

# 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 Bob Wilhelm**

### **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 will help us become a distinctive Big Ten university.

As an early career faculty member poised to contribute to this mission, I encourage you to focus on excellence, 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. We are committed to your success!

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,



Bob Wilhelm  
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://philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps>
- NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts  
<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#/>
- NSF Contracting Opportunities  
<http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/>
- NSF Grant Opportunities  
<https://nsf.gov/funding/index.jsp>
- U.S. General Services Administration  
<https://beta.sam.gov/>
- FedConnect  
<https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Default.htm>
- Federal Contract Opportunities  
[https://beta.sam.gov/search?keywords=&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is\\_active=true&page=1](https://beta.sam.gov/search?keywords=&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1)
- H-Net Academic Announcements  
<http://www.h-net.org/announce/group.cgi?type=Funding>
- Rural Funding & Opportunities  
<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  
<https://www.artscouncil.nebraska.gov/grants/overview.html>
- 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 & Humanities Research Enhancement Program](#)

The Arts and Humanities Research Enhancement Program is designed to foster research, scholarship and creative activity in the arts and humanities to support excellence in these disciplines. This program provides seed money to help faculty achieve short-term goals that, in turn, increases their competitiveness for external grants and/or increases the societal impact of their work, to ultimately set the stage for larger projects. Please see the following for more information about the societal impact of research, scholarship and creative activity, as informed by the National Science Foundation call for synergistic activities of broader impact (<https://research.unl.edu/broaderimpacts/>; <https://www.researchinsociety.org/>). Awards up to \$15,000. The total amount requested must be justified by the ability of the project to meet the

goals of this program. Matching funds from the applicant's department, college, and/or center are encouraged but not required.

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

Enhance the competitiveness of faculty submitting grant proposals requesting R21 (Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award) or 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 team's 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](#)

The Layman Awards provide funding for research projects by non-tenured early career faculty that will enhance the grantee's ability to obtain external funding to support prominent scholarly work.

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

New Directions Program provides funding for tenured faculty who are branching into new research directions or need funding to support pilot/development work towards the next step in a funded research program.

### [Revision Awards](#)

Faculty must contact Jen Nelson at 402-472-0321 or [jnelson18@unl.edu](mailto:jnelson18@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 Jen Nelson regarding eligibility.

To apply for any of these awards, login to NuRamp (<http://nuramp.nebraska.edu>) using your UNL credentials, select the funding opportunity for which you will apply (e.g., Layman Seed Grant), 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).

## **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.

To apply for Research Council Awards, login to NuRamp (<http://nuramp.nebraska.edu>) using your UNL 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).

## Faculty Early Career Awards – Arts and Humanities

| Agency/Award   | Deadline         | Synopsis  |
|--|------------------|---|
| The American Academy of Arts and Sciences<br><a href="#">Visiting Scholars Program</a> | August           | The Academy's Visiting Scholars Program provides residential fellowships to postdoctoral scholars in the humanities and social sciences. The fellowship program offers a collaborative work environment and the opportunity to interact with Academy members. It also creates a national network for these scholars, assisting them in their research and professional development.<br>The fellowship is a one-year post-doctoral fellowship with a mutual option to renew for a second year. To be eligible, candidates must have received the Ph.D. degree no more than four (4) years before the application deadline date, must have the degree in hand no later than August 1, 2020. Applicants may not hold a tenure-track teaching appointment nor have previously published a scholarly monograph. The annual stipend is \$60,000, plus health insurance. |
| American Council of Learned Societies<br><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 \$60,000 for six to twelve consecutive months of research and/or writing. Applicants must be untenured scholars who earned their PhD in humanistic social sciences on or after October 1, 2012.  |
| National Endowment for the Humanities<br><a href="#">Summer Stipends</a>               | September        | Summer Stipends up to \$6,000 support continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months. NEH funds may support recipients' compensation, travel, and other costs related to the proposed scholarly research.   |
| Stanford Humanities Center<br><a href="#">External Faculty Fellowships</a>             | October          | Research projects must be in the humanities (view definition of the humanities in FAQ); creative arts projects are not eligible. The Center is open to projects employing information technology in humanities research. All applicants must have a PhD and be at least three years beyond receipt of the degree at the start of the fellowship year. Junior fellowships are for scholars who will be at least three and no more than ten years beyond receipt of the PhD by the start of the fellowship year. Stipends are up to \$70,000.   |
| The Vilcek Foundation<br><a href="#">The Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise</a>        | Annual (summer)  | These \$50,000 prizes recognize talented, foreign-born biomedical scientists 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 basic, applied, and/or translational biomedical research.  |
| Woods Charitable Fund<br><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<br><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<br><a href="#">Visiting Scholars Program</a>     | August                            | This program provides residential fellowships to postdoctoral scholars in the humanities and social sciences. The fellowship program offers a collaborative work environment and the opportunity to interact with Academy members. It also creates a national network for these scholars, assisting them in their research and professional development.   |
| American Federation for Aging Research<br><a href="#">Junior Investigator Grants</a>       | Letters of intent due in December | Assist in the development of the careers of junior investigators committed to pursuing careers in the field of aging research. GMRF and AFAR support research projects concerned with understanding the <b>basic mechanisms of aging rather than disease-specific research</b> . Projects investigating age-related diseases are supported if approached from the point of view of how basic aging processes may lead to these outcomes. Projects concerning mechanisms underlying common geriatric functional disorders are also encouraged, as long as these include connections to <u>fundamental problems in the biology of aging</u> . Projects that deal strictly with clinical problems such as the diagnosis and treatment of disease, health outcomes, or the social context of aging are not eligible. It is anticipated that approximately 10 grants of up to \$100,000 each will be awarded in 2020. Applicants may propose to use the award over the course of one or two years as justified by the proposed research |
| American Political Science Association<br><a href="#">Congressional Fellowship Program</a> | December                          | Program includes several fellowship categories within each year's class. The APSA directly recruits and sponsors fellowships for political scientists and journalists and for the APSA-MCI Communications Congressional Fellowship for scholars and journalists. In addition to fellows from these professions, each fellowship class includes federal government employees sponsored by their home agencies and professionals in other fields sponsored by a range of organizations. The program runs from November to August and Fellows receive a stipend of \$52,500 and a small travel allowance.   |

| Agency/Award  | Deadline   | Synopsis   |
|---|--|--|
| American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation<br><a href="#">New Investigator Research Grant</a>    | Varies, letter of intent required                              | The investigator must have completed a PhD or equivalent research doctorate within the past five years to be eligible to compete for up to ten \$10,000 grants, for research in audiology or speech-language pathology. Potential investigators must complete an Intent to Submit Form to provide information regarding their proposed studies. When investigators log in to the online submission system, they will be prompted to complete the Intent to Submit Form. This step must be completed before proceeding to the proposal submission process.  |
| Brain and Behavior Research Foundation<br><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 psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar, mood disorders, anxiety disorders or child and adolescent mental illnesses.  |
| Foundation for Child Development<br><a href="#">Young Scholars Program</a>                        | Letters of Intent, June;<br>Full Proposal, October             | Fellowships provide up to \$225,000 for up to three years for policy and practice-relevant research focused on the early learning and development needs of the nation's children who are growing up under conditions of economic insecurity and social exclusion. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or its equivalent in one of the behavioral and social sciences or in an allied professional field.  |
| March of Dimes<br><a href="#">Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards</a>                  | Letter of nomination:<br>July<br>Full Application:<br>December | Initial independent grant to young investigators is restricted. PhD applicants should be at least four years but 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 \$150,000 for two years. |

