

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/Undesirable 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 (\leq \$200,000 total for multi-year awards (with annual caps); \leq \$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 (\leq \$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 (\leq \$50,000)



FY 2022-23 R&D COMPETITION PROFILE

➤ 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**



SUCCESSING IN BoRSF COMPETITIONS

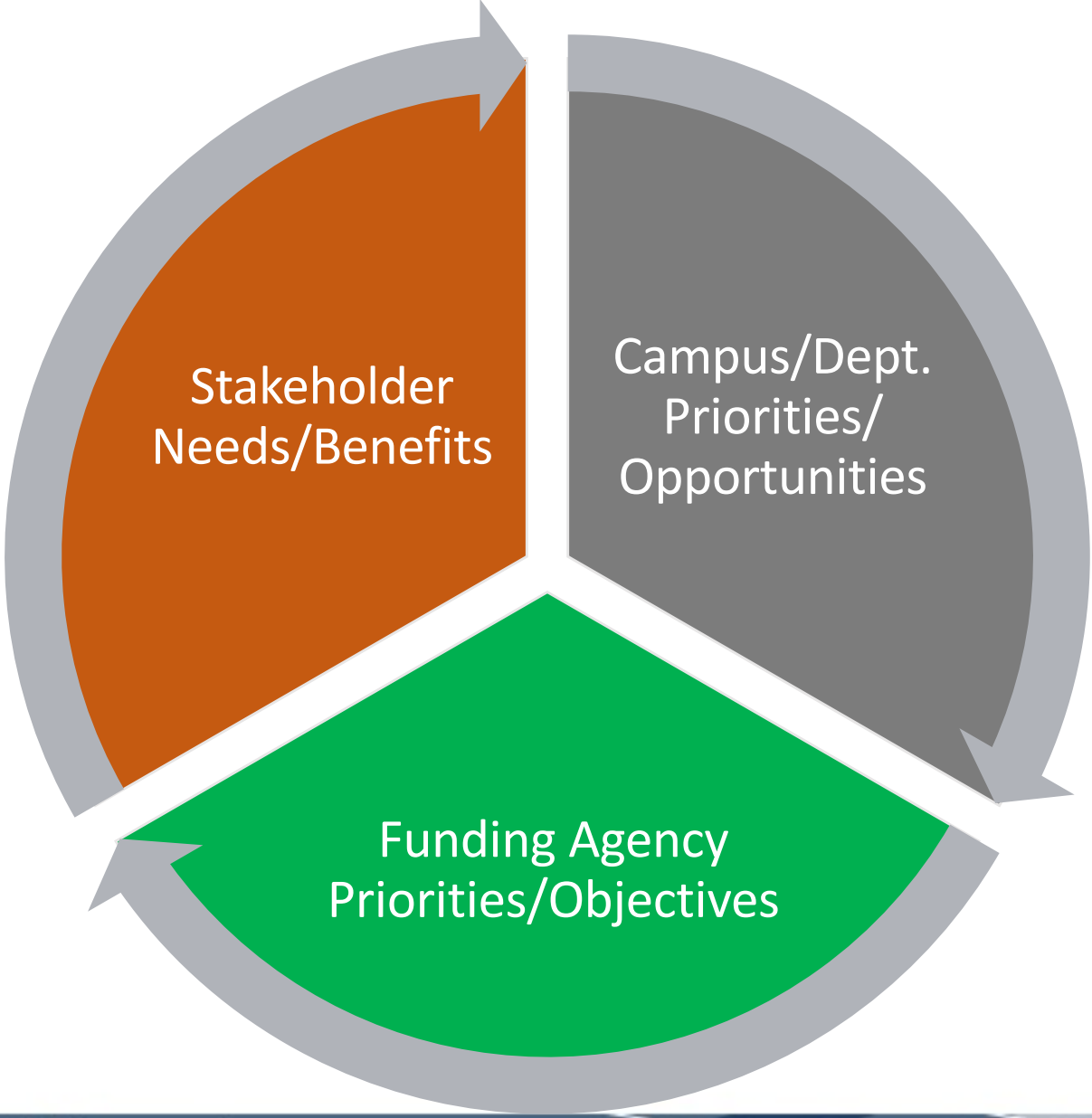


APPROACHING A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PROCESS

- 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



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

