

## **Investment for Future Success (IFS) Program**

### **Agricultural Research Center Purpose:**

The goal of the IFS program is to facilitate the success of ARC researchers and CAHNRS faculty in obtaining federal competitive grants. ARC resources will fund specific pieces of the work related to unsuccessful federal competitive proposals (those that did well in review, just not well enough to be funded) and will be made available through an internal, competitive process.

### **Rationale:**

Proposals that came close to the funding line might, with additional input (especially proof of concept), be improved enough that a revision would receive funding from the federal program.

### **Eligibility:**

All tenured and tenure-track faculty members, and assistant/associate research professors holding an appointment in the Agricultural Research Center or in a CAHNRS department.

### **Program assumptions:**

- Previously submitted Federal competitive grant proposal is available.
- Reviews of the proposal are available.
- Request package for this program can be reviewed locally.

### **Procedure:**

A proposal that was denied funding by a federal agency such as NSF, NIH, and competitive programs at USDA and DOE, together with reviews of the proposal and panel summary should be submitted to ARC along with an application. The ARC application must respond to panel comments and describe specific steps that would be undertaken to address concerns. It must contain a budget to support improving the proposal and the expected timetable for resubmission.

**As you prepare a budget, note that the IFS program is not interested in funding the federal proposal—it is interested in getting the federal proposal funded.** In addition to funds requested from the ARC, other funds committed by the department or other sources to improve the competitiveness of a revised proposal must be identified and are encouraged.

The ARC will have reviewers with federal competitive panel service or current federal competitive funding examine application packages on an *ad hoc* basis. The proposals will be rated as highly appropriate for funding, appropriate for funding, or not appropriate for funding. Reviewers will be asked to provide a rationale for the recommendation, suggest project targets for funding, and suggest other approaches beyond those requested that might be appropriate (aid in proposal preparation, collaborations, prioritization of experiments, etc.)

The recommendations will be reviewed by the ARC Director (or designee) and considered according to the ARC mission and strategic plan criteria. As appropriate, changes will be discussed with the reviewers.

The ARC Director (or designee) will negotiate with applicants to settle on the goals and the level and duration of support. Benchmarks, such as submission of a revised version of the proposal, must be met for continuation of funding or eligibility for future participation in the program.

### **Request for Applications**

## Investment for Future Success (IFS)

### Applications Due to ARC Office (ARCGrants@wsu.edu): Open date

**Purpose:** To support Agricultural Research Center researchers and CAHNRS tenure-track faculty members and assistant/associate research professors in obtaining federal competitive grants.

This program will target resources to improve previously submitted unsuccessful proposals to federal agency competitive programs that did well in review, just not well enough to be funded.

**Rationale:** It is common that applications not funded by federal competitive research grant programs are judged by the review panels to: (1) need preliminary data to strengthen the case being presented; (2) lack clarity or adherence to application requirements; (3) be missing important existing information that would alter the hypothesis, procedures, or analysis; and/or (4) need additional expertise or other enhancement to present a stronger case for funding.

**Approach:** ARC and CAHNRS faculty members will prepare an application to the IFS program and submit it for review **along with the previously submitted federal application and all review materials**. Applications will be reviewed by WSU scientists with federal panel service and/or current federal funding. Successful applicants to this program will work closely with the ARC staff to develop an improved proposal for submission to the federal program.

**Procedure:** A proposal that was denied funding by a federal agency such as NSF and NIH and competitive programs at USDA and DOE, together with reviews of the proposal, panel summaries, and any communications from the program and/or panel manager should be submitted to IFS along with an application. (Decisions about whether a federal program is competitive will be made by the ARC/CAHNRS Office of Research—if you have questions about whether your rejected proposal qualifies, please ask for guidance via email prior to preparing an IFS submission.) The IFS application must respond to panel comments and describe specific steps that would be taken to address concerns detailed in the reviews using the requested IFS resources. If additional expertise is needed, then the additional co-PI or collaborator must be identified and agree to be active in the revision of the federal application. The IFS application must contain a budget request detailing the steps that will be taken in revising the proposal and the expected timetable for re-submission. Other funds committed by the department or other sources to address the requested improvement steps must also be identified.

Reviewers will prepare recommendations and rank proposals as highly appropriate for partial funding, appropriate for partial funding, or not appropriate for partial funding. Reviews should contain a rationale for the recommendation, suggest project targets for funding, and recommendations for resources beyond research support that might be appropriate (aid in proposal preparation, collaborations, prioritization of experiments, etc.)