| Agency/Award  | Deadline   | Synopsis   |
|---|--|--|
| March of Dimes<br><a href="#">Research Programs</a>                                   | Letters of Intent:<br>April<br>Full Applications:<br>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. The grant awards are from \$100,000 to \$500,000 and to be used over a two-three year period. |
| McKnight Foundation<br><a href="#">Scholar Awards</a>                                 | Varies, typically annual                                       | Encourages emerging neuroscientists to focus on disorders of learning and memory. Applicants must demonstrate interest in solving important problems in relevant areas of neuroscience, including the translation of basic research to clinical neuroscience. Awards are given to exceptional young scientists who hold the M.D. and/or Ph.D. degree and who are in the early stages of establishing an independent laboratory and research career. Traditionally, successful candidates have held faculty positions for at least one year. Up to six awards are given at \$75,000 per year for three years.   |
| National Institutes of Health<br><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 Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award (K01) supports postdoctoral or early career research scientists committed to research, in need of both advanced research training and additional experience. The Career Transition Award (K22) provides support during the early years of a new faculty position.   |

| Agency/Award  | Deadline                            | Synopsis  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| The Spencer Foundation<br><a href="#">Research Grants</a>       | Varies                              | <p>The Foundation provides funding to support intellectually ambitious, large-scale education research projects with budgets between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. This program encourages proposals initiated by scholars across a variety of disciplines and fields in an effort to create much-needed space for creative and ambitious research projects that promise to advance our understanding of educational practice and its improvement. At this time, there's three categories: studies of <i>instructional practice</i>, of the <i>educational infrastructure</i> that supports or hinders effective practice, and of the <i>research infrastructure</i> that supports inquiry into educational practice. These categories are definitely <b>not</b> meant to be either exhaustive or mutually exclusive</p> |
| William T. Grant Foundation<br><a href="#">Scholars Program</a> | Annual summer deadlines are typical | <p>The program funds five-year research and mentoring plans that significantly expand junior researchers' expertise in new disciplines, methods, and content areas. Applicants should have a track record of conducting high-quality research and an interest in pursuing a significant shift in their trajectories as researchers. Proposed research plans must address questions of policy and practice that are relevant to the Foundation's two focus areas: programs, policies, and practices that reduce inequality in youth outcomes, and strategies to improve the use of research evidence in ways that benefit youth. Four to six Scholars are selected and each receives up to \$350,000, distributed over five years.</p>   |

## Faculty Early Career Awards – Life and Agricultural Sciences

| Agency/Award   | Deadline   | Synopsis   |
|--|--|--|
| Air Force Office of Scientific Research<br><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 mission and related challenges in science and engineering. Each award will be funded at \$150,000 per year for three years.   |
| Alfred P. Sloan Foundation<br><a href="#">Sloan Research Fellowships</a>                       | Nominations due in September                             | 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. Two-year, \$75,000 fellowship.   |
| Alzheimer's Association<br><a href="#">Research Grant</a>                                      | Letters of Intent: September<br>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<br><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, grant amounts and terms vary depending on the program.  |
| American Cancer Society<br><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, for up to \$165,000 a 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<br><a href="#">Core Program - Junior Faculty Development</a>        | November                                   | These awards support early investigators as they establish independence as diabetes researchers. Any level tenure-track faculty up to & 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). The PI must have the institution's approval prior to submitting an application. |
| American Heart Association<br><a href="#">Career Development Award</a>                            | Check website                              | Supports highly promising healthcare and academic professionals, in the early years of one's first professional appointment, to explore innovative questions or pilot studies that will provide preliminary data and training necessary to assure the applicant's future success as a research scientist in the field of cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular disease research. Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease and stroke, or to related clinical, translational, behavioral, population or basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems, including multidisciplinary efforts. Three-year award \$77,000/year for a total of \$231,000.  |
| Beckman Foundation<br><a href="#">Young Investigators Program</a>                                 | Letters of Intent vary<br>June - September | This program supports young faculty members in the early stages of their academic careers in the chemical and 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 \$600,000.  |
| Brain and Behavior Research Foundation<br><a href="#">NARSAD Young Investigator Award Program</a> | March                                      | 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.   |



