

# Start Your Research Right:

Early Career Funding Opportunities and  
UNL Resources to Help You Secure Funding



Office of Research and Economic Development  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



## **Message from Steve Goddard**

### **Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development**

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln the extraordinary talent, diverse perspectives and expertise of our faculty drive the research, teaching, creative activity and discovery that is building our reputation as a Big 10 university.

As an early career faculty member poised to contribute to this mission, I encourage you to focus on significance and impact: How will your work change the world? Whether your focus is in the arts and humanities, sciences, engineering, life sciences or agriculture, you will need a plan and resources to make a significant impact. Finding funding for your work will be a primary goal, and at UNL we offer many programs and resources to help you reach that goal.

To help you engage in our world-class research enterprise, the Office of Research and Economic Development provides a host of resources to catalyze the work of early career investigators. This booklet is one example of our commitment to your success. It lists a number of grant opportunities for early career faculty and identifies resources at UNL that support excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activity.

We also offer internal funding opportunities to help you increase your competitiveness for external grants; an outstanding proposal development office to help you ensure proposal narratives are clear, concise, and convincing; a proactive sponsored programs office to help you submit grant proposals for external funding; and numerous educational programs to help you understand research administration at UNL.

The door to the Office of Research and Economic Development is always open – we want to hear your ideas; help you find funding to support your research, scholarly, and creative activity; and connect you to others whose research and scholarship may complement yours.

Let us know how we may help you succeed. Please visit our office in person at 301 Canfield Administration Building or online at <http://research.unl.edu>.

Sincerely,



Steve Goddard  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research  
and Economic Development

## About this Guide

This guide was developed to help early career faculty find funding sources especially intended for early career researchers. It is available in this print version to describe the kinds of award programs available and allow you to browse through it when you are away from the internet. An interactive version also can be found electronically at the [Office of Research and Economic Development website](#), which contains active links to specific funding agencies and award programs.

In addition to providing information regarding resources for funding opportunity searches, a list of internal funding opportunities, and a list of funding sources pertinent to early career researchers, this guide describes proposal development services and resources available at UNL to help you achieve success in your research and scholarly and creative endeavors.

We encourage you to regularly visit the Office of Research and Economic Development's website for additional resources, announcements, and important information.

<http://research.unl.edu/for-researchers/>

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## Resources to Search for External Funding Opportunities

**Free automated resources** that keep you informed about federal and private funding opportunities:

- Grants.gov Opportunities  
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guide Listserv  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm>
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Update  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNSF/subscriber/new?qsp=823>
- Philanthropy News Digest's Request for Proposal (RFP) Alert  
<http://www.philanthropynewsdigest.org/pnd-alerts-and-newsletters>
- Federal Register  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

**Searchable databases** that may be useful:

- Foundation Center for Grant Seekers at the UNL Libraries  
<http://libraries.unl.edu/grants>
- Philanthropy News Digest  
<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/>
- NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts  
[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/search\\_results.htm?scope=rfa&scope=pa&year=active&text\\_curr=&Search.x=22&Search.y=2](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/search_results.htm?scope=rfa&scope=pa&year=active&text_curr=&Search.x=22&Search.y=2)
- NSF Contracting Opportunities  
<http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/>
- NSF Grant Opportunities  
[http://nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_list.jsp?org=NSF&ord=date](http://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=NSF&ord=date)
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance  
<https://www.cfda.gov/>
- FedConnect  
<https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Default.htm>
- FedBizOpps  
<https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=main&mode=list&tab=list>
- H-Net Academic Announcements  
<http://www.h-net.org/announce/group.cgi?type=Funding>
- Rural Assistance Center  
<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding>

**Manual reviews of sponsor websites** also lead to funding opportunity announcements. These websites include:

- U.S. Department of Education  
<http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
<https://nifa.usda.gov/rfa-list>
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
<http://energy.gov/public-services/funding-opportunities>

**Nebraska-specific resources** include:

- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
<http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>
- Nebraska Environmental Trust  
<http://www.environmentaltrust.org/grants/index.html>
- Nebraska Arts Council  
<http://www.nebraskaartscouncil.org/Grants/>
- Nebraska Humanities Council  
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/grants/opportunities/>

## Internal Funding Opportunities

Internal funds are available from the Office of Research and Economic Development and from the Research Council to support research, scholarship, and creative activities through annual, university-wide competitions. For more information on deadlines and application processes, see the [Faculty Resources section](#) of the Office of Research and Economic Development website.

### Office of Research and Economic Development Awards

Internal funding opportunities from the Office of Research and Economic Development include the programs summarized below.

