,000 or more per year in direct costs as of the application date.’ (page 12).*

Because the R00 phase is not peer-reviewed, I wanted to confirm that I am eligible to apply for the Bankhead-Coley NIR grant. I am eligible in all other instances, just need to confirm the issue mentioned above. (posted 12/27/11)

If you are presently in the R00 independent investigator phase of the award (or if you previously completed the R00 phase), which has a budget of \$100,000 or more per year in direct cost, you would not be eligible to apply for the NIR grant since this phase of the award is not mentored.

29. I have a question regarding the following statement: "The Principal Investigator **must not** have achieved the status of independence defined by successfully competing as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator (equally responsible independent investigator) for a non-mentored, peer-reviewed, national grant with a budget of \$100,000 or more per year in direct costs as of the application date."

I am currently a co-PI on a two-institution collaborative NSF grant with a total of 3 PIs (Two PIs in my institution, another PI in other institution - all equally responsible for the work). In NSF, separate budgets are claimed per institution. My institution's annual direct costs are below \$100,000. However, the combined annual direct cost of two institutions are above \$100,000. I want to clarify whether I am still eligible for applying to the NIR Grant. (posted 1/10/12)

Based on the information provided, you are eligible to submit the application if you meet all other NIR grant eligibility requirements as stated in the NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 3. Please include a detailed description of this situation regarding the NSF grant in the Other Support form. Final eligibility will be determined by the Program after review of the full application.

30. We have one colleague from here planning to apply for the NIR award. We noticed that he has previously been listing himself as being faculty from Feb 2006 when he was at [a non-Florida Institution]. However, he was an 'Instructor' at that time, and did not become an independent faculty member until he joined us in [month] 2007.

A number of institutes have what I would call pseudo-faculty positions in order to overcome rules that they have about postdocs remaining at an institution. It was the same at [another non-Florida University] and [another Florida University] where I was faculty previously. They do not allow postdocs to remain in the position beyond 5-6 years, and so have created positions such as Instructor or Research Scientist in order to keep some postdocs on. They are not 'independent' positions in that they cannot apply for grants, and do not get designated space etc.....they just remain as postdocs working with a true faculty member but with an intermediate title.

As [colleague name] has listed Feb 2006 on previous apps, we did not want to raise a red flag by him changing that now, but I believe that his first true faculty position was not achieved until he joined us in 2007. So we are requesting if it's OK to have him apply for this round of NIR awards. (posted 1/10/12)

An Instructor/Research Scientist position would be considered a full-time (i.e. “true”) faculty position under Program policy (see NIR Call, Part II, Ch. 8, p. 22, for the definition of “Full-time Faculty”) and therefore the colleague referenced would not be eligible for an NIR. This assumes the Instructor/Research Scientist position involved “teaching, clinical, and research appointments carrying classroom teaching, laboratory teaching, clinical teaching or service, OR (emphasis added) **research assignments equal to at least nine months per fiscal year or 0.75 FTE.**” Final eligibility determination can only be made after a thorough review of a completed application. No exceptions are allowed regarding the six years limitation. See also the answer to Question 26 above.

Bridge Grant Questions and Answers

31. *If I am awarded a Bridge Grant, and I manage to get my federal grant funded in the meantime, does the Bridge grant get terminated? (posted 11/11/11)*

“If a Bridge Grant is awarded and the grantee is also awarded the highly rated federal grant on which the Bridge Grant is based or is awarded a grant with significant overlap, the Bridge Grant must be relinquished and must terminate no later than the day before the federal grant begins.” **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17)**

32. *I received a 19 percent score on an A2 (second revision) R01 application. Technically, this R01 cannot be re-submitted without major changes, after which it is submitted as a new grant. I do intend to submit a new version of this application to the NIH. Given these circumstances, would I be eligible for the bridge funding? (posted 11/11/11)*

You are eligible to apply, but “must commit to and show proof of resubmitting a federal proposal directly related to research described in the Qualifying Federal Proposal before the end of the grant period.” **(Bridge Call, Part IV, Ch. 5 B, p. 49)**

33. *I would like to apply for the Bridge Grant. I had a grant application submitted to a federal/government supported program (American Cancer Society) which scored high but was not funded due to budgetary constraints. Am I eligible to apply for the Bankhead-Coley Bridge Grant? (posted 11/11/11)*

A grant previously submitted to the American Cancer Society does not meet the qualifying criteria because the American Cancer Society is not a federal agency. Other funding associations that do NOT qualify include the American Diabetes Association, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, and the James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program. “To be eligible, applicants must have submitted a multi-year investigator-initiated research application to a federal agency (such as an NIH R type) (referred to as the ‘Qualifying Federal Proposal’).” **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17)**

