

Summary and Explanation of IGP and BSP updates:

As of fall 2023, there have been changes made to the two competitive Internal Funding mechanisms available through the LCOM Dean's Office. Below is a summary of the substantive changes and brief explanation for the changes and their consequences.

1. Change from three cycles for both mechanisms to one cycle per year for each mechanism.

Previously: Mar, July, Nov 1st deadlines for which either mechanism was accepted

New: Dec 10th for IGP applications, May 10th for BSP applications

Explanation: Limited applications have been submitted per cycle in recent years, so consolidation allows better head-to-head comparison of applications. While there are fewer open application times for each program, we anticipate funding up to the same number of grants in each program as we have historically.

2. Shortened proposal and NIH-format Biosketch and Other Support

Previously: The proposal was 10 pages long and requested a CV and a bespoke Other Support page

New: Both mechanisms will now utilize the length of the NIH exploratory and small grant mechanisms (R21 and R03), specifically: 1 pg Specific Aims + 6 pgs for the remainder of the proposal (inclusive of figures and tables, not inclusive of references cited). We also request the NIH Biosketch and NIH Other Support forms.

Explanation: These changes make the scale of the proposal more closely match the scope of the award in time and money. Utilization of the NIH format for Biosketch and Other Support should make it easier on investigators, spending less time reformatting.

3. Change in goals of the IGP program

Previously: The IGP program was open competition for all faculty to achieve renewed or new extramural funding

New: The IGP will prioritize early-stage investigators, though the program will remain open to all faculty.

Explanation: This change in review philosophy will make early-stage faculty more competitive with established investigators for these limited funds.

4. Change in eligibility for IGP program

Previously: Investigators within the first three years of hire could not utilize the IGP mechanism regardless of whether they had startup or not

New: Investigators who received no research startup or those who have fully spent their startup will be eligible provided their department guarantees at least 20% protected time

Explanation: The previous requirements led the program to limit potential success of faculty who traditionally have not been given startup as part of their hiring package, essentially all of the non-tenure track faculty positions in LCOM.

5. Modification and clarity for BSP eligibility

Previously: Minimum of three years of continuous substantial funding (with additional expectations poorly specified)

New: Specifically lays out the funding history expectations and increases total funded duration to be: Applicant must have had a minimum of five years of substantial extramural funding (>\$100,000/year direct) and must have been funded at that level for three of the last five years.

Explanation: The language needed to be clarified and fit within the current expectations from the Dean's office.