#### [Arts and Humanities Research Enhancement Program](#)

The objective of this program is to foster research, scholarship, and creative activity in the arts and humanities, broadly defined, to support excellence in these disciplines and to increase UNL's competitiveness for external grants.

#### [Biomedical Seed Grant](#)

Enhance the competitiveness of faculty submitting grant proposals requesting R01 (research project grant) support for biomedical research funding from the National Institutes of Health. Evidence of prior work or preliminary data is a necessary component of most biomedical research proposals. Investigators are expected to leverage seed funding to accumulate

evidence in support of a working hypothesis; demonstrate the feasibility of a new approach; or build reviewers confidence in the project teams ability to handle cutting-edge technologies, understand methods, and interpret results. Awards up to \$50,000. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

### [Layman Seed Awards](#)

This program provides seed money for projects by non-tenured junior faculty that will enhance the grantee's ability to obtain external funding to support prominent scholarly work. PIs must propose projects of high promise and make a compelling case that Layman funding is critical to their success.

### [Layman New Directions Awards](#)

The New Directions program supports the research of tenured faculty members (associate/full professors) who are re-entering research or seek to branch into new directions in the pursuit of external funding.

### [Revision Awards](#)

Faculty must contact Nathan Meier at 402-472-3902 or [nlm@unl.edu](mailto:nlm@unl.edu) before submitting an application for this award, to see if you qualify. This award enhances the competitiveness of faculty revising and resubmitting grant proposals by providing developmental and/or financial support to help improve highly meritorious, but previously unfunded federal funding proposals that are eligible for resubmission. Budgets for this award are heavily scrutinized. Two award levels: for previous proposal requests that were less than \$500,000, awards up to \$25,000 will be given. For previous proposal requests that were more than \$500,000, awards up to \$50,000 will be given. Applications accepted on a rolling basis, after contacting Nathan Meier regarding eligibility.

To apply for any of these awards, login to NUgrant (<http://nugrant.unl.edu>) using your Blackboard credentials, select the funding opportunity for which you will apply (e.g., Layman Award), and follow the step-by-step instructions. If you have any questions regarding the applications for Office of Research and Economic Development awards, contact Mari Greer ([mgreer1@unl.edu](mailto:mgreer1@unl.edu), 402-472-2851). To obtain your Blackboard credentials, contact the UNL Help Desk (402-472-3970 or toll-free at 866-472-3970, [mysupport@unl.edu](mailto:mysupport@unl.edu)).

## **Research Council Awards**

The Research Council represents the diversity of research, scholarship, and creative activity at UNL with [twelve faculty members](#) who are appointed for three-year terms of service. Among the Council's duties are to review and award internal grants for research, scholarship, and creative activities with funds allocated from the University of Nebraska Foundation. For more information on deadlines and application processes, please see the [Faculty Resources section](#) of the Office of Research and Economic Development website. Below is a list of Research Council opportunities.



### [Faculty Seed Grants](#)

These grants support projects that encourage and enhance research, creative, and scholarly activities and enhance prospects of obtaining outside, competitive support.

### [Grants-In-Aid](#)

Grants-in-aid support projects that promote a faculty member's research, creative, and scholarly activities that may or may not enhance prospects for obtaining outside support.

### [Interdisciplinary Research Grants](#)

Interdisciplinary research grants support new initiatives by UNL faculty in interdisciplinary research, creative, and scholarly activities to increase competitiveness of these interdisciplinary teams in applying for external funding, and that could also serve as ideas for future development for strategic initiatives.

### [Visiting Scholars](#)

This award supports invited scholars who are recognized for excellence in their fields and whose research and scholarly activities are closely related to the research interests of the faculty and graduate students at UNL.

### [Symposium/Distinguished Lecturer](#)

This award provides funds for outstanding invited scholars to deliver symposia or colloquia on campus that are of interest to a large interdisciplinary segment of the university community.

### [Special Opportunity Fund](#)

The special opportunity fund helps cover the costs associated with visits by distinguished speakers to UNL in special cases when the opportunity arises after the application deadlines for the traditional Distinguished Lecturer/Symposia program has passed.

To apply for Research Council Awards, login to NUgrant (<http://nugrant.unl.edu>) using your Blackboard credentials, select the funding opportunity for which you will apply (e.g., Faculty Seed Grants, Grant-in-Aid), and follow the step-by-step instructions. If you have any questions regarding the applications for Research Council awards, contact Mari Greer ([mgreer1@unl.edu](mailto:mgreer1@unl.edu), 402-472-2851). To obtain your Blackboard credentials, contact the UNL Help Desk (402-472-3970 or toll-free at 866-472-3970, [mysupport@unl.edu](mailto:mysupport@unl.edu)).

