BUILDING STRENGTH GRANT PROGRAM
GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Building Strength internal grant program seeks to facilitate faculty research and creative activities across a wide range of disciplinary fields. Its goal is to promote early-phase activities leading to the submission of external grant proposals by providing funds to support graduate assistants, faculty summer salary, supplies, and faculty release time. Applicants are reminded that the Building Strength program is funded through the return of indirect (i.e., Facilities & Administration) costs recovered from previously awarded grants, and faculty are encouraged to seek external funding from agencies which allow the university’s full F&A rate (currently 42%), whenever possible.

GRANT PROGRAMS

Major Awards
- Major Research Grants ($5,000 to $10,000)
- Grant Writing Course Release program (replacement costs only, and not to exceed standard rates; contingent upon chair and dean approval)

Small Awards
- Small Research Grants (up to $1,000)
- Conference Travel Grants ($500)
- Visits to Program Officers (TBD)

NEW FOR AY20
1. Proposals of Major Research Awards will be reviewed only once per year with applications for AY20 being due 5 p.m., Monday, November 25th. Projects will begin January 1, 2020.
2. The new Grant Writing Course Release grants will be reviewed only once per year with applications for AY20 being due 5 p.m., Friday, February 21.

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Eligibility
1. All Bargaining Unit Faculty Members are eligible to apply for internal or external grants. The University shall not use a Bargaining Unit Faculty Member’s appointment or academic rank as a basis for disqualifying him/her from applying for internal or external grants as long as the activities to be funded by the grant are consistent with the mission of the individual faculty member’s academic unit and his/her academic unit responsibilities. [Article 23, Section 7 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022]
2. Proposals from junior faculty members will be given preference after all proposals are equally considered based on merit.
3. Investigators may be a PI on one, and only one, proposal submitted to any Major Award program in a given academic year. A faculty member may, however, be a co-investigator on a second proposal submitted to a Major Award program, as long as salary is not requested under the second proposal and the activities are independent from the first.
4. Faculty may not receive more than two Major Awards in any five-year period, and faculty may not receive Major Awards in two consecutive years.
5. Faculty who have received a Major Award will not be considered for a second Major Award until they meet the external submission requirements.
6. Faculty members with start-up fund accounts are not eligible for support unless documentation shows that start-up funds cannot support the Building Strength project. For example, if start-up funds are dedicated entirely to the purchase of an instrument then it is possible to seek Building Strength support under a Major Award program. Generally those with remaining start-up funds will be evaluated at a lower priority than those without start-up funds.

7. In all cases, faculty members with grant and/or startup funding must indicate the extent of that funding, and how the need for the Building Strength funding requested is not met by those sources of funding.

Requirements

1. Faculty members receiving a Major Award are required to submit an external proposal requesting at least 10 times the amount of the Major Award received (in Direct Costs for the entire project period). A combination of smaller requests totaling ten times the amount will not fulfill the obligation.

2. Under the Major Award, the external submission must take place within a year after the end date of the internal project period. Awardees will not be considered for a second Major Award until this obligation has been met.

3. Faculty members receiving a Major Award must be the PI on the external proposal. Serving in another capacity—Co-Investigator, Other Senior Personnel, etc.—is not acceptable.

4. As the Building Strength program is funded entirely from Recovered Facilities & Administrative Costs (F&A), proposals that target external funding sources accepting BGSU’s full F&A rate, will be given preference after all proposals are equally considered based on merit.

Award Limitations

1. Major Awards include both the Major Research Grants and the Grant Writing Course Release program.

2. Major Research Grants may not be used for course releases.

3. Funds cannot be spent prior to the receipt of the official notice of award AND the establishment of a Project in FMS. Expenses must occur within the parameters of the approved project period.

4. Recipients of Small Research Grants are limited to one award per fiscal year. Recipients of these awards will not be considered for other Building Strength funding until the following two conditions are met: 1) the funded project period has ended; and 2) the outcome has been achieved (i.e., external grant submitted, article submitted, composition finished, etc.). In addition, Small Research Grant recipients who also receive Major Awards during the same fiscal year, will have their major award reduced by the amount of their smaller award.

5. Conference Travel Grant applicants are limited to one award per fiscal year. In addition, Conference Travel Grant recipients who also receive Major Awards during the same fiscal year, will have their major award reduced by the amount of their smaller award.