

ATTENTION NORMAN AND TULSA CAMPUS FACULTY

IF YOU ARE APPLYING TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO DEVELOPING STIMULUS GRANT PROPOSALS, YOU NEED TO READ THIS DOCUMENT!

Norman Campus Office of the Vice President for Research

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) represents a singular opportunity in our Nation's history in which several hundred billion new dollars are available to support basic and applied research. This extraordinary time requires extraordinary measures to maximize OU's ability to obtain ARRA funding. This document provides important information for faculty wishing to pursue ARRA opportunities.

How Do Stimulus Proposals Differ from Traditional Proposals?

Federal and State agency grant opportunities associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) differ from those traditionally pursued by university faculty in a number of important ways:

- ARRA solicitations are highly focused, emphasizing the achievement of particular outcomes or deliverables. Thus, instead of trying to force a solicitation to accommodate their particular project or ideas, faculty pursuing ARRA opportunities must be able to modify their ideas and research plans to fit the solicitation.
- Some Federal agencies have been notably slow in distributing ARRA funds, and more than \$200 billion in opportunities are expected to be announced in the next few months.
- Response times associated with ARRA proposals are notably short (a month in some cases), and thus faculty must be aware of upcoming opportunities. If you haven't begun thinking about an opportunity by the time a solicitation is issued, you will have difficulty preparing a competitive proposal. Once you identify a potential opportunity, you need to decide quickly whether to pursue it.
- Competition for ARRA funding is exceptionally intense; submitting a really good proposal likely will not result in an award. Your proposal needs to be outstanding.
- The infusion of ARRA funding has allowed agencies to initiate new programs and pursue opportunities long ago recognized as important. Thus, you should not hesitate to pursue multiple opportunities, especially in light of the special assistance offered below.

Special Resources Available to Norman and Tulsa Campus Faculty in Developing ARRA Proposals

The following resources are available to Norman and Tulsa Campus faculty.

- Targeted announcements (via email) of ARRA solicitations and advance information about future solicitations.
- Assistance finding a match between faculty research ideas and ARRA funding opportunities.
- A detailed analysis of solicitations to ensure understanding of the agency, proposal requirements and prohibitions, and assistance in contacting agency personnel if needed.
- Personal assistance by Writing Center Fellows for technical and grammatical editing, structure and sequencing, use of graphics, and use of appropriate terminology for the intended audience.
- Pre-submission mock reviews, including a panel de-briefing, to anticipate reviewer questions.
- Other types of assistance requested by principal investigators.

Numerous faculty have benefitted from these services in submitting ARRA and other proposals, including those to the NSF Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI) and Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) programs, DoE EPSCoR, NSF CAREER, and the NIST Science Building Construction program.

How Do Faculty Obtain Assistance?

If you wish to make use of the resources described here for pursuing a stimulus funding opportunity, or if you have questions, please send email to Kelvin Droegemeier (kkd@ou.edu). Additional information may be found at <http://research.ou.edu/stimulus.htm>.