## Faculty Early Career Awards – Arts and Humanities

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences <a href="#">Visiting Scholars Program</a>	October	The purpose of this interdisciplinary program is to stimulate and support scholarly work by promising scholars and practitioners in the early stages of their careers and to foster exchange between an emerging generation of scholars and Academy members with shared interests. Proposals in the humanities and social sciences relating to culture, American history, and public policy are requested.
American Council of Learned Societies <a href="#">Fellowships</a>	September	Fellowships support research in all disciplines of the humanities and humanities-related social sciences. The project goal should be a major piece of scholarly (not creative) work by the applicant. Awards provide up to \$35,000 for assistant professor-level investigators for six to twelve months of research.
National Endowment for the Humanities <a href="#">Summer Stipends</a>	September	Summer stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to scholars and/or general audiences of the humanities.
Stanford Humanities Center <a href="#">External Faculty Fellowships</a>	October	Junior fellowships are available for scholars who received their Ph.D. between three and ten years ago for research in the humanities. Stipends are up to \$70,000.
The Vilcek Foundation <a href="#">The Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise</a>	Annual (summer)	These \$50,000 prizes recognize talented, foreign-born artists no more than 38 years old, living in the United States who have demonstrated significant creativity and originality in the early stages of their careers in biomedical research and arts and humanities.
Woods Charitable Fund <a href="#">Grant Program</a>	Contact the Fund	The Fund seeks to strengthen the community by improving opportunities and life outcomes for all people in Lincoln, Nebraska. Woods supports members of the nonprofit sector who are exploring creative alternatives and promoting more just, effective approaches to meet community needs.

## Faculty Early Career Awards – Social and Education Sciences

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Alzheimer's Association <a href="#">Research Grant Programs</a>	Varies	The Alzheimer's Association funds a wide variety of investigations by scientists at every stage of their careers. Each grant is designed to meet the needs of the field and to introduce fresh ideas in Alzheimer's research.
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences <a href="#">Visiting Scholars Program</a>	October	The purpose of this interdisciplinary program is to stimulate and support scholarly work by promising scholars and practitioners in the early stages of their careers and to foster exchange between an emerging generation of scholars and Academy members with shared interests. Proposals in the humanities and social sciences relating to culture, American history, and public policy are requested.
American Federation for Aging Research <a href="#">New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease</a>	Varies, typically annual	This program supports research in areas in which more scientific investigation is needed to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Alzheimer's. Up to four, one- to two-year awards of \$100,000 are available.
American Political Science Association <a href="#">Congressional Fellowship Program</a>	December	This fellowship gives early- to mid-career political scientists an opportunity to learn more about Congress and the legislative process through working as full-time legislative aides in the House of Representatives and/or Senate from December to August. Fellows receive a \$50,000 stipend and small travel allowance.
American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation <a href="#">Research Grant for New Investigators</a>	Varies	New scientists who earned their latest degree in communication sciences within the last five years are eligible to compete for \$10,000 grants, for research in audiology or speech-language pathology.
Brain and Behavior Research Foundation <a href="#">NARSAD Young Investigator Award Program</a>	Varies, typically annual	Award provides support for the most promising young scientists conducting neurobiological research. Two-year awards up to \$70,000, or \$35,000 per year are provided to enable promising investigators to either extend research fellowship training or begin careers as independent research faculty. Basic and/or clinical investigators are supported, but research must be relevant to serious brain and behavior disorders such as schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety disorders or child and adolescent mental illnesses.
Foundation for Child Development <a href="#">Young Scholars Program</a>	Letters of Intent, May; Full Proposal, October	Fellowships provide up to \$225,000 for up to three years for basic and policy-relevant research about the early education, health, and well-being of immigrant children. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or its equivalent in one of the behavioral and social sciences or in an allied professional field.