| Agency/Award   | Deadline                               | Synopsis  |
|--|--|---|
| Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.<br><a href="#">Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a>                          | Institutional Nominations:<br>August   | 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 \$75,000. See website for criteria.  |
| Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.<br><a href="#">Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a>                        | Institutional Nominations:<br>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 (see below), 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 \$100,000. See website for criteria.                   |
| Department of Energy<br><a href="#">Early Career Research Program</a>  | Varies                                 | 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).   |
| Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund, Inc.<br><a href="#">Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship Awards in the Neurosciences</a> | February                               | 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. Translational 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. |

| Agency/Award  | Deadline  | Synopsis  |
|---|---|---|
| Health Effects Institute<br><a href="#">Walter A. Rosenblith New Investigator Award</a>   | Preliminary applications:<br>April<br>Full applications:<br>September       | This award supports creative junior investigators, at Assistant Professor or equivalent level, with outstanding promise who are interested in the health effects of air pollution. The project must be relevant to HEI's research interests, as outlined in the HEI Strategic Plan 2020-2025. All applicants should contact HEI to verify their eligibility before applying. The award is up to \$500,000 for three years.  |
| Human Frontier Science Program<br><a href="#">Young Investigators' Research Grants</a>    | Letters of Intent:<br>March   | These grants support collaborative research in the life sciences, bringing biologists together with scientists from other disciplines such as chemistry, physics, mathematics, computational sciences, nanoscience 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. Two - four member teams. Award amount dependent on team size, up to \$450,000 per year.  |
| Kinship Foundation<br><a href="#">Searle Scholars Program</a>                             | Institutional Nominations:<br>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<br><a href="#">Hollis Brownstein Research Grants Program</a> | Letters of Intent:<br>February<br>Full Proposals:<br>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<br><a href="#">Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards</a>          | Letters of Intent and nomination:<br>July<br>Full applications:<br>December | 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.  |
| March of Dimes<br><a href="#">General Research Grants</a>                                 | See website   | All qualified scientists (see website) are invited to submit applications for research grants directed at the prevention of birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. These investigations include — but are not limited to — basic biological processes of development, genetics, clinical studies, studies of reproductive health, environmental toxicology, and studies in social and behavioral sciences that focus on factors contributing to adverse pregnancy outcomes, and on consequences of birth defects and prematurity. Amount of funding varies. |

| Agency/Award  | Deadline  | Synopsis   |
|---|---|--|
| McKnight Foundation<br><a href="#">Scholar Awards</a>   | January   | 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 an immediate and significant impact on clinically relevant issues. Awards are \$75,000 per year for three years.  |
| National Institutes of Health<br><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<br><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<br><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<br><a href="#">Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholar Awards</a>   | Online<br>Pre-application:<br>August<br><br>Full Application:<br>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. |
| National Science Foundation<br><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.  |

| Agency/Award   | Deadline   | Synopsis   |
|--|--|--|
| Office of Naval Research<br><a href="#">Young Investigator Program</a>   | September  | The Young Investigator Program makes awards of up to \$170,000 per year for three years to support academic scientists and engineers who are in their first or second full-time tenure-track or tenure-track-equivalent academic appointments 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<br><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 \$100,000 for one year to advance science in pharmacology/toxicology, informatics, pharmaceuticals, health outcomes and translational medicine and therapeutics.  |
| Susan G. Komen for the Cure<br><a href="#">Challenge Grants - Career Catalyst Research</a>                     | Letter of Intent:<br>July<br>Full application:<br>September  | 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<br><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<br><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 Arts & Humanities.   |
| Whitehall Foundation<br><a href="#">Grants-in-Aid</a>  | Letters-of-intent:<br>January 15,<br>April 15,<br>October 1<br><br>Full Proposals:<br>June 1,<br>September 1,<br>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<br><a href="#">Young Investigator Research Program</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 \$150,000 for three years. |
| Alfred P. Sloan Foundation<br><a href="#">Sloan Research Fellowships</a>                            | Nominations:<br>September              | Candidates must hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in chemistry, molecular biology, computer science, economics, earth system sciences, 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. Fellowships are \$75,000 for a two year period.    |
| American Mathematical Association<br><a href="#">Centennial Fellowships</a>                         | December                               | One-year fellowships are awarded for excellence in mathematical research. Awards are approximately \$50,000. 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<br><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. Applicants must be a member of ASMS.   |
| Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.<br><a href="#">Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a> | Institutional Nominations:<br>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 \$100,000. See the award website for criteria for selection.   |
| Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.<br><a href="#">Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award</a>   | Institutional Nominations:<br>August   | 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 \$75,000.   |

