The Purpose of Bridge Funding is to provide support to faculty who have lost research funding. To that end, the Department has established a Bridge Funding Committee to assure that the limited amount of intramural funds available are allocated to the most appropriate to support faculty (defined below) while they re-establish external funding.

Eligibility
Faculty members on the ladder track who are in the final funding period of their R01, U01, K01 or equivalent grant and have not received a fundable score on an application for a competing renewal award (or the equivalent) will be considered for funding under this program. Bridge Funding under this mechanism would typically not be available to support an Investigator who has existing grant support of >$100,000/year or a personal use account with more than $50,000. Faculty members on the ladder track who have submitted an R01, U01, or equivalent that scored at or better than the 25th percentile, but was not funded, are eligible to apply for Bridge Funding regardless of other funds available.

Process
1. Potential candidates for Bridge Funding will meet with their Section Chief to discuss current funding and plans for re-establishing grant support. Sections with reserve funds can and should, at the discretion of the Section Chief, provide Bridge Funding to their faculty without requesting Departmental review.
2. In cases in which the Section Chief requests Departmental review and/or funding, the faculty candidate will need to apply for Bridge Funding to the Committee. The application should include:
   a. A detailed plan of how the applicant plans to address the critiques in the most recent review as well as the timeline for submission of new grant proposals (approximately 1 page);
   b. Critique from the most recent review of the grant proposal;
   c. NIH Biosketch;
   d. Detailed history of grant support over the prior five years;
   e. Other Support – including grant applications that are pending, industry grants, and personal use accounts;
   f. A detailed budget request (including for personnel and supplies) with a specific justification that includes how the funds will be used to prepare for re-submission of the grant. The budget would typically be at least a 50% reduction from recent funding.

Key components that will be considered in making a decision could include prior funding history, productivity, prospects for future funding, and long-term scientific contributions, and evidence that the investigator submitted the renewal on time and is on track to respond appropriately to the critique.

Composition of the Committee
1. The Committee will be charged with determining the order in which applications will be considered for funding;
2. The Committee will be chaired by the Vice Chairs for Research and will be comprised of four senior faculty members. Committee members will serve 4-year terms;
3. The Committee will meet every four months or more frequently as needed.

Allocation of Funds
1. In cases which Departmental input (review and or funding) is requested and the Section Chief and Committee agree that Bridge Funding is appropriate, funds will be allocated, if available. Bridge funds should come first from personal use accounts available to the investigator. If no such funds are available, funding would be provided by the Section and/or Department in a manner to be decided by the Section Chief and Department Chair. It is expected that the Section’s discretionary/gift/endowment funds, if available, will be used to support requests for Bridge Funding. General funds from the Department would be used only if funds from these other sources are not available. Typically, Departmental Bridge Funding support would be capped at $100,000/investigator, exclusive of PI salary support.
2. The investigator will be required to provide an update on the status of the project and of the grant application(s) to the Committee at 6-month intervals. If a grant application is funded, or if the Investigator fails to make scientific progress, the remaining funds would be returned to either the Section or Department, depending on their original source.

Caveat
It is understood that there will be cases that may not be readily addressed with this model. They will be addressed on a case by case basis by the Vice Chairs for Research, the Department Chair, and the Section Chief.