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
March of Dimes <a href="#">Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards</a>	Letter of Nomination: March Full Application: July	Initial independent grant to young investigators is restricted. PhD applicants should be no more than eight years past their degree. Successful applicants have traditionally completed four to six years of postdoctoral training or other faculty-mentored work, but not more than eight years, and have been hired as a faculty member at their current institution. This award is designed to support young scientists just embarking on their independent research careers and is limited to those holding recent faculty appointments. These grants are up to \$150,000 for two years.
March of Dimes <a href="#">General Research Grants</a>	Letters of Intent: April Full Applications: September	Qualified scientists with faculty appointments or the equivalent, at universities, hospitals and research institutions (not for profit or profit), to submit applications for research grants relevant to our mission. This encompasses basic biological processes governing differentiation and development involving both human and animal model systems, genetics and genomics of these processes, clinical studies, reproductive health and environmental toxicology. Social and behavioral studies are encouraged concerning cognitive and behavioral risks that affect outcomes of pregnancy, the perinatal period, and subsequent child development. The latter may involve family units and those genes, toxicants and social determinants that adversely affect language or behavior.
McKnight Foundation <a href="#">Scholar Awards</a>	Varies, typically annual	Awards encourage neuroscientists in the early stages of their careers to focus on disorders of learning and memory. The Foundation especially seeks applicants working on problems that, if solved, would have immediate and significant impact on clinically relevant issues. Up to six awards are given at \$75,000 per year for three years.
National Institutes of Health <a href="#">Career Development Awards (K Awards)</a>	Varies	Individuals with a research doctorate should consider at least eight different awards, most of which support individuals who have accepted or are ready for a faculty position. The Career Transition Award (K22) provides support during the early years of a new faculty position.
The Spencer Foundation <a href="#">Research Grants</a>	Varies	The Foundation provides funding for research projects in four areas: the relationship between education and social opportunity; organizational learning in schools, school systems, and higher education institutions; teaching, learning, and instructional resources; and purposes and values of education.
William T. Grant Foundation <a href="#">Scholars Program</a>	Annual summer deadlines are typical	The program promotes the development of promising early career researchers from diverse disciplines whose research furthers understanding of the development of adolescents and young adults and the conditions that enable these youth to reach their full potential. Awards are for \$350,000 over five years.

## Faculty Early Career Awards – Life and Agricultural Sciences

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Air Force Office of Scientific Research <a href="#">Young Investigator Research Program</a>	Varies	These awards foster creative basic research in science and engineering, enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators, and increase opportunities to recognize the Air Force's mission and challenges in science and engineering. Each award will be funded at the \$120,000 level for three years.
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation <a href="#">Sloan Research Fellowships</a>	September	Candidates must hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in chemistry, computational or evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics, neuroscience, physics, or a related field and normally be no more than six years from completion of their most recent Ph.D. (or equivalent) as of the year of their nomination. Candidates must be nominated by a department head or other senior researcher.
Alzheimer's Association <a href="#">Alzheimer's Association Research Grant</a>	Letters of Intent: September Full Proposals: November	The purpose of this program is to provide newly independent investigators with funding that will allow them to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures and to develop hypotheses. The intent is to support early-career development that will lay the groundwork for future research grant applications to the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and other funding agencies and groups, including future proposals to the Alzheimer's Association. Funded at \$150,000 up to three years.
American Association for Cancer Research <a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>	Varies	These awards are open to junior faculty and are used to advance various areas of cancer research. Individual programs are designated for different types of cancer research, and grant amounts and terms vary depending on the program.
American Cancer Society <a href="#">Research Scholar Grants</a>	April, October	This grant supports investigator-initiated projects across the cancer research continuum. Awards are for up to four years and for up to \$165,000 per year (direct costs), plus 20% allowable indirect costs. Independent investigators in the first six years of an independent research career or faculty appointment are eligible to apply.

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
American Diabetes Association <a href="#">Core Program - Junior Faculty Development</a>	April	<p>These awards support early investigators as they establish independence as diabetes researchers. Any level faculty up to &amp; including Assistant Professor or equivalent. Eligible applicants must be full-time independent faculty with less than 10 years of research experience since their terminal degree who do not have previous or current NIH support (R00, R01, U01 or equivalent). Applicants may not hold concurrent awards of similar intent (NIH K awards, foundation or non-profit career development awards), however they can have completed previous NIH K or other career development funding. Applicants must dedicate at least 75% total effort to research activities. Awards are up to \$138,000 per year for up to four years including indirect costs. PI's salary support cannot exceed \$75,000 per year. Additionally, applicants can request up to \$10,000 per year towards the repayment of the principal on loans for a doctoral degree (MD, PhD, PharmD, DPM or DO).</p>
American Federation for Aging Research <a href="#">New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease</a>	Letters of Intent: January Full Applications: March	<p>The major goal of this partnership program is to support important research in areas in which more scientific investigation is needed to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The program also serves to encourage junior investigators in the United States and Israel to pursue research and academic careers in the neurosciences, and Alzheimer's disease in particular. Projects in basic and translational research related to Alzheimer's disease (AD) that are clinically relevant, will be considered. For one of the awards, priority may be given to an investigator with a research project that has high translational potential. Up to three one-to-two year awards of \$100,000 each will be awarded.</p>
American Heart Association <a href="#">Scientist Development Grant</a>	July	<p>This program supports highly promising beginning scientists in their progress toward independence by encouraging and adequately funding research projects that can bridge the gap between completion of research training and readiness for successful competition as an independent investigator. Proposals are encouraged from all basic, behavioral, epidemiological, and community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.</p>
Arthritis Foundation <a href="#">Innovative Research Grant</a>	August	<p>The purpose of the Arthritis Foundation's Innovative Research Grant initiative is to broaden the base of inquiry in fundamental biomedical science, clinical science, and bio-behavioral research with relevance to osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and juvenile arthritis (JA). The research projects proposed under this Request for Applications (RFA) may involve substantial experimental risks with the potential for highly significant outcomes, but must be directly relevant to the RFA topics posed.</p>