| Agency/Award  | Deadline  | Synopsis  |
|---|---|---|
| Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs<br><a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>   | Varies by program   | Funding programs include, but are not limited to: breast cancer, combat readiness-medical, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, prostate cancer, reconstructive transplant research, kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, lupus, neurotoxin exposure treatment Parkinson's, and Scleroderma. Some of these areas have included New Investigator Awards, check website for details.   |
| Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Microsystems Technology Office<br><a href="#">Young Faculty Award</a>                                   | Varies  | The program focuses on untenured faculty, emphasizing those without prior DARPA funding. The long-term goal of the YFA program is to develop the next generation of academic scientists, engineers and mathematicians in key disciplines who will focus a significant portion of their careers on DoD and national security issues. 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<br><a href="#">Early Career Research Program</a>   | Varies  | 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.  |
| Human Frontier Science Program<br><a href="#">Young Investigators' Research Grants</a>  | Letters of Intent:<br>March<br>Full Proposals:<br>September | This program supports collaborative research in the life sciences involving biologists together with scientists from other disciplines such as chemistry, physics, 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 of two – four members. Up to \$450,000 per year depending on the size of the team.   |
| National Aeronautics and Space Administration<br><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.   |

| Agency/Award   | Deadline   | Synopsis   |
|--|--|--|
| National Science Foundation<br><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<br><a href="#">Young Investigator Program</a>                     | September  | 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<br><a href="#">Cottrell Scholar Awards</a>    | Pre-proposals<br>April<br>Full proposals<br>July | 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. Eligible applicants are tenure-track faculty members whose primary appointment is in a department of astronomy, chemistry or physics. Awards are \$100,000 for a three year project.   |
| U.S. Department of Agriculture<br><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. |

## Research 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 \$475 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.



## **Research Development Fellows Program**

The Research Development Fellows Program (RDFP) is an Office of Research and Economic Development initiative designed to provide full-time, pre-tenure, tenure-leading faculty with the information, resources, and approaches necessary to prepare competitive grant proposals. At RDFP's core is a combination of formal and informal learning sessions designed to help fellows conceptualize project plans, interact effectively with program officers, identify funding opportunities, plan and draft effective grant proposals, and develop an understanding of the proposal review process. These learning activities are complemented by one-on-one consultations with University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators, faculty colleagues, and Office of Research and Economic Development staff who provide advice to fellows regarding the proposal development process, including the creation of a concept paper and elevator pitch. A group trip to Washington, D.C. provides fellows an opportunity to network with program officers about their research ideas.

## **NSF CAREER Club**

The Office of Research and Economic Development's NSF CAREER Club is a nine-month program designed to support and guide early-career faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the development of a compelling and competitive National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) proposal. CAREER Club activities, ranging from project idea conception to submission, include engagement with NSF program officers, mentoring/coaching from established faculty and experienced administrators and staff, access to an external consultant, specialized training around broader impacts (i.e., education/outreach), and pre-submission panel review.

## **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>.

## **National Recognition and Awards**

There are many opportunities available at the national level for faculty to be recognized for their teaching, research, and outreach excellence. Awards are an important component of faculty careers and enhance the profile of UNL's departments and colleges. UNL's National Recognition and Awards Coordinator helps faculty pursue national honors important in their disciplines. In doing so, faculty are more prepared to apply for external awards while contributing to a campus culture that celebrates recognition of academic achievement. Support is available for faculty interested in being nominated and nominating their colleagues for recognition. Contact Petrina Suiter at [petrina.suiter@unl.edu](mailto:petrina.suiter@unl.edu) or 402-472-1185 for award nomination assistance.



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