

March 9, 2009

Dear Deans, Directors and Vice Presidents,

Provost Meredith Hay and VPR Leslie Tolbert have asked Nancy Smith and me to coordinate university-wide efforts to assist The University of Arizona in maximizing its share of the Federal Economic Stimulus funding. The attached message contains information recently released about what funding will be available from various programs, instructions about how our internal UA process will work, and what is needed from you. You will also find this message, an FAQ list, and subsequent updates at <http://www.vpr.arizona.edu/> under "Stimulus Information" on the left menu.

Our goals are simple... to make sure the UA receives the maximum benefit from the Federal Stimulus Package by accessing funds available at both the federal and state levels. We believe the best results will come from a well-coordinated effort supported by effective, proactive communications, and have developed a process for organizing this complex set of projects.

We're excited about the new funding opportunities for The University of Arizona. Shortly, we will organize a meeting (or set of meetings) where we will distribute information, answer questions, and provide more detail about how the process will work.

As you will see from the attached information, most faculty members are likely to be accessing Stimulus funding via conventional grant programs, and no special coordination is needed. However, new kinds of major funding under the Stimulus plan are available in special competitions, challenge grants, building support, IT infrastructure, etc. that will require coordination with multiple entities across campus.

1. If you are aware of faculty in your college or center/institute who may pursue such opportunities, please forward this message to them.
2. The attachment also includes a call for brief one-page pre-proposals of this latter kind that require special campus coordination – deadline for some of the initial calls is Friday, March 20.
3. Also at <http://www.vpr.arizona.edu/> under "Stimulus Information", you will find a Stimulus overview in four powerpoint slides, prepared by Shay Stautz (UA Federal Relations).

We look forward to working with you!

Best regards,

Andrew Comrie, Assoc. VPR
Nancy Smith, Director, Corporate & Business Relations

UA FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE COORDINATION

How the UA Process Will Work. This project will be managed by the VPR office, headed by Leslie Tolbert, Andrew Comrie and Nancy Smith. Their roles will fall primarily into three linked areas – Coordination, Communications, and Facilitation.

Because there are so many areas of expertise required for this effort, the process will include many people / groups campus wide, including the following:

- **Stimulus Working Group** – A team of individuals will meet weekly to share information and intelligence, update other members, and facilitate the process. This group currently includes Meredith Hay, Joel Valdez, Leslie Tolbert, Jacqueline Mok, Andrew Comrie, Shay Stautz, Greg Fahey, Bob Smith, Nancy Smith, and Judy Bernas. Other leadership will be called upon in a flexible arrangement.
- **Provost Advisory Council on Strategic Advancement** – This group of leading researchers has an important role in this process, evaluating and prioritizing the 1-page pre-proposals.

Project Categories. We have organized all of the possible projects related to the Federal Stimulus program into three “buckets” as follows:

Bucket #1: Conventional Research Funds

***Description:** Funds in this category are distributed through existing programs in conventional granting agencies. It includes research funding available through standard competitive grants – the kind funding we are familiar with and expert at obtaining.*

***Instructions:** Please encourage your research faculty to aggressively pursue this funding immediately with a “business as usual” approach. Our coordinating committee will focus very little on this area, other than to continue to monitor, collect, and disseminate information to you. Even in this category, there are likely to be special requirements not typically seen, such as quarterly reporting.*

Bucket #2: Unconventional Research Funds

***Description:** This category (and bucket #3) is where we will focus primarily, as there are new programs, new sources of funding, and unprecedented levels of transparency, oversight, and accountability requirements.*

***Instructions:** We are issuing a call for “One-Pagers” – pre-proposals (see “contents of pre proposals” below) that will be collected and evaluated by the Provost’s Committee on Strategic Advancement and other groups and decision-makers as needed.*

Bucket #3: Research Infrastructure & Equipment

Description: Includes any facility issues including new construction, renovations, renewals new space needs/requirements, etc.

Instructions: *Again, we are issuing a call for “One-Pagers” – pre-proposals (see “contents of pre proposals” below) that will be collected and evaluated accordingly, including Facilities Planning, IT leaders, etc.*

What is Needed From You:

- **Call for 1-Pagers.** We are asking for you to submit immediately (via email) 1-page pre-proposal descriptions of projects for consideration. No single deadline applies – there are multiple opportunities and we need information as soon as possible on a rolling basis. The initial deadline for the earliest calls coming out now will be Friday, March 20. For subsequent new RFPs that are announced, the deadline will be roughly 10 days following the announcement. Each document should contain the following:

Contents of One-Page Pre-Proposals

- Agency Name (include web site)
- Working Title of Proposal
- Brief Project Description
- Description of how project leverages with initiatives already in place at the UA
- Description of how project will/can be coordinated with research/other groups on campus
- Explicit reference to any space or facilities needs, and/or any IT infrastructure needed
- Amount of funding requested

Submit Email Proposals to:

Nancy Preble, Assistant to the Vice President for Research

Email: npreble@vpr.arizona.edu

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

We're taking a proactive approach to anticipating and answering questions related to the Economic Stimulus Package by offering the following questions and responses. New questions will be added throughout the process.

➤ **What is the Federal Economic Stimulus Package?**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was established to create jobs, restore economic growth, and strengthen America's middle class through measures that modernize the nation's infrastructure, enhance America's energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need, and for other purposes. Included are operating funds from the Fiscal Stabilization Fund (Arizona's share is \$800 million to be distributed at the discretion of the State of Arizona) and approximately \$21.5 billion in federal funds for science and research. For more information about the NIDCD and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, visit the following link:

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/recovery.htm>

➤ **How will UA research priorities be determined?**

In many cases, research priorities will follow closely to current practice of supporting research and other initiatives already prioritized by colleges and centers. In those cases specifying limited solicitations (e.g., only three proposals per institution) or requiring institutional commitments of funds, infrastructure or other resources, proposals will be evaluated on how they contribute to the strategic goals of the UA. Evaluation will be via the stimulus working group, in consultation with the advisory council and/or other relevant groups as well as senior administration, depending on timing and the nature of the proposal. Note: this is not a uniform process with an orderly set of deadlines – there are tens, if not hundreds, of opportunities with varying requirements and deadlines; therefore, our coordination efforts have to be adaptable and work “on the fly” to optimize our prospects.

➤ **What is the best way to stay up-to-date on current developments?**

You should continue to monitor emails from the agencies and from professional groups highlighting opportunities in your areas. In addition, the Stimulus Working Group will meet weekly to collect new information and intelligence which we will be distributed as applicable. Additionally, we will be monitoring web sites and list serves for updates. Shay Stautz (Federal Relations) and Greg Fahey (State Relations) will be regularly forwarding updates throughout the process.

➤ **What is meant by “shovel ready”?**

There are a lot of different meanings, but we will be utilizing the following until we receive a definition from the Federal Government:

We are anticipating that “shovel ready” will likely be defined as meaning 2-3 months from the time of funding approval. Practically speaking, this means that for a major capital project, the design/construction team should already be in place and working on the project. For small renovation projects, design and construction teams could potentially be assembled in time for this requirement to be met.