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Beckman Foundation <a href="#">Young Investigators Program</a>	Letters of Intent vary June - September	This program supports young faculty in chemistry and the life sciences, particularly to foster the invention of methods, instruments, and materials that will open up new avenues of research in science. Typically, these are four-year projects capped at a total of \$750,000.
Brain and Behavior Research Foundation <a href="#">NARSAD Young Investigator Award Program</a>	Annual	This award enables promising investigators to either extend research fellowship training or begin careers as independent research faculty. Basic and/or clinical investigators are supported, but research must be relevant to serious brain and behavior disorders such as schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety disorders or child and adolescent mental illnesses. Two-year awards up to \$70,000, or \$35,000 per year.
Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc. <a href="#">Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a>	Institutional Nominations: February	The Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards Program supports the research and teaching careers of talented young faculty in the chemical sciences. Based on institutional nominations, the program provides discretionary funding to faculty at an early stage in their careers. Criteria for selection include an independent body of scholarship attained in the early years of their appointment, and a demonstrated commitment to education, signaling the promise of continuing outstanding contributions to both research and teaching. The Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards Program provides an unrestricted research grant of \$75,000. See website for criteria.
Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc. <a href="#">Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a>	Institutional Nominations: May	The Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards Program supports the research and teaching careers of talented young faculty in the chemical sciences at undergraduate institutions. Based on institutional nominations, the program provides discretionary funding to faculty at an early stage in their careers. The award is based on accomplishment in scholarly research with undergraduates, as well as a compelling commitment to teaching, and provides an unrestricted research grant of \$60,000. See website for criteria.
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation <a href="#">Fellowships for Science and Engineering</a>	Institutional Nominations	The program invites up to two nominations from selected institutions and supports the innovative research efforts of young faculty members in the natural and physical sciences or engineering. Awards provide \$875,000 over five years. See website for selected institutions.
Department of Energy <a href="#">Early Career Research Program</a>	Pre-proposals: September Full Proposals: November	This supports the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and stimulates research careers in the disciplines supported by the DOE Office of Science. Opportunities exist in the following program areas: Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR); Biological and Environmental Research (BER); Basic Energy Sciences (BES), Fusion Energy Sciences (FES); High Energy Physics (HEP), and Nuclear Physics (NP).

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund, Inc. <a href="#">Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship Awards in the Neurosciences</a>	March	The Award supports, in the early stages of their careers, young investigators engaged in basic or clinical research that may lead to a better understanding of neurological and psychiatric disorders. Several areas within the neurosciences are of particular interest: Cellular and molecular neuroscience—Studies of the mechanisms of neuronal excitability and development, and of the genetic basis of behavior. Neural systems—Studies of the integrative function of the nervous system. Clinical research—Studies designed to improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and our understanding of the causes of neurological and psychiatric disorders. Award of \$225,000 over three years.
Health Effects Institute <a href="#">Walter A. Rosenblith New Investigator Award</a>	Varies, typically annual	The purpose of this award is to bring new, creative investigators into active research on the health effects of air pollution. It provides three years of funding for a small project relevant to the Institute's research interests. Each award is up to \$150,000 per year with a maximum of \$450,000 for three years.
Human Frontier Science Program <a href="#">Young Investigators' Research Grants</a>	Letters of Intent: March	These grants support collaborative research in the life sciences, bringing biologists together with scientists from other disciplines such as chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science, and engineering. Grants are awarded to teams of researchers from different countries, all of whom are within the first five years of obtaining an independent laboratory. Teams receive up to \$450,000 per year.
Kinship Foundation <a href="#">Searle Scholars Program</a>	Institutional Nominations: September	This program invites nomination of applicants from selected universities and research institutions and supports individuals in the first or second year of their first tenure-track position at the assistant professor level in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, and pharmacology and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences. It provides \$100,000 per year for three years. See website for selected universities.
Leukemia Research Foundation <a href="#">Hollis Brownstein Research Grants Program</a>	Letters of Intent: February Full Proposals: March	By providing one-year grants of \$100,000 to selected New Investigator researchers, this program allows innovative scientists to act on their ideas and try new procedures and experiments that will hopefully lead to significant breakthroughs.
March of Dimes <a href="#">Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards</a>	March	This award is designed to support young scientists just embarking on their independent research careers and is limited to those holding recent faculty appointments. These grants are \$150,000 for two years.



Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
March of Dimes <a href="#">General Research Grants</a>	Letters of Intent: April Full proposals: September	All qualified scientists (see website) are invited to submit applications for research grants directed at the prevention of birth defects. Research subjects include basic biological processes governing development, genetics, clinical studies, studies of reproductive health, and environmental toxicology. Amount of funding varies.
McKnight Foundation <a href="#">Scholar Awards</a>	January	Awards encourage neuroscientists in the early stages of a tenure-track faculty position, to focus on disorders of learning and memory. The Foundation especially seeks applicants working on problems that, if solved, would have an immediate and significant impact on clinically relevant issues. Awards are \$75,000 per year for three years.
National Institutes of Health <a href="#">Career Development Awards (K Awards) for Individuals with a Research Doctorate</a>	Varies, depending on particular award	Individuals with a research doctorate should consider at least eight different awards, most of which support individuals who have accepted or are ready for a faculty position. This award is used differently by the participating NIH institutes and centers, and interested applicants should carefully review the relevant program announcements. See website for details.
National Institutes of Health <a href="#">Director's New Innovator Award Program (DP2)</a>	September	This award is designed specifically to support unusually creative new investigators with highly innovative research ideas at an early stage of their career when they may lack the preliminary data required for an R01 grant. The emphasis is on innovation and creativity; preliminary data are not required, but may be included. Awards are \$300,000 per year, up to five years.
National Institutes of Health <a href="#">Office of Extramural Research – New Investigator's Program</a>	Varies	Entry of new investigators into the ranks of independent, NIH-funded researchers is essential to the health of this country's biomedical research enterprise. The NIH Pathways to Independence Program employs multiple strategies to facilitate receiving an R01 award earlier in an investigator's research career.
National MS Society <a href="#">Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholar Awards</a>	Online Pre-application: August  Full Application: August	As part of its overarching goals of stopping MS progression, restoring function, and ending MS forever, the National MS Society offers a limited number of Harry Weaver awards to highly qualified candidates who have concluded their research training and begun academic careers as independent investigators in an area related to multiple sclerosis. The awards are designed to provide salary and grant support for a five year period, thus permitting the awardee to establish competence in his/her chosen research area. Pre-application must be made jointly by a candidate and the institution in which an appointment is held. Award amounts vary.

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
National Science Foundation <a href="#">Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program</a>	July	This program supports the early career development activities of teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. The minimum CAREER award, including indirect costs, totals \$400,000 for a five-year duration.
Office of Naval Research <a href="#">Young Investigator Program</a>	November	The Young Investigator Program makes awards of up to \$170,000 per year for three years to attract outstanding new faculty members at institutions of higher education to support their research and encourage their teaching and research careers. See the ONR website for eligibility requirements and supported research areas.
The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation <a href="#">Research Starter Grants</a>	Varies	The purpose of these grants is to offer financial support to individuals beginning their independent research careers at the faculty level. The program provides a research grant of \$50,000 to \$100,000 for one year to advance science in pharmacology/toxicology, informatics, pharmaceuticals, health outcomes, adherence improvement and translational medicine and therapeutics.
Rockland Immunochemicals <a href="#">Joy Cappel Young Investigator Award</a>	September	This award is intended to foster research conducted by a promising post-doctoral fellow, graduate student or young investigator performing research in the areas of oncology, nuclear signaling, developmental biology, epigenetics, immunology, microbiology, neuroscience, signal transduction or stem cell technology. This award provides a \$4,000 credit.
Susan G. Komen for the Cure <a href="#">Challenge Grants - Career Catalyst Research</a>	Letter of Intent: July Full application: November	These grants provide opportunities for early career scientists to achieve research independence with an independent award of \$150,000 per year, up to three years. Investigators lead a research project addressing an important question in breast cancer research and complete a self-defined career development plan with support from a mentor committee.
U.S. Department of Agriculture <a href="#">Agriculture and Food Research Initiative</a>	Varies by program area	Eligible investigators or co-investigators include those who are beginning their research careers, do not have an extensive research publication record, and have fewer than five years postgraduate, career-track research experience. Funding is in the areas of natural resources and the environment; nutrition, food safety, and health; animals; pest biology and management; plants; markets, trade, and rural development; enhancing the value and use of agricultural and forest products; and agricultural systems research.
The Vilcek Foundation <a href="#">The Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise</a>	Annual (summer)	This \$50,000 prize recognizes talented, foreign-born scientists living in the United States who have demonstrated significant creativity and originality in the early stages of their careers in Biomedical research and the Arts and Humanities.

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Whitehall Foundation <a href="#">Grants-in-Aid</a>	Letters-of-intent: January 15, April 15, October 1  Full Proposals: June 1, September 1, February 15	This grant funds researchers at the assistant professor level in the life sciences for basic research in neurobiology. Awarded for a one year period, not in excess of \$30,000.

## Faculty Early Career Awards – Physical Sciences and Engineering

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Air Force Office of Scientific Research <a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>	Varies	The Young Investigator Research Program awards foster creative basic research in science and engineering, enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators, and increase opportunities to recognize the Air Force's mission and challenges in science and engineering. Proposals addressing the research areas of interest for the Air Force Research Laboratory will be considered. Each award will be funded at \$120,000 for three years.
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation <a href="#">Sloan Research Fellowships</a>	September for nominations	Candidates must hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in chemistry, computational or evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics, neuroscience, ocean sciences, physics, or a related field and normally be no more than six years from completion of their most recent Ph.D. (or equivalent) as of the year of their nomination. Candidates must be nominated by a department head or other senior researcher. Fellowships are \$60,000 for a two year period.
American Chemical Society <a href="#">Arthur C. Cope Young Scholar Awards</a>	November	Cope awards provide a \$40,000 unrestricted research grant to ten scholars annually. The award recognizes and encourages excellence in organic chemistry.
American Chemical Society <a href="#">Petroleum Research Fund Doctoral New Investigator (DNI) Grants</a>	October	The DNI grants program aims to promote the careers of young faculty by supporting research of high scientific caliber and to enhance the career opportunities of their undergraduate/graduate students and postdoctoral associates through the research experience. Awards are for \$110,000 over two years.
American Mathematical Association <a href="#">Centennial Fellowships</a>	December	One-year fellowships are awarded for excellence in mathematical research. Stipends are approximately \$91,000, with an additional expense allowance of \$9,100. Recipients shall have held the doctoral degree for at least three years and not more than twelve years at the inception of the award.
American Society for Mass Spectrometry <a href="#">Research Awards</a>	November	Academic scientists within four years of joining tenure-track faculty are eligible for awards of \$35,000 for research in mass spectrometry.
Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc. <a href="#">Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a>	Institutional Nominations: February	This award supports the research and teaching careers of talented young faculty in the chemical sciences. Based on institutional nominations, the program provides discretionary funding to faculty at an early stage in their careers. The award provides an unrestricted research grant of \$75,000. See the award website for criteria for selection.

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc. <a href="#">Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a>	Institutional Nominations: May	This award supports the research and teaching careers of talented young faculty in the chemical sciences at undergraduate institutions. Based on institutional nominations, the program provides discretionary funding to faculty at an early stage in their careers and is based on accomplishment in scholarly research with undergraduates, as well as a compelling commitment to teaching. The award provides an unrestricted research grant of \$60,000.
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs <a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>	Varies by program	Funding programs include, but are not limited to: autism spectrum disorder research program, breast cancer research program, defense medical research and development program, Gulf War veterans' illnesses research program, neurofibromatosis research program, ovarian cancer research program, peer-reviewed medical research program, psychological health and traumatic brain injury research program, prostate cancer research program, and tuberous sclerosis complex research program. Some of these areas have included New Investigator Awards, check website for details.
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation <a href="#">Fellowships for Science and Engineering</a>	Institutional Nominations: March	This program invites up to two nominations from selected institutions and supports the innovative research efforts of young faculty members in the natural and physical sciences or engineering. Awards provide \$875,000 over five years. See website for selected institutions.
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Microsystems Technology Office <a href="#">Young Faculty Award</a>	Varies	This award supports groundbreaking, single-investigator proposals from junior faculty at universities for research and development in the specific areas of science, mathematics, and engineering of interest to DARPA's Microsystems Technology Office and Defense Sciences Office. Each grant will encompass funding for a 24-month base period consisting of two 12-month phases (a maximum of \$250,000 per 12-month phase) and a 12-month option period (a maximum of \$500,000).
Department of Energy <a href="#">Early Career Research Program</a>	Pre-proposals: September Full proposals: November	This program supports the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and stimulates research careers in the disciplines supported by the DOE Office of Science. Opportunities exist in Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Biological and Environmental Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics.

