

**Request for Applications:
REVISION AWARDS**



**Office of Research and Economic Development
University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Application Deadlines: Proposals for Revision Awards are accepted on a rolling basis.

Overview and Goal

The goal of the Revision Awards program is to enhance the competitiveness of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) faculty revising and resubmitting proposals for federal funding by providing developmental and/or financial support to help improve highly meritorious, but previously unfunded proposals that are eligible for resubmission to the same funding program. During the last several years, the level of federal funds available for research, education, and outreach projects has been reduced. The implementation of sequestration during 2013 further decreased the amount of funding available for federal agencies to distribute through competitive grant programs.

As a result of federal budget reductions and lingering financial uncertainty, the success rate for new grant applications is expected to decline, and many meritorious proposals that would have been successful in the past will go unfunded. Revision Awards provide a framework for dedicated technical and research administration assistance and, in cases where additional data collection or prior work is critical, funding to support further preliminary study. The rationale for this program is that access to expert advice and/or financial resources will enable investigators to address reviewers' concerns, improving the likelihood of success for UNL faculty submitting revised federal grant applications.

Award Amount and Scope

The Revision Awards program is made possible by funding from the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED). ORED will commit up to \$1 million toward Revision Awards during 2014. Two categories of Revision Awards support are available. **Category 1** proposals may request up to \$25,000 to support the revision of highly competitive grant proposals requesting \$250,000 to \$500,000 in federal grant support. **Category 2** proposals may request up to \$50,000 to support the revision of highly competitive grant proposals requesting more than \$500,000 in federal grant support. The project period for all Revision Awards may be no more than 12 months in duration.

Eligibility

Tenured/tenure-track and research faculty are eligible to serve as the principal investigator (PI) on applications for Revision Awards. Co-principal investigators (Co-PIs) do not need to hold a tenure-track position, and they may be affiliated with other institutions. However, the PI must propose to revise and resubmit a UNL-led federal grant proposal requesting a minimum of \$250,000 in total costs that was unfunded, but very well reviewed and scored, during the previous 24 months. PIs may submit one Revision Awards application per calendar year. Proposals for which Revision Awards support is requested must be resubmitted to the same program targeted by the original submission(s). Proposals seeking to repurpose a proposal for a new sponsor or funding program will not be considered.

Faculty interested in revising and resubmitting unfunded proposals that do not meet the eligibility guidelines for Revision Awards are encouraged to contact the [Office of Proposal Development](#) and to utilize ORED's [expert review of grant proposals](#) program.

Program Expectations

Recipients of Revision Awards are expected to complete the following steps during the development of their revised application:

- If they have not already done so, the PI/project team must hold a telephone conversation or face-to-face meeting with the cognizant program officer to discuss the reviewers' comments and the project's alignment with current agency/program priorities. An assessment of programmatic fit should be a key component of this conversation.
- As part of the Revision Awards application process, the PI/project team will identify three to six individuals qualified to provide technical review of the revised proposal. One or two potential reviewers should be UNL faculty and two to four reviewers should be nominated from outside the institution. As appropriate, one reviewer should be identified to serve as a primary consultant to the PI/project team throughout the revision process. Reviewers will be recruited and compensated by ORED.
- The PI/project team will meet with reviewers prior to initiating substantive revisions to the proposal narrative to debrief about the previous submission and to discuss and refine, as appropriate, the revision plan developed by the PI/project team as part of the Revision Awards application.
- The PI/project team will complete a revised grant application at least six weeks in advance of the targeted submission deadline. This draft of the application will be sent to all reviewers for written feedback, and the reviewers will convene to conduct a mock review panel approximately one month prior to the targeted submission deadline. This timeframe will enable the PI/project team sufficient time to respond to the reviewers' feedback and prepare an updated application for resubmission.
- The PI/project team must commit to a complete review of the updated proposal package by ORED before it is sent to the mock review panelists and prior to final submission.
The [Office of Proposal Development](#) will be responsible for providing feedback on the proposal narrative and ancillary documents (e.g., biographical sketches, current and pending support forms, etc.), and the [Office of Sponsored Programs](#) will provide a review of the proposal budget and budget justification.
- The PI/project team must submit a revised grant application within 18 months following the date of Revision Awards receipt or in response to the next available competition, whichever occurs first.

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Notice of Intent to Submit

Revision Awards applicants must provide notice of intent to submit at least two weeks prior to proposal submission. Send an email to unlresearch@unl.edu to provide notice of intent to submit. Include the text "Revision Award – Intent to Submit" in the subject line of the email. In the body of the email, list the name and affiliation of the PI and each co-PI, provide the title of the proposal to be revised, list the sponsor and grant program targeted for resubmission, and indicate whether Category 1 or Category 2 support will be requested.

Application Requirements

Please prepare the following information – in the order described – as a single PDF file:

- A cover letter that details the title of the proposal to be revised, the program to which the proposal was submitted, the date(s) of the prior submission(s), a brief summary of the most recent score, as well as date targeted for resubmission.
- A complete copy of the most recently submitted proposal package (e.g., Grants.gov package, PDF of full proposal submission from FastLane, etc.).
- A complete copy of the most recent proposal review comments.
- A revision plan of no more than five pages that details the following:
 - Brief project overview (written in language accessible by non-experts)
 - Summary of previous review comments
 - Strategy for addressing previous review comments
 - Contact information for up to six potential reviewers (one or two UNL faculty and two to four faculty from outside UNL)
 - Contact information for the relevant program officer (and, if applicable, a brief summary of interactions with and feedback from the program officer)
 - Description of key personnel and their role in proposal revision
 - Resubmission timeline
- A detailed budget and budget justification of no more than two pages. Applicants should provide strong rationale for their Revision Awards budget request and describe how funds are necessary to address specific review comments and/or to support various aspects of the revision plan they propose. Category 1 applicants may request a maximum of \$25,000, and Category 2 applicants may request a maximum of \$50,000. Funds may not be requested for faculty summer salary or teaching release time. As appropriate, faculty summer salary or teaching release time may be provided by the PI's academic unit or college to strengthen institutional commitment to the proposed effort. Sub-awards are not allowed, but external collaborators may invoice project-specific expenses.

Application Submission

Revision Award applications must be submitted via the internal competitions module within NUgrant (<http://nugrant.unl.edu>).

Review Process and Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed initially by senior research administrators from ORED and the applicants' academic unit(s). In addition, ORED may solicit external reviewers to aid in the decision-making process. Primary selection criteria include the: 1) technical merit of the project for which federal grant support is being pursued, 2) likelihood for a revised proposal to be funded, and 3) the alignment between the budget request and revision plan to address prior reviewers' comments. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development will make the final selection. Award notification will occur within eight weeks following application receipt.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the Revision Awards program, please contact Nathan Meier, director of research strategy (402.472.3902 or nlm@unl.edu) or Tisha Gilreath Mullen, director of proposal development (402.472.2894 or tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu).