BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND (BoRSF) OPPORTUNITIES

FY 2023-24 FUNDING CYCLE

Carrie Robison
Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs
BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
LA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII, SECTION 10.1 (1986)

Structure
- Trust Fund in Treasury Dedicated to Education
  Generates Revenues for Higher Ed/K-12
- Public Money, Public Utility, Public Processes

Constitutionally Mandated Higher Ed Goals
- Improve the Quality of Higher Education
- Enhance Louisiana’s Economic Development

Constitutionally Designated Programs
- Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars
- Enhancement of Academic, Research & Agricultural Departments and Units
- Targeted Research & Development
- Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students
BoRSF AWARD TYPES

Grants (70% of funds expended since 1987):
  Direct support for educational/scholarly work (Research and Development, Departmental Enhancement, Graduate Fellowships, Federal Matching)

Endowments (30% of funds expended since 1987): Matching funds to establish restricted permanent accounts that generate income for designated activities (student scholarships, faculty work – Chairs and Professorships) as defined by donors/campus/BoR
BoRSF FUNDING PROGRAMS

Endowed Chairs
Recruiting and retaining game-changing faculty – matches private contributions to establish chairs in increments of $1 million

Recruitment of Superior Grad Students (Endowed Grad Scholarships)
Attracting the highest quality students to Louisiana for research & study in key programs – establishes permanent endowed scholarship funds for superior students in departments with existing or prospective eminence

Research & Development (Research Competitiveness Industrial Ties/Proof-of-Concept Awards to LA Artists & Scholars)
Building competitiveness & partnerships to contribute to fundamental knowledge and economic development – funds summer research time, student support, travel, supplies, market research studies, and equipment/supplies

Enhancement (Departmental BoR/SREB Professorship & Two-Yr. Workforce Scholarship Endowments Federal Matching)
Foundational support for academic & research programs/units – funds instructional and research equipment and supplies, curricular redesign efforts, student experiences, visiting speakers, endowment matching, and other academic support activities.
MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2023-24?

NONE, THOUGH BUDGET CHALLENGES PERSIST

APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2023-24

$20M

(Same as past two years)

But official state revenue estimate is $17.45M;
Reductions in # of awards are likely
(proportional across competitive programs)
GRANT PROGRAMS: DIRECT SUPPORT
BoRSF GENERAL ELIGIBILITY & FUNDING

- All public postsecondary ed campuses, plus private campuses that are members of LAICU, are eligible
- BoRSF supports all academic and workforce disciplines – check restrictions for individual programs
- Most grant projects require faculty leadership and are submitted via the Office of Sponsored Programs or its equivalent; endowments are submitted by the campus and have different pre- and post-award requirements
- Funding is public, so subject to disclosure; most documentation submitted to BoR, including proposals, is public record
DEPARTMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

- **Program Goal**: Enhance the capacity and quality of high-priority departments and academic units

- **Eligibility**: All academic disciplines on a rotating basis (one year on, one year off); targeted workforce eligible every year

- **Grant Types**:
  - **Comprehensive**: Large-scale awards to move the unit in a holistic way toward strategic goals. Up to five years, up to $1M total funding, one proposal per unit
  
  - **Targeted**: Smaller-scale awards to provide focused enhancement of a critical unit priority. One-year award, up to $200,000, no limit on proposals per unit
TYPES OF PROJECTS

- **Infrastructure (non-capital):** Buy tools to create/expand capacity
- **New Frontiers:** Pilot and implement new initiatives
- **Enhancement:** Advance/change directions of work already in progress
- **Faculty Development:** Learn new skills, new approaches
- **Typically Disallowed/U ndesirable Uses:** Additional compensation (overload, etc.) for LA faculty, capital expenses, standard operating costs, supplanting existing resources, restoring budget cuts
BOR/SREB DOCTORAL STUDENT SUPPORT

- **Program Goal**: Build diversity in the professoriate by recruiting, retaining and graduating URM PhD students

- **Eligibility**: Campus graduate schools or central offices for graduate training

- **Partnership with SREB**: Membership in SREB’s Doctoral Scholars Program for all appointed students; appointees must meet SREB eligibility requirements

- **Funding**: Annual provision of $10,000 student support + $5,000 SREB DSP membership for each student + $2,500 in year 1 for faculty mentors to attend DSP Institute; institutional match of $10,000 additional direct support per student required

- **Duration**: 3 years
FY 2022-23 DEPT ENH COMPETITION PROFILE

- **108 Proposals Received**
  - 21 Comprehensive
  - 81 Targeted
  - 5 BoR/SREB
  - Total First-Year Funds Requested: $15,668,783

- **34 Proposals Funded**
  - 3 Comprehensive (14% success rate)
  - 26 Targeted (32% success rate)
  - 5 BoR/SREB (100% success rate)
  - Total Awarded: $3,728,001 (24% overall success rate)
R&D PROGRAMS

