

2025 HHDC Grant Program – Request for Applications



HHDC BRIDGE GRANT:

The objective of the Bridge Grant program is to provide funding of limited duration to enhance faculty competitiveness for extramural funding. These awards are specifically for faculty members who have submitted applications to extramural funding agencies, such as NIH, ADA, DoD, and NEI, that have been reviewed and scored, but not funded. Bridge Grant support provides a mechanism through which investigators can address scientific issues raised in peer review critiques, generate essential preliminary data, and submit more competitive revised applications. This program provides support to maintain essential laboratory functions for eligible investigators during the review process for applications.

Funding and Timeline

\$100,000 for 1 year.

Funding Priorities

Applications should be closely aligned with the mission of the HHDC to increase understanding about the causes and consequences of diabetes and closely related cardiometabolic conditions like obesity, liver disease, and cancer, as well as strategies for prevention or treatment of these conditions. Additionally, proposals that address one or more of the following themes are HHDC funding priorities:

Theme 1: Diabetes and Obesity, origins within the first 1000 days of life or changes across the lifespan. These are proposals that aim to gain basic science and clinical knowledge on the inter-relationship of obesity and diabetes during fetal development and early life, or across the lifespan. For example, we are interested in studies of the genetic, epigenetic, and environmental basis of susceptibility to developing insulin resistance, metabolic dysregulation, inflammation, macrovascular and microvascular diabetic complications, obesity, and diabetes.

Theme 2: Translational Research. We encourage new collaborative projects between a Principal Investigator (PI) who is a basic scientist and a PI who is a clinician or clinical scientist. These projects must focus on patients or patient samples. At least one of the two collaborating PIs must be from the College of Medicine. If you are applying for this paired Basic/Clinical award, please specify this within the Letter of Intent, and detail the roles of the collaborators.

Theme 3: Clinical Research/Public Health. We seek proposals to investigate new treatments, interventions, and technology for diabetes management, along with strategies to raise awareness, promote prevention, or improve diabetes care. Proposals that address health disparities related to diabetes, and early stage clinical investigators are particularly encouraged. It is strongly anticipated that the results of these pilot projects will eventually permit investigators to compete successfully for extramural sources of research support such as the NIH, American Diabetes Association, JDRF, etc.

Eligibility

The PI and/or MPI of any HHDC grant application must be a Member of the HHDC; the co-investigators do not have to be members at the time of application but if successful are encouraged to become Members or Associate Members of the HHDC during the tenure of the

grant. Recipients of **active** HHDC grants may not apply for, or hold another HHDC grant or Team Science grant as project PI or MPI.

Eligible applicants fall into one of three categories, listed in order of priority:

1. New investigator without current or past major independent research support (e.g., NIH R01, P01 or equivalent). K awardees are encouraged to apply. Applications from new investigators (within 5 years of first full academic appointment and never having received independent federal funds) are given special consideration during peer review and at the time of funding. Eligible applicants must have a faculty appointment or equivalent with a modified title such as Research Assistant Professor.

MD and PhD fellows and senior postdoctoral fellows who have completed a minimum of 24 months of a fellowship are also eligible in this category. However, fellows must have a formal mentor and include a letter of support from their mentor(s) that: 1) confirms that they have documented, suitable expertise to design and carry out the proposed experiments as an independent investigator; 2) describes the trainee's path to independence; 3) confirms that a defined mentoring plan is in place; 4) states that the proposed project belongs to the trainee and represents an independent line of investigation that the mentee can build upon; and 5) documents departmental support that will be available to the trainee during the 1-2 year period of the proposed project (please limit letter to 2 pages maximum). This letter is not required to be submitted with the Letter of Intent but must be part of the final application. Please note that the fellow will be considered the PI of the application, but the mentor will need to be named as the PI for routing the grant through the Office of Research Administration at OUHSC.

2. Established, funded investigator with no previous work in diabetes or related areas who will apply their expertise to a diabetes or related problem.