Reviewer recommendations will be reviewed by the CAHNRS Associate Dean for Research / ARC Director and the ARC Associate Director and will be considered according to CAHNRS and ARC mission and strategic plan criteria.

The CAHNRS Associate Dean for Research / ARC Director or Associate Director will negotiate with applicants to agree on the goals and the level and duration of support. Benchmark goals, such as submission of a revised version of the proposal, must be met for continuation of funding or eligibility for future participation in the program. Interaction with the ARC Director or Associate Director during the period of the award and re-submission process is expected.

**Application Format:** The faculty member wishing to apply must prepare an application that contains the following sections: (Text for sections 1-4 is limited to 8 pages, 12 point font, 1 inch margins)

- 1) Cover page: A cover page for this program is attached. It asks for information including the project title, PI name and contact information, ARC project paying PI's salary (if appropriate), name of the specific federal agency and program to which the application was made, and the requested budget. A short abstract of the request is also required that should briefly describe the larger project and the use of resources requested from the IFS program.
- 2) A request for IFS support. This should include:
  - a. Analysis of weaknesses in the unsuccessful federal program application. Be critical in this analysis. The federal application did not convince the panel and it is vital to address the specific weaknesses identified in the federal panel comments and any other issues you have identified.
  - b. Description of your strategy to improve the competitiveness of the application. Be specific about the steps you plan to take to improve the application. Do you need more preliminary data, different data, additional expertise via collaboration, help with application preparation, etc.? **Note that the IFS program is not interested in funding the federal proposal—it is interested in getting the federal proposal funded.**
  - c. Timeline for completion of each step.
  - d. If you need facilities not presently available to you, please describe your efforts to locate these and identify any assistance you need to access them.
  - e. If essential equipment is needed, describe your efforts to locate the equipment within WSU or at other collaborating locations. If purchase is the only solution to equipment access, provide a price quotation.
- 3) Budget. What kind of financial support do you need to submit an improved application? Provide complete budget details and budget justification on the attached form. Do not include benefits, tuition or F&A fees.
- 4) Description of commitments for departmental or other support to support this application. Summarize financial, personnel, space, and other support you have secured from your department and/or R&E Center to assist in improving the federal application. The commitments must be signed by the relevant department chair and/or R&E Center director.
- 5) The application previously submitted to a competitive federal agency program.
- 6) All review materials from the federal panel review, including any additional comments by the panel and/or program manager.
- 7) Updated *Curriculum Vitae* in the form and size required by the federal program.

- 8) Updated Current and Pending Support document, as required by the federal program. **All materials must be submitted electronically in PDF format to the CAHNRS Office of Research / ARC at [ARCGrants@wsu.edu](mailto:ARCGrants@wsu.edu) and to the Associate Director of the ARC ([lavine@wsu.edu](mailto:lavine@wsu.edu)).**

Agricultural Research Center programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported to the WSU Center for Human Rights at [chr@wsu.edu](mailto:chr@wsu.edu) and 509-335-8288.

Investments in Future Success Program-2012  
Cover Page

IFS Proposal title: \_\_\_\_\_

Duration requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Funds requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-principal Investigator:

PI contact information: Department \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ mail code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ARC project paying PI's salary (as appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Original Proposal title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency and program: \_\_\_\_\_

Duration requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Funds requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Next application deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstract: (≤ 200 words)

**INVESTMENTS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS  
BUDGET**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)/ PROJECT DIRECTORS				FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDS APPROVED (If Different)	
<b>A. Salaries and Wages</b>		<b>FUNDED WORK MONTHS</b>				
		Calendar	Academic	Summer		
1. No. of Senior Personnel						
___ Senior Associates (No PI salary)						
2. No. of Other Personnel (Non-Faculty)						
a. ___ Research Associates						
b. ___ Other Professionals						
c. ___ Graduate Students						
d. ___ Prebaccalaureate Students						
e. ___ Secretarial-Clerical						
f. ___ Technical, Shop and Other						
<b>Total Salaries and Wages</b>						
<b>B. Total Salaries and Wages</b>						
C. Nonexpendable Equipment (Attach supporting data. List items and dollar amounts for each item).						
D. Materials and Supplies						
E. Travel						
1. Domestic (Including Canada)						
2. Foreign (List destination and amount for each trip.)						
F. All Other Direct Costs (Attach supporting data. List items and dollar amounts. Details of subcontracts, including work statements and budget, should be explained in full in proposal.)						
<b>G. Total Amount of This Request</b>						

**Budget Justification:**