- **Research Competitiveness**: One- to three-year awards to help faculty near competitiveness for federal research dollars overcome barriers and secure federal funding (≤$200,000 total for multi-year awards (with annual caps); ≤$20,000 for one-year)

- **Industrial Ties Research**: One- to three-year awards for research projects with industry buy-in and potential for development and diversification of LA’s economic base (≤$350,000 total with annual caps)

- **Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping**: One-year prototype development or proof-of-concept awards for research with near-term commercialization/tech transfer potential ($10,000-40,000 for one-year project)

- **Awards to LA Artists and Scholars**: One-year awards for completion of major projects in arts, social sciences and humanities (≤$50,000)
194 Proposals Received
- 99 RCS; 24 ITRS; 16 PoC/P; 55 ATLAS
- $10,819,181 requested

47 Projects Funded
- 27 RCS; 5 ITRS; 6 PoC/P; 9 ATLAS
- Total Awarded (First-Year Funds): $2,360,596 (22% of requested)

Overall Success Rate: 24%
REGENTS* DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION

- **Departmental ENH:** October 24, 2023
- **BoR/SREB Doctoral Support:** November 2, 2023
- **RCS:**
  - Notice of Intent (mandatory): September 11, 2023
  - Full Proposal: November 7, 2023
- **ITRS & PoC/P:**
  - Notice of Intent (mandatory): September 11, 2023
  - Full Proposal: October 31, 2023
- **ATLAS:**
  - Notice of Intent (mandatory): October 10, 2023
  - Full Proposal: November 21, 2023
- **Competitive Endowments (EC, EWF & EGS):** February 1, 2024
- **Endowed Professorships:** April 1, 2024

*Note: Many campuses have earlier internal deadlines*
SUCCEEDING IN BoRSF COMPETITIONS
APPROACHING A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PROCESS

- Persistence – Apply early and often, learn from experience, listen to reviewer comments even when you disagree

- Awareness – Know what opportunities are out there, how competitive they are, what kinds of projects work; ask questions to program managers

- Obedience – Follow the rules

- Empathy – Understand what every party to the transaction wants and needs
BALANCE AMONG THE ELEMENTS

Stakeholder Needs/Benefits

Campus/Dept. Priorities/Opportunities

Funding Agency Priorities/Objectives
THREE PROPOSAL TIMEFRAMES TO CAPTURE

- **Before Funding:**
  - Explain How the Idea Is Aligned with:
    - Department/unit strategic priorities
    - Campus role, scope, mission & priorities
    - Funding source goals (RFP)
  - Document and support arguments for need based on the current situation

- **During the Project:** Specify how work will proceed, impact during the grant, and what success will look like at the end

- **After Funding:** Define longer-term impacts of project completion; present a plan for post-award sustainability, if applicable (concrete, realistic, detailed)
WRITING FOR EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

- Reviewers aren’t from around here: They need context

- Start with the RFP: Root the project in the purposes, goals, & objectives of the funding and follow program rules

- Alignment is key: Show fit with specific campus/dept./professional priorities

- Knowledge is power: Show you know of the state-of-the-art in the subject area and how your project fits/advances

- Numbers are your friend: Include relevant data to make your case

- Why, why, why? Show need, impact, and long-term value of the investment for the campus and the State (public money invested for public value)
WINNING THE COMPETITIONS

- Be responsive: Show clear and meaningful alignment with the RFP and campus/unit priorities

- Be clear and specific on the main points: Need, impact, quality, and sustainability (if appropriate)

- Be objective: Anticipate questions, concerns, and challenges
POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- Contract between BoR and campus/system
- Compliance with reviewer stipulations and match rate required
- Detailed budget and budget justification
- BoRSF payments in advance; multi-year projects have retainage
- Annual and final project and financial reports
- Major changes (project, budget, personnel) generally require BoR approval (specified in contract)
RFPs, POLICIES & MORE INFORMATION

https://rsi.laregents.edu

https://rsi.laregents.edu/programs/borsf-programs/

https://rsi.laregents.edu/downloads_page/rfps-policies-forms/

Program Managers (contact info also in RFPs):

- Competitive Grants (DENH, R&D): Bryan Jones (bryan.jones@laregents.edu)
- Endowment Programs: Chris Mestayer (chris.mestayer@laregents.edu)
- General Questions and BoR/SREB: Carrie Robison (carrie.robison@laregents.edu)
- Regents Main Phone: (225) 342-4253
PROGRAM QUESTIONS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Online Q&A (updated throughout the question period, ending October 15):
https://rsi.laregents.edu/downloads_page/frequently-asked-question/

Staff Assistance:
rsi@laregents.edu or email individual program administrators