3. Established investigator in diabetes or related areas who will test the feasibility of a new or innovative idea that represents a significant departure from their funded research. Emphasis will be given to projects that initiate a new collaboration with one or more investigators active in diabetes or related research or establish a new approach or analysis that will increase the likelihood of future external funding.

Two-Step Application Process

1. Letter of Intent (LOI):

A Letter of Intent is due to HHDCGrants@ouhsc.edu by **5:00 pm on January 13, 2025**.

The purpose of the LOI is to provide an initial description of your proposed project so that the HHDC Grants Review Committee can determine: if the proposed project fits within the HHDC research mission; the novelty, significance, and feasibility of the proposed project; if appropriate collaborators have been identified; and the likelihood of the findings to support future external grant applications, once successfully completed.

Applicants selected for full application submission will be notified by **January 31, 2025**. You may also receive suggestions for improvement, or recommendations to submit to another funding mechanism. The projected start date for the award will be **July 1, 2025**.

The template for the LOI is included at the end of this document. The required elements include:

1. Face Page with investigator names and contact information.
2. Personal Statement that describes the expertise of the PI and investigative team.
3. Project Title.
4. Project Lay Summary.

5. Project Specific Aims.
6. NIH Biosketch(es) for the PI and all senior Co-investigators.

2. Full Application:

2a. A complete application consists of the following:

1. Face Page.
2. Budget.
3. Budget Justification. Carefully justify the budget needed to respond to the agency critique or to maintain essential laboratory functions pending national agency funding decisions.
4. PI Biographical Sketch (use current NIH format). Biographical sketches for other key personnel should be included in the Appendix.
5. Resources and Environment (use current NIH format)
6. Scored Summary Statement.
7. For Multi-PI Grants only (One page limit):
 - a. Provide the total direct costs for your portion of the multi-PI grant.
 - b. Outline your role in the project and describe how the funds will address the critiques specific to your portion of the research plan and how they will integrate with other investigators.
8. Plan for Addressing Critiques in Summary Statement (Two-page limit):
 - a. For scored applications not yet resubmitted, explain how you plan to respond to each critique during the funding period.
 - b. For scored applications already resubmitted, provide the response to the critiques in the resubmitted application.
9. Timeline (One page limit):
 - a. For scored applications not yet resubmitted, provide a timeline as to when a revised application is anticipated to be submitted.
 - b. For scored applications already resubmitted, provide a timeline as to when the study section and advisory council meet, and anticipated date funding would start if the application were successful.
10. Copy of the scored application:
 - a. For scored applications not yet resubmitted, provide the complete scored application.
 - b. For scored applications already resubmitted, provide the complete resubmitted application.
11. Literature cited.
12. **Sections 12a and 12b do not count toward the page limit. However, as with NIH grants, it is not appropriate to use this section to add preliminary data, methods, or other information that does not fit within the Research Plan.**
 - a. Human Subjects (if appropriate): Follow the NIH guidelines to describe plans for protection for human subjects; inclusion of women, minorities, and individuals across the lifespan; subject recruitment and retention; and data and safety monitoring.
 - b. Animal Care and Use Plan (if appropriate): Follow the NIH guidelines to include information on the species, strain, ages, sex and number of animals to be used; justification for number and number of animals used; plan for veterinary care; plans for minimizing discomfort, distress, pain, and injury; and methods of euthanasia and reasons for selection.

13. Appendix: Biographical Sketch for other key personnel. If the PI has a Temporary Faculty Appointment, include a letter from the Department Chairperson and approval from the Vice President for Research.
14. Letter of support from the primary mentor, if the applicant is a fellow, that includes the components outlined in Section 1 above.

2b. Formatting: Font and margin specifications must be followed for the LOI and Full Application. The approved font options include two serif fonts (Palatino and Georgia) and two sans serif fonts (Arial and Helvetica). Font must be 11 points or larger. Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). Any figures or tables should use fonts and images that are large enough to read at normal print size.

