

TO: School of Medicine Faculty

FROM: Blossom Damania, PhD, Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine

RE: School of Medicine Sunset Fund Support for Unexpected Termination of Federal Grants

Purpose:

The School of Medicine (SOM) is committed to supporting SOM labs that have been impacted by recent terminations of existing grants in the recent months following the executive orders and subsequent changes at the NIH and other federal agencies. We recognize that these are immensely painful situations and tough decisions may need to be made regarding personnel to recover from the loss of funding and pursue revised applications and new avenues of funding. To assist with this critical need and support the people in our research labs, the SOM will administer the **Sunset Fund (SF)**. We will provide up to \$50,000 for previously funded R01/R35/R00, U, and P grants (or similar) that were terminated unexpectedly in mid-cycle since January 21, 2025. We will provide up to \$30,000 for R21 grants and independent K01/K08/K22/K23 (or similar) grants. The SF is targeted to terminated grants (not Stop Work orders).

Proposals will be considered for up to \$50,000 with a \$10,000 match from the department/center (\$6,000 for R21 or K awards). The match from the department/center can represent salary and fringe support for the faculty member the department is already covering. Dean's office funds will be provided for a period of up to 4 months to support only lab personnel costs, including salaries and associated fringe benefits, for faculty, trainees, and staff impacted by the funding loss. These funds are time-limited, and transition of employees must take place within 30 days for temporary employees, 60 days for SHRA employees, and 120 days for EHRA non-faculty. The number of proposals received will impact the amount and time frame of the funding. Under no circumstances shall the funds be used for any other expenses, including but not limited to equipment, supplies, travel, or operational costs. The SF funding will be transferred to the unit that will be responsible for administering and monitoring the expenditure of the funds. At the end of the funding period, the PI/unit must provide a brief financial report confirming that the funds were expended and any updates on funding status. If it is determined that salaries can be funded on the grant past the grant termination date, the unit must return the funds to the Dean's office. The unit must also agree to refund any unused funds to the Dean's Office.

The SF is time-limited. Hence, PIs should be seeking to revise grants if possible, pursue alternative sources of funding, and working with HR, to right-size their labs.

Applications will currently be accepted on a rolling basis.

Eligibility and review criteria:

1. The PI is a faculty member whose primary appointment is in the School of Medicine (SOM).
2. Support is requested for the unexpected mid-cycle termination of a funded R01, R35, R00, U, P or similar grant. R21 grants and independent K01/K08/K22 grants will also be considered (for up to 30K in support).
3. The grant under consideration must be administered in an SOM unit, where UNC is the prime recipient of the funding.
4. The PI has no more than 2 active R01s or the equivalent level of funding.*
5. The PI does not have more than \$50K of additional sources of lab support, e.g. trust fund, startup, retention, professorship, royalties. *

*** For multiple PI applications, these criteria must be met for the PI seeking support for their personnel.**

To apply for this program, please submit the following documents in the order below as a single pdf file:

- 1. Cover Letter**

Include the title, grant number and Ramses project ID for the grant.

- 2. Letter of support from Department Chair**

Include a letter from your chair or center director that indicates the required costshare and any support that the unit is providing in support of the lab/PI for this project. If the grant is administered through a center, please also provide a letter of support from the center director.

- 3. Termination letter from the federal funding agency**

- 4. Email communications from Program Officer (if applicable)**

- 5. Grant Abstract**

- 6. Other Support**

Include a copy of your current Other Support document.

- 7. Budget Justification from the Submitted Grant**

- 8. Budget for SF Funding**

- The maximum amount of the SF award from the Dean's Office is \$50,000 for up to a four-month period. The budget should not exceed this amount.
- The budget should only request funds to support personnel costs (including salaries and associated fringe benefits) for faculty and staff supported by this grant (listed in #8).
- The \$10,000 or \$6,000 department match budget should also be separately listed.
- Please indicate any additional sources of funding available (startup, retention, trust, royalties, professorship).

Please also note that we will be closely monitoring the evolving situation and needs of our labs to provide as much support as possible.

Submission Deadline:

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis to OoR_submissions@med.unc.edu.

If you have any questions, please contact Janelle Cross at OoR_Submissions@med.unc.edu