



Faculty Pivot Funding Guidelines

4/29/25

Full-time, tenure-track faculty with active federal funding and pending grants under review who face unexpected funding gaps can request pivot funding from the Division to support essential staff and minimal operations between current and anticipated extramural funding. Requests for this temporary support must be made for only those purposes, and funds available may be limited to meet as many needs across the Division as possible.

Unrestricted Discretionary Funds

Faculty with unspent discretionary funds (e.g. unrestricted startup funds or research allowances) can request an exception to use additional unspent balances, beyond the annual budget for these funds, to help pivot research after federal grant termination. The use of these funds will be considered a “draw down” of the faculty’s discretionary fund balances and will not be replenished.

Limitations/Restrictions

In a given year, and within the above parameters, faculty can request use of unspent discretionary funds to support essential project continuity as follows:

- Faculty may request use of unspent discretionary funds (if available) up to 75% of their lost federal funding in the current project year, not to exceed \$200,000.
- Funding Duration: 1X request, maximum of 12 months (consecutively), non-bankable.
- Allowable Costs: Salaries for postdocs and key research staff; essential supplies; core/shared facility fees (paid directly to the facility).
- Ineligible Costs: Summer/academic year salary; travel; business meals; conferences; livery/transportation; membership renewals; or completed project funding; budget shortfalls or cost overruns.
- Maximum equipment purchase is \$3K to support business equipment such computers, monitors, and laptops.

Divisional Funds

Faculty who do not have other funding sources can request temporary financial support due to lost federal funding. These funds must be used to support essential project continuity, as follows:

- Faculty may request temporary divisional funds up to 75% of their lost federal funding in the current project year, and