2c. Routing and approval by Authorized Official: In accordance with OUHSC policy, a SoonerTrack routing form should be submitted **at least three to five full business days prior to the March 18, 2025, grant application deadline**. Applicants are expected to work with their assigned Sponsored Program Administrator (SPA) for review of the application, and to confirm the deadline for routing.

Once the review is complete, the Face Page of the application must be signed by the ORA Official (or equivalent signing official at institutions other than OUHSC) before the PI submits the final application to HHDC.

External Applicants will need to use their own institution's offices for any grant processing and comply with the March 18, 2025 grant application deadline above.

Applicants who are selected for funding are responsible for getting the approval of the Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Radiation Safety Committee and Institutional Biosafety Committee, where applicable. Applicants do not need to submit this information unless it is requested by HHDC. All protocols must be approved by the relevant review committees before funds are awarded.

2d. Submission of the Final Application: Send the final application by e-mail to HHDCGrants@ouhsc.edu no later than **5:00 pm**, on Tuesday, **March 18, 2025**. Please title the application attached to the e-mail: HHDC Team Science [PI Last Name, First Name]. **Please submit the application as a single file in pdf format**. Failure to follow these steps could cause your application to be overlooked and not reviewed by the HHDC Grants Review Committee.

Program restrictions

- A. The maximum project period is 12 months.
- B. The maximum budget request is \$100,000 for direct costs only. Each budget item should be carefully justified as necessary for the project. Domestic travel is allowed and includes travel within and between any of the 50 states of the United States and its possessions and territories and travel between the United States and Canada and within Canada. Publication fees may be included.
- C. Funds may not be requested for the following:
 1. Clerical support, including office supplies, except those carefully justified as specifically required for research purposes.
 2. Office equipment or furniture, laboratory furniture, or therapeutic equipment.
 3. Alterations and renovations.

4. Hospital per diem charges.
 5. Purchase of books, periodicals, or library services.
 6. Foreign travel (any travel outside of Canada and the United States and its territories and possessions).
 7. Laboratory equipment costing over \$5,000.
 8. Indirect costs.
- D. Salary and fringe benefits may be requested for OUHSC Principal Investigator(s) up to \$25,000 in total (salary + fringe benefits = \$25,000). If the proposed project has multiple Principal Investigators, salary and fringe benefits may be split between the OUHSC Principal Investigators. No salary or fringe benefits are permitted for non-OUHSC Principal Investigators, including investigators from OU Norman, OMRF, and other non-OUHSC institutions. Co-investigators are not eligible for salary support.
- E. Salary and fringe benefits for research staff, students, postdoctoral research fellows, residents, fellows, and faculty with Temporary Faculty appointments who are not senior/key personnel on the grant are allowed.
- F. Any unspent funds must be returned upon termination of the grant.
- G. HHDC may allow a no-cost extension if circumstances warrant it. All requests for a no-cost extension must be submitted to the Office of Research Administration **AT LEAST 40 CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR** to the end date of the grant. The submission to ORA must include the HHDC Contract and Budget Modification Request Form and the Progress Report Template.
- H. Re-budget requests must be submitted on the HHDC Contract and Budget Modification Request Form to the Office of the Research Administration and approved by HHDC. Any significant change in the budget (e.g., deviation of expenditures in a single category, increase or decrease by 25% or more of the total amount awarded) will require approval from the HHDC.

Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate the application for scientific merit according to the following criteria:

1. Feasibility and scientific merit.
2. Response to critiques in the Summary Statement.
3. Appropriateness of the proposal to the HHDC Bridge Grant program.
4. Potential of the research to attract extramural funding upon completion of the project.

Scoring for scientific merit will use NIH Study Section Guidelines. Scientific Priority scores range from 1.0 (highest priority) to 9.0 (lowest priority). Applicants will receive an NIH-style summary that includes strengths and weaknesses after the review is completed.

