

## **BUILDING STRENGTH**

### **Grants to Support Early Phase Research and Creative Activities (GSEPR-CA)**

#### **Purpose**

Grants to Support Early Phase Research and Creative Activities (GSEPR-CA) will provide BGSU faculty members with up to \$10,000 to conduct early phase research that will result in the submission of an external grant proposal. Any award resulting from the external proposal, must be made to the institution (i.e., BGSU), not the individual faculty member (i.e., fellowships, residencies, etc.). The external proposal should have an annual budget (direct costs) of at least 5 times the amount received from the GSEPR-CA award. For example, the recipient of a \$10,000 GSEPR-CA award will be required to submit an external proposal requesting \$50,000 in direct costs per year. Recipients of smaller awards will be required to submit an external proposal whose budget is appropriately scaled. While applicants can request any amount up to \$10,000, larger external requests are encouraged. See the scoring rubric below for more information. *In the event that an external proposal is not submitted by the faculty member within twelve months following the end of the GSEPR-CA award, the faculty member's academic department will reimburse the OVPR for the total cost of the award.*

Allowable costs for GSEPR-CA awards are faculty summer salary, faculty release time to perform research\*, graduate assistant scholarships and/or stipends, supplies, and travel for research. GSEPR-CA funds may only be used to support BGSU faculty, staff, or students. 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. As such, applications for GSEPR-CA grants to help secure external funding from agencies which allow the university's full F&A rate (currently 42%) will be given higher priority. However, applications for GSEPR-CA grants to leverage external funding from sources that do not provide the full F&A rate are still encouraged, provided the rate is 10% or greater.

\*Upon consent of the applicant's department chair/school director and college dean.

#### **Eligibility**

1. All Bargaining Unit Faculty Members are eligible to apply in accordance with Article 23, Section 7 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.
2. Proposals from junior faculty members will be given preference after all proposals are equally considered based on merit.
3. Support for research that will result in the submission of larger external grant proposals will be given preference.
4. Investigators may be a PI on one, and only one, GSEPR-CA proposal in a given academic year. A faculty member may, however, be a co-investigator on a second GSEPR-CA proposal, as long as salary is not requested under the second proposal and the activities are independent from the first.
5. Faculty may not receive more than two GSEPR-CA grants in any five-year period, and faculty may not receive GSEPR-CA Grants in two consecutive years.
6. Faculty who have previously received a GSEPR-CA award will not be considered for a second award until they meet the external submission requirements.
7. Faculty members having active start-up fund accounts are generally *not* eligible for GSEPR-CA support unless the applicant can demonstrate why start-up funds are unable to support the goals of the GSEPR-CA. Generally, those with remaining start-up funds will be evaluated at a lower priority than those without start-up funds.
8. Applicants who are already externally funded must demonstrate how the use of those funds will not overlap with the requested GSEPR-CA funds.

**Requirements**

1. The external award must be made to the institution (i.e., BGSU), not individuals. An external application for an individual fellowship or residency is not acceptable.
2. Faculty members receiving GSEPR-CA award are required to submit an external proposal having an annual budget (direct costs) of at least 5 times the amount received from the GSEPR-CA. A combination of smaller requests totaling five times the amount will not fulfill the obligation. 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 GSEPR-CA until this obligation has been met.
3. Faculty members receiving a GSEPR-CA 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. 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.

Application Deadline: Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025. Submit by email to: [research@bgsu.edu](mailto:research@bgsu.edu)

**Building Strength**  
**GRANT TO SUPPORT EARLY PHASE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (GSEPR-CA)**

PROPOSAL COVER PAGE  
*Submit by email to: research@bgsu.edu*

Applicant Name:	Department:	
Rank:	Office Phone:	E-Mail:
Title of Proposal:		

**Answer as applicable:**

If project involves human subjects, list HSRB approval date: \_\_\_\_\_

If project involves use of experimental animals, list IACUC approval date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Requested:**        \$ \_\_\_\_\_        **Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_        **End Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a detailed budget.

**ENDORSEMENTS: \*†**

**Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

Typed Name

**Dept. Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

Typed Name

**College Dean:** \_\_\_\_\_

Typed Name

\*Chairs/Directors and/or Deans signing this form agree to refund the OVPR the entire award amount if the awardee has not met the outcome measures, as stipulated in the guidelines.