Agency/Award	Deadline	Synopsis
Human Frontier Science Program <a href="#">Young Investigators' Research Grants</a>	Letters of Intent: March/April Full Proposals: September	This program supports collaborative research in the life sciences involving biologists together with scientists from other disciplines such as chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science, and engineering. Grants are awarded to teams of researchers from different countries, all of whom are within the first five years of obtaining an independent laboratory. Teams receive up to \$450,000 per year.
National Aeronautics and Space Administration <a href="#">New (Early Career) Investigator Program in Earth Science (ROSES program element)</a>	Varies; applications are solicited every two years	This program is designed to encourage the integration of Earth system research and education/outreach by scientists and engineers at the early stage of their professional careers. The program encourages scientists and engineers at academic and/or research institutions to develop a broader sense of responsibility for effectively contributing to the improvement of science education and public science literacy.
National Science Foundation <a href="#">CAREER Program</a>	July	This program supports the early career development activities of teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. The minimum CAREER award totals \$400,000 for a five-year duration.
Office of Naval Research <a href="#">Young Investigator Program</a>	November	The Young Investigator Program makes awards of up to \$170,000 per year for three years to attract outstanding new faculty members at institutions of higher education to support their research and encourage their teaching and research careers. See the ONR website for supported research areas.
Research Corporation for Science Advancement <a href="#">Cottrell Scholar Awards</a>	Annual, typically late summer/early fall	This award develops outstanding teacher-scholars who are recognized by their scientific communities for the quality and innovation of their research programs and their academic leadership skills. Awards are \$100,000 for a three year project.
U.S. Department of Agriculture <a href="#">Agriculture and Food Research Initiative</a>	Varies by program	Eligible investigators or co-investigators include those who are beginning their research careers, do not have an extensive research publication record, and have fewer than five years postgraduate career-track research experience. These grants support research in these areas: Plant health and production and plant products; Animal health and production and animal products; Food safety, nutrition, and health; Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment; Agriculture systems and technology; and Agriculture economics and rural communities.

# Proposal Development Resources

## Office of Proposal Development

The Office of Proposal Development partners with faculty, staff, and administrators to develop competitive external grant proposals. The office enhances overall proposal quality by ensuring applicants meet sponsor guidelines and by improving the content, organization, and visual appeal of proposal packages. Since 2005, staff members within the office have helped UNL investigators secure more than \$332 million in competitive grant funding from a wide range of federal agencies and private foundations. The Office of Proposal Development also helps UNL faculty with idea development, proposal planning, and proposal preparation. Contact Tisha Mullen at [tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu](mailto:tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu) or 402-472-2894 for proposal development assistance.

## Funding Announcements Listserv

All UNL faculty members are encouraged to sign up for *Funding Announcements*, a weekly email list of funding opportunities relevant to UNL expertise. To subscribe to the listserv, contact Tisha Mullen at [tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu](mailto:tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu) or 402-472-2894.

## Expert External Review of Grant Proposals

To foster the success of competitive proposals for external funding, the Office of Research and Economic Development provides assistance in obtaining [peer review of federal grant proposals](#) prior to submission. For more information on this service, contact Tisha Mullen at [tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu](mailto:tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu) or 402-472-2894.

## Grant Writing Seminars and Workshops

Various grant writing seminars and workshops are sponsored by the Office of Research and Economic Development. Two annual events are summarized below. Other events are advertised on the Office of Research and Economic Development website and in *Funding Announcements* as appropriate.

**Annual “Write Winning Grants” Seminar:** Watch for more information on this highly acclaimed grant writing seminar, typically presented each March by *Grant Writers’ Seminars and Workshops, LLC*. The seminar is designed for faculty members and others interested in developing grant proposals to NIH, NSF, USDA, and other funding agencies.

**Faculty Early Career Award Workshop:** The Office of Research and Economic Development hosts a workshop in the spring of each year for UNL faculty aimed at providing prospective grant applicants with 1) proposal writing advice from knowledgeable administrators and early career award recipients and 2) information about resources available at UNL to support the development of grant applications.

## **Contact with Program Officers at Federal Agencies**

To enhance the competitiveness of research proposals by facilitating interaction with prospective sponsors, the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development will consider faculty requests for awards to help defray the costs of travel to external funding agencies to meet with program officers to discuss proposals and future funding opportunities. To request funds, go to: <http://research.unl.edu/facultyresources/facultyTravel.php>.





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