



## Research Challenge Program

The Research Challenge Program is sponsored by Interim Vice President for Research Jim Rankin and administered by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). The focus of the program is to provide faculty a pre-award funding mechanism to begin project development, data collection, and proposal enhancement. Basic awards are up to \$2,500 and must be matched dollar for dollar by college or departmental/school sources for a total budget of up to \$5,000. **New this year is the \$1,000 Ohio incentive for collaboration bonus program (see details below).** Any questions concerning eligibility, establishment, or expenditure of funds should be directed to Administrative Associate Marc Kidby: Phone: 740.593.0378, Fax: 740.593.0379, or E-mail: kidby@ohio.edu.

### Eligibility

1. Proposals must be for research programs or projects that, if funded, are eligible to be included in the University's external support base of basic and applied research and scholarship for the Research Incentive Program at the Ohio Board of Regents. The Assistant Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs will be responsible for making this determination. Regents guidelines can be viewed at [http://regents.ohio.gov/rgp/rsch/research\\_incentive.php](http://regents.ohio.gov/rgp/rsch/research_incentive.php)
  2. All approved Principal Investigators at Ohio University are eligible to participate in the program.
  3. Research Challenge awards can be made if the following conditions are met:
    - a. External Sponsor – the proposal that the Research Challenge application is based upon must be to a sponsor that does not get base operating support from the State of Ohio. Common eligible sponsors would be federal agencies, corporate foundations, or private sources.
    - b. \$2,500 (maximum) program:
      - The proposal must have a minimum overall value of \$50,000 exclusive of any university or State of Ohio matching funds, and
      - the award period must be a minimum of 24 months, and
      - the proposal must include full rate facilities and administrative costs allowed by the sponsor.
- OR
- The proposal must have a minimum overall value of \$200,000 exclusive of any university or State of Ohio matching funds, and
      - the award period must be a minimum of 12 months, and
      - the proposal must include full rate facilities and administrative costs allowed by the sponsor.
  - c. \$1,000 (maximum) Ohio incentive for collaboration bonus:
    - The proposal must have a minimum overall value of \$200,000 exclusive of any university or State of Ohio matching funds, and
    - the award period must be a minimum of 12 months, and
    - the proposal must include full rate facilities and administrative costs allowed by the sponsor, and

- the proposal must include an Ohio university and/or Ohio industrial partner as a collaborator on the project.
  - Match is encouraged but not required on the additional \$1,000
4. Exceptions or additional requirements are as follows:
- a. Renewal proposals, competitive or non-competitive, are NOT ELIGIBLE for support.
  - b. Equipment proposals are not eligible.
  - c. Resubmissions are not eligible if the previous proposal was awarded Research Challenge.
  - d. Proposals to funding organizations which do not accept requests for proposals extending beyond 12 months can be eligible only if:
    - the Principal Investigator is within his/her first three years of appointment at Ohio University, or
    - the investigator is in one of the humanities, fine arts, business, or communications fields that do not normally provide multi-year funding for research.
  - e. Only one Research Challenge award will be made per proposal, regardless of the number of co-principal investigators involved in the proposed research.
5. Each faculty member may be awarded up to three consecutive Research Challenge awards before they must receive an external award from an appropriate sponsor (see item 3 above). Once external funding is achieved, the count rolls back to zero and the faculty member is eligible for three more research challenge awards. **Only two Research Challenge awards may be active at a time.** An active award is defined as one in which unspent funds are available while a proposal is in pending status or after a proposal has been denied funding.
6. Complete proposals (i.e. transmittal, budget, statement of work) must be received by ORSP before being considered for a Research Challenge award.
7. Duplicate proposals submitted to multiple sponsors will not constitute multiple Research Challenge awards. Proposals are considered to be duplicate proposals if they are not substantially different. Eligible proposals must address different research questions.

## Research Challenge Award Establishment

1. Once an investigator has received a Research Challenge application form for a specified project, the form must be completed, signed by the investigator (s), department chair (s), and Dean (s), and returned to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs no later than the expiration date indicated on the form.
2. All expenditures of the basic Research Challenge award must be matched on a 1:1 basis. Although encouraged, the \$1,000 Ohio incentive for collaboration bonus does not require a 1:1 match. Most likely eligible sources of funds for matching are college/ department operating budgets, the college/department allotment of the Research Incentive Program, and endowments. Externally funded grants and contracts, new faculty start-up funds administered by the VP for Research, Teaching Enhancement and Recognition awards, O.U. Research Committee grants, and Baker Committee grants may not be used as sources of matching funds.

## Research Challenge Award Expenditure of Funds

1. Graduate student stipends must be paid through appointment as a Graduate Research Associate for research services rendered. Research Challenge funds may not be used to pay for teaching assistant services, nor may they be used to provide a scholarship or fellowship.
2. Tuition and general fees related to a graduate student stipend may not be paid for with Research Challenge funds.
3. All personnel appointments must include the cost of fringe benefits.
4. Research Challenge funds may not be used for salary of the Principal Investigator of the proposed research.
5. If more than one item is entered on a requisition, the total cost of all items must be included. The exact amount to be charged to the Research Challenge account must be indicated, and cannot exceed 50% of the total cost.
6. If a proposal is denied funding by the sponsor, Research Challenge funds may be used in furtherance of the proposed research or related research projects for a period of time not to exceed one year from the date of the RC award, at which time unexpended funds will be returned to the Research Challenge pool for reallocation.
7. Research Challenge awards must be expended within one year of the date of the funds. Any unexpended funds at the end of this period will be returned to the Research Challenge pool. However, in as much as the stated objective of the programs is to provide immediate support for initiation of the proposed research, there may be circumstances, e.g., academic calendar constraints, graduate student recruitment and availability, etc., which necessitate delay in use of RC funds. This is permissible but such circumstances will not protect unspent Research Challenge funds from the reversion provision of Guideline 8, below. If a delay in using RC funds is anticipated, approval for the delay must be requested from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.
8. If a proposal is funded, any Research Challenge funds unspent as of the date ORSP receives official notification of the award will revert to the Research Challenge pool for reallocation. For purposes of this policy “unspent” means not committed via purchasing card, requisition, travel expense report, bi-weekly time summary, etc. Graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and technicians on an employment contract will have their pay charged to the grant account as of the date that notification of an award is received and funds which had been committed for that purpose will revert to the Research Challenge pool for reallocation.
9. Investigators may utilize Research Challenge funds for any research project keeping in mind the objectives of the Ohio Board of Regents program from which Ohio University’s Research Challenge is derived:

- ◆ *To enhance the quality of research and scholarship at Ohio’s universities;*
- ◆ *To increase the level of federal and private research funding received by Ohio’s universities, and;*
- ◆ *To encourage research efforts that support the Third Frontier Project and economic growth in Ohio.*

Ohio University’s Research Challenge awards are intended to provide for early stage research development, and to enhance fundability **of the proposed project** should a second proposal need to be submitted.