34. *I received a 20 percent score on an NIH STTR application. Am I eligible for the Bridge Grant mechanism with an NIH STTR application? (posted 11/11/11)*

A STTR type application would be eligible as a ‘Qualifying Federal Proposal’ if it is a multi-year investigator-initiated research application. “To be eligible, applicants must

have submitted a multi-year investigator-initiated research application to a federal agency (such as an R type from NIH) (referred to as the 'Qualifying Federal Proposal')." (**Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17**)

35. *Can Bridge Grants be awarded to investigators starting up a laboratory or initiating a new field of study for which prior funding has not been received? For example, I make my first application for a multi-year grant to NIH and it receives a score at the 20th percentile and is not funded. Am I eligible to apply for a Bridge Grant?"* (posted 11/11/11)

Assuming you meet all other eligibility requirements, yes, you would be eligible to apply for a Bridge Grant under that circumstance. You are not required to have previous funding to be eligible; however, you must meet the Bridge Grant requirements outlined in the **Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3, p. 16**.

36. *I got the reviewers' comments for my grant application submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF uses a different Rating system (Excellent, Very good, Good, Fair, Poor) to evaluate proposals. Five reviewers ranked my proposal in between Very good/Good. Do you think I should submit this bridge grant to the Bankhead-Coley program?* (posted 11/14/11)

Yes, you should submit the application if you meet all other Bridge grant eligibility requirements as stated in the **Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3, p. 16**. Final eligibility will be determined by the Program after review of the full application.

37. *Are grants that were submitted to the NIH as "Multiple Principal Investigator" (MPI) grants eligible for the Bridge grant award? If so, is this also the case if one of the two PIs is at an out-of-State university but the Florida investigator is the Contact PI for the NIH?* (posted 11/11/11)

Yes, "Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) Qualifying Federal Proposals are eligible; however, only one person can be the Principal Investigator on the Bridge proposal." (**Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17**)

"To be eligible as a Principal Investigator at an eligible institution, the individual must be a full-time faculty member or a postdoctoral fellow in his/her final fellowship year, by the application due date." (**Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 A, p. 16**) A subcontract can be established for the out-of-state resource with the understanding that "funding for any out-of-state personnel or consulting expenses cannot exceed 10% of the total requested direct costs." (**Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 5 A, p. 23**)

All other Bridge grant eligibility requirements in Part II, Ch. 3 must also be met. The above answer also applies if the Florida investigator is the contact PI for the NIH.

38. *Can I submit only the cover page and research plan of my NIH R01 application instead of the full application? (posted 11/11/11)*

No, the applicant must “provide a PDF copy of the ENTIRE/FULL/COMPLETE Qualifying Federal Proposal as it was submitted to the Federal agency. Incomplete Proposals will not be considered for funding.” **(Bridge Call, Part III, Ch. 5, p. 37)** If you have technical issues uploading the full NIH R01 application, please refer to Appendix A, of the Bridge Call for tips to reduce PDF file sizes or contact technical support identified in **Part II, Ch. 6 B, p. 24.**

39. *I submitted a U01 and received a score of 30. The guidelines states “R type of grants”. Is the U01 eligible? (posted 11/11/11)*

An unfunded U01 proposal with a score of 30 is eligible as long as the proposal is a multi-year proposal and all other eligibility and application requirements and limits identified in Part III of the Bridge Call are met. “To be eligible, applicants must have submitted a multi-year investigator-initiated research application to a federal agency (such as an NIH R type) (referred to as the ‘Qualifying Federal Proposal’).” **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17)** Any NIH grant application is eligible as a ‘Qualifying Federal Proposal’ as long as it is a multi-year investigator-initiated research application and meets all other requirements identified in the Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3.

40. *I submitted an RO1 and there were 3 reviews. The primary reviewer scored it as a “24”, the second reviewer gave it a 32, and the 3rd a 38. Since I got a 24 by the primary reviewer would I be eligible? (posted 11/11/11)*

If the summary statement for the R01 does not have a percentile ranking, the application final assigned impact/priority score or rating (usually an average of the reviewers scores) on the summary statement must be 3.0 (30) or lower. The 30 score/rating limit does not apply to the individual reviewer scores. “For purposes of this competition, “high scientific merit” is a percentile ranking of 30th or better (less) among all scored proposals, or in absence of a percentile ranking an assigned score or rating of 3.0 (30) or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 9.0 (10 to 90), or 2.0 or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0, with 1.0 (10) representing the most favorable rating.” **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17)**

41. *I applied for a DOD BCRP Idea grant in 2009 that was not funded but which received a very good score; on the basis of this qualifying federal proposal I was awarded a Bankhead-Coley Bridge grant. I applied again in 2011 for a DOD BCRP Idea grant, using the same project title but with substantial modifications to the proposal, and again was not funded but again received a good score. Am I eligible to apply for a bridge grant for the 2012 DOD BCRP application? (posted 11/11/11)*

It depends on the modifications. The aims and experiments in the new Bridge Grant proposal must be significantly different from any previous Bridge grants. “Previous Bankhead-Coley or James & Esther King Bridge Grant recipients can not apply for another Bridge Grant for the same research project. The aims and experiments in the new Bridge Grant proposal must be significantly different from any previous Bridge grants.” **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 D, p. 19)**

42. *Regarding tables 1 - 3. Does this mean, anyone who has a summary statement dated between March 1, 2011 and January 20, 2012 can apply in cycle 1, those who have a summary statement dated between August 24, 2011 and August 31, 2012, the deadline for cycle 2, can apply in cycle 2, and those who received summary statements dated between December 23, 2011 and December 14, 2012, the deadline for cycle 3, can apply in cycle 3? Please clarify if we are interpreting it correctly. (posted 11/11/11)*

Yes, that is correct. The “on or after” dates for receipt of federal peer review summary statements allow for some overlap across the funding rounds. In other words, depending on the date of your peer review summary statement, you may be eligible to apply during two of the rounds. Please note that funds for Bridge grants are limited and applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as they are ready, and that the Principal Investigator may not “submit the same project more than once during the FY 2012-2013 Bridge Call competition unless the federal scientific merit score and/or percentile has improved.” **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 D, p. 19)**

Examples: If the summary statement date is any day from March 1, 2011 to the Round 1 deadline, January 20, 2012, you can apply for Round 1. If the summary statement date is any day from August 24, 2011 to the Round 2 deadline, August 31, 2012, you can apply to Round 2. If the summary statement date is any day from December 23, 2011 to Round 3 deadline, December 14, 2012, you can apply to Round 3. If the summary statement date is August 25, 2011, you can apply to either Round 1 or Round 2 but not to Round 3.

43. *"The Principal Investigator may submit only one Bridge Grant application per round within this Call competition." Does this mean a PI can submit totally different (and eligible) multiple applications if they are submitted in different rounds, one application at a round? Are they considered totally independent or is there still [an] upper limit like a PI cannot get multiple bridge grants within this FY 2012-2013 Call competition? (posted 11/11/11)*

A Principal Investigator may submit only one application each Round. If a specific application is submitted in Round 1 and is not funded, it can only be resubmitted in Round 2 or 3 if the federal scientific merit percentile or score improved from what was submitted in Round 1. Note, also that “If the applicant’s proposal is funded, the Grantee must commit to and show proof of resubmitting a federal proposal directly related to research described in the Qualifying Federal Proposal before the end of the grant period.” **(Bridge Call, Part IV, Ch. 5 B, p. 49)**

A Principal Investigator can be awarded more than one Bridge grant in this competition (no more than one in each Round (3 in total)); however, the funded projects cannot significantly overlap scientifically or financially. Also, project member’s effort greater than 100% is prohibited. See Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 D for Duplicate Application and Overlap Limits.

44. *I submitted an R15 proposal to CSRS study section at NIH last June and the impact score is 32. As there is no percentile for R15 proposals, I called the program official [name] at NIH. She told me that my proposal was the number 3 among all the 19 R15 proposals submitted to the CSRS study section in 2011. My question is whether my R15 proposal is good enough for the application of the Bridge grant. If qualified, is it reasonable to claim that the assigned score of my R15 proposal is $3/19=15.8\%$? (posted 11/11/11)*

Based on the information you provided, the referenced R15 proposal is not qualified. Any federal proposal that does not have a percentile on the summary statement (or web page screen print) and the impact score is greater than 30 is not qualified. "For purposes of this competition, "high scientific merit" is a percentile ranking of 30th or better (less) among all scored proposals, or **in absence of a percentile ranking an assigned score or rating of 3.0 (30) or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 9.0 (10 to 90),** or 2.0 or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0, with 1.0 (10) representing the most favorable rating." (Emphasis added) **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17)**

45. *Our Department of Defense proposal has a score of 2.1 out of a 1.0-5.0 scale; however, the application requirements listed in the Bridge Grant instructions require a 2.0 or lower score. Can we still apply?* (posted 11/11/11)

