

ADVICE ON PURSUING NIH ARRA FUNDING

THINK STRATEGICALLY & CONTACT YOUR PROGRAM OFFICER

Receiving an NIH ARRA grant requires that your proposed project be carefully aligned with available funding opportunities. Each NIH ARRA funding opportunity has different application and research plan requirements, so reading the program announcement carefully is critical when preparing your application. In addition, each NIH Institute has institute specific Recovery Act funding guidelines. Be sure to check your institute or center homepage and look for ARRA specific information. Lastly, you will need to complete your NIH ARRA funded research project in two years - there will not be an opportunity for no-cost extensions. To maximize chances of success, researchers are advised to develop their proposal based on their Institute/Center guidelines and input from their NIH program officer.

When contacting your program officer, please use the following guidelines:

- Begin communication with an email. Use this email contact to send concept papers and/or questions. This will give the program officer something tangible to work with and will make your interaction more productive.
- Request a phone appointment in your email. This will make it more likely that you will have the opportunity to talk to your program officer.

For a complete list of all NIH ARRA funding opportunities, go to:

<http://grants.nih.gov/recovery>

If your project cannot be completed in a two-year timeframe, apply for other existing NIH mechanisms. There are many funding opportunities outside of ARRA funding – develop strategies to take advantage of them.

**For questions or help with proposal development, please contact:
Susan Gomes, Proposal Developer, 4-5857, sgomes@uri.edu**

ADVICE ON RECENTLY REVIEWED BUT UNFUNDED INVESTIGATOR INITIATED GRANT APPLICATIONS AND ARRA

Program Officers do have some discretion to support previously reviewed but unfunded investigator-initiated applications with their ARRA allocation. A recent Recovery Act Notice states:

“One of the ways NIH will implement the ARRA is to select existing peer-reviewed, meritorious grant applications, that can be accomplished in two years or less, meet the goals of the ARRA, and meet the mission priorities of an NIH IC. In general, existing applications eligible for consideration of 2-year funding under the ARRA are defined as applications submitted for funding with FY 2008 or FY 2009 funds that: (a) received meritorious priority scores from the initial peer review process; (b) received approval from an Advisory Council or Board prior to September 30, 2009; and (c) received priority scores that could not otherwise be paid in FY 2008 or 2009. This policy includes consideration of applications in response to previously announced funding opportunities (e.g., RFAs, PAs, PARs), including those that will be peer reviewed by mid-summer and scheduled to receive Advisory Council or Board review prior to September 30, 2009.”

Source: NIH Notice # NOT-OD-09-078