†OSPR will obtain electronic signatures of the applicant, chair, and dean upon receipt of this completed form.

## PROPOSAL APPLICATION

**Abstract:** Provide an abstract of the work being proposed for the GSEPR-CA award (750 character limit including spaces).

### External Sponsor and Grant Program

Name of sponsor and specific grant program

Deadline (s)

URL where the detailed guidelines can be reviewed.

Alignment of the proposed research to the goals of the identified grant program (750 character limit including spaces).

Anticipated annual budget of the external grant application and the duration of the project  
Sponsor's F&A rate.

### The Project Description

Provide the following information in clear, concise and sufficiently non-technical language that could be understood by a broad audience. **Proposals that are so technical that they cannot be generally understood by an informed lay audience will not be highly scored.**

Brief description of the current state of knowledge in the field (1250 character limit including spaces).

Overall research question to be studied (1250 character limit including spaces).

Significance of the project in adding to the current state of knowledge (1250 character limit including spaces).

Brief description of the methodology to be used (1250 character limit including spaces).

Anticipated outcomes of the GSEPR-CA project and their significance to strengthening the external grant proposal (1250 character limit including spaces).

**Broader Impact**

Describe how the overall research project will have a significant positive impact on the public good (1250 character limit including spaces).

**Budget and Budget Justification for the GSEPR-CA Award**

Applicants must submit a line item budget and budget justification for the GSEPR-CA award that has been prepared in collaboration with the Office of Sponsored Programs & Research.

Submit as email attachment

**Statement of Current Level of External Funding and Start-up Funds**

Delineate the amount of external funding currently being received by the PI and explain how the use of these funds do *not* overlap with the requested GSEPR-CA funds. If new faculty start-up funds exist, explain why these funds cannot be used to support the work proposed in this GSEPR-CA application (1250 character limit including spaces).

**Principal Investigator's Qualifications**

Describe your expertise in the proposed area of research (1250 character limit including spaces).

Submit a copy of your CV as an email attachment.

**Application Deadline**

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025.

*Submit by email to:* [research@bgsu.edu](mailto:research@bgsu.edu)

## SCORING RUBRIC

The evaluators will use the following criteria to evaluate the applications **(100 pts total)**:

### External Sponsor and Grant Program

Evaluators will assess the alignment of the proposed research with the goals of the external grant program and its ability to provide sufficient indirect costs to help support the Building Strength internal grant program.

**30 possible points**

Proposals will be scored proportionally based on the anticipated budget request (i.e., external request of \$50,000 in direct costs per year = 5 points; external request of \$100,000 or more in direct costs per year = 10 points).	10
Does the sponsor provide full F&A (indirect costs)? To be considered for a GSEPR-CA award, the external sponsor must provide F&A to the university. Proposals to sponsors providing the full F&A will be given 10 pts. Others will be scored proportionally according to the F&A rate provided by the sponsor.	10
How strongly aligned are the goals of the proposed research project with the goals of the identified grant program?	10

### The Project Narrative

Evaluators will review the project narrative with the following criteria in mind:

**50 possible points**

Is the narrative clear, concise, and sufficiently non-technical to be understood by a broad audience?	20
Has the current state of knowledge in the field been clearly described?	5
Has the research question to be studied been clearly stated?	5
Has the significance of the overall project been clearly stated?	5
Has the methodology to be used been clearly described?	5
Have the anticipated outcomes of the GSEPR-CA project been clearly stated?	5
Does the applicant make a compelling argument that completion of the GSEPR-CA project will better position the applicant for success in obtaining the external funding?	10

### Broader Impact

Evaluators will assess the degree to which the project will have a significant positive impact on the public good.

**5 possible points**

Has the project's intended outcome been sufficiently linked to serving the public good?	5
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**Proposed Budget**

**5 possible points**

Is the GSEPR-CA budget appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?	5
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**Overlap with Existing Funds**

Evaluators will assess the degree to which use of the proposed GSEPR-CA funds does not overlap with the use of existing research funds

**5 possible points**

Will GSEPR-CA funds be used to support a research project that is not currently funded by other sources?	5
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**The Principal Investigator's Qualifications**

Evaluators will assess the degree to which the PI is poised for success.

**5 possible points**

Does the PI have a strong record of publications related to the project?	5
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