The referenced DOD project would not be considered eligible since the assigned impact score is greater than 2.0 on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0 unless the project has a percentile ranking of 30th or better (less). "For purposes of this competition, "high scientific merit" is a percentile ranking of 30th or better (less) among all scored proposals, or in absence of a percentile ranking an assigned score or rating of 3.0 (30) or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 9.0 (10 to 90), or 2.0 or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0, with 1.0 (10) representing the most favorable rating." **(Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17)**

46. *I submitted a Bridge grant application last year (FY 2011-12) which was not funded nor peer reviewed by the Program. Would the Program consider a resubmission of that application?* (posted 11/11/11)

Yes, if the all Bridge eligibility requirements in the Bridge Call, Part II are met. Only applications with a federal peer review summary statement date on or after March 1, 2011 would be eligible for Round 1.

47. *I received my summary statements from NIH on February 18th, 2011, and the Funding Council did not meet to decide on grants until May 11th, 2011. I would have applied during the second round of Bridge Grant applications last year, but this round along with the third round were cancelled. The first round was prior to the funding council for my grant, so it would not have made sense to have applied at this early of a date (April 30, 2011). The call for applications lists that the summary statements must be dated March 1st, 2011 or later (10 days after my Summary Statements were issued). I did not have an opportunity to submit a Bridge Grant proposal for my summary statements, and these statements were issued less than nine months ago. In contrast the second and third rounds listed in the current call for applications give substantially longer periods during which the Summary Statements may have been released in order to be eligible. Given the circumstances, is it possible that I (and others) might be allowed some degree of leniency regarding this requirement of summary statements being dated later than March 1st, 2011?* (posted 12/07/11)

No changes in the cut-off dates are being considered. When establishing the cut-off dates, a primary consideration was grant start date.

When the first round of FY 2012-2013 Bridge Grants is scheduled to begin, funded projects may be supported by summary statements as old as 16 months. For the second and third rounds, the corresponding intervals between the earliest allowable summary statement date and the scheduled grant start date are the same or slightly shorter.

As with the FY 2011-2012 Bridge Call, funds for FY 2012-2013 Bridge grants will be limited and grants will be awarded until all available funds are exhausted. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

48. *I received a summary statement for my NIH grant on 2/22/11 with a score of 28 percentile. Can I apply for a bridge grant in the first round of the cycle? The program was discontinued last year when I planned to apply due to lack of funding. (posted 12/07/11)*

Your application is not eligible for any rounds this year. See the answer to Question 46.

49. *I submitted a new investigator idea grant to DOD in 2010 and received a score of 1.7 on a scale of 1-5 which makes me eligible to apply for the bridge grant. However, I do not see any date on the summary statement. Most probably, I received it either in January or February 2011. But I see that peer review summary statement should be received on or after 1st March 2011. Am I still eligible? What happens to the grants that receive summary statement in late January or February? They will not fit in any rounds. (posted 12/07/11)*

Your application is not eligible for any rounds this year. See the answer to Question 46.

50. *For another grant I submitted to DOE, the scale is 1-6; 1-2 is discourage funding; 3-4 is encourage funding and 5-6 is strongly encourage funding. How should the score be calculated in such cases? (posted 12/07/11)*

A full review of the summary statement would be required to answer your question. If you feel that your summary statement meets the eligibility requirements, you should apply. Final eligibility will be determined by the Program after review of the full application.

51. *I would like to enquire as to my eligibility for a bridge grant to the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program. My grant proposal concerns [related research]. It is therefore eligible for this grant in terms of its subject matter.*

I recently put this grant into NIH as a RO1 and it was not discussed, having received an average score of 4.1 (on a scale of 1 to 9 with 1 being the best). I wonder therefore whether this allows me to apply for a bridge grant. (posted 12/27/11)

Based on the information you provided, the referenced R01 proposal is not qualified. "For purposes of this competition, "high scientific merit" is a percentile ranking of 30th or better (less) among all scored proposals, or **in absence of a percentile ranking an assigned score or rating of 3.0 (30) or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 9.0 (10 to 90)**, or 2.0 or lower on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0, with 1.0 (10) representing the most favorable rating." (emphasis added) (**Bridge Call, Part II, Ch. 3 B, p. 17**)

52. One of my investigators is interested in submitting a Bridge Cancer grant application. She received her notification November 2010 and the critiques came in the beginning of this year 2011. The critiques don't have a date listed on them, is she eligible to apply? (*posted 12/27/11*)

A full review of the summary statement would be required to answer your question. If you feel the summary statement meets the eligibility requirements, the PI should apply. Final eligibility will be determined by the Program after review of the full application. Only applications with a federal peer review summary statement date on or after March 1, 2011 are eligible for Round 1.