Post Award Conditions

- A. Grant administration
Questions about grant administration (e.g., budget modifications, changes in project personnel, extensions) should be addressed to the Sponsored Program Administrator assigned to the PI (find your SPA: <https://research.ouhsc.edu/Research-Administration/About-ORA/SPA>).

- B. Progress reports:
1. Awardees who request a second year of funding will be required to: a) send a brief notice of intent to continue by the deadline for new letters of intent (currently in January), and b) submit a revised proposal that includes progress report, a revised research plan, budget, and budget justification for year 2. Proposals for year 2 will undergo full review alongside new proposals.
 2. A progress report is due to HHDC within 30 days of project termination. It is the responsibility of the PI to submit the Progress Report. HHDC will provide a Progress Report template with detailed descriptions for each section to the PI. The report shall include a summary of research results; concise summary of significant discoveries, outcomes and progress in layman's terms; funding that has been secured with the help of HHDC dollars; manuscripts published, submitted, or in preparation; presentations at professional meetings; and any technology development and patents derived from HHDC funds.
 3. Upon request by HHDC, the PI will provide periodic updates about funding that has been secured with the help of HHDC dollars; manuscripts published, submitted, or in preparation; presentations at professional meetings; and any technology development and patents derived from HHDC funds.
- C. **New in 2025:** New awardees are required to attend the HHDC Diabetes Research Symposium, held each November at the OUHSC campus, as a requirement for a second year of support. Awardees are highly encouraged to submit an abstract to the meeting by the second year of funding.

Failure to comply with award conditions will render investigators ineligible to apply for future HHDC funding.

Questions:

For questions and/or for special exception of the announcement approval, please contact HHDCGrants@ouhsc.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
HAROLD HAMM DIABETES CENTER

LETTER OF INTENT: HHDC Bridge Grant Program

Contact PI/ Team Leader: _____

PI Title/ Rank: _____

Institution/ College/
Department: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Provide the following for Each Investigator on Project:

Investigator: _____

Title/ Rank: _____

Institution/ College/
Department: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Repeat for each investigator

HHDC 2025 Grant Program LOI

PERSONAL STATEMENT (Briefly describe why the Contact PI is well-suited for the role(s) in this project and the reason for the application. No more than 250 words):

HHDC 2025 Grant Program LOI

PROJECT TITLE (200 character limit):

PROJECT SUMMARY (layman's terms, no more than 250 words, 1 page maximum):

Total Budget Amount Requested: \$ _____

HHDC 2025 Grant Program LOI

SPECIFIC AIMS (1 page, NIH format):

The following template pages are for full applications only. Use these if your letter of intent is approved and you've been invited to submit a full application.

After the template pages, add blank pages for the remaining pieces of the application as described in the instructions.

[The rest of this page is left intentionally blank.]

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

HAROLD HAMM DIABETES CENTER

Bridge Grant Program Application

Contact PI/ Team Leader: _____

PI Title/ Rank: _____

Institution/ College/
Department: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Provide the following for Each Investigator on Project:

Investigator: _____

Title/ Rank: _____

Institution/ College/
Department: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Repeat for each investigator

HHDC 2025 Grant Program

PROJECT TITLE (200 character limit):

PROJECT SUMMARY (layman's terms, no more than 250 words, 1 page maximum):

Signature of Principal Investigator

Date

Signature of ORA Official

Date

HHDC 2025 Grant Program

BUDGET

PERSONNEL For personnel who will be paid from the grant, list % time effort, salary, fringe benefits, and total. For people who will not be paid, list % time effort.

Name/Position	% Effort	Salary	Fringe Benefits	Total
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EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES (Separately list items such as biochemicals, glassware, and animal purchases):

TRAVEL (Travel will be reimbursed at actual and reasonable expense):

OTHER COSTS (Include payments to study participants, animal per diem and housing costs, if applicable):

TOTAL COSTS (Not to exceed \$100,000) \$ _____

HHDC 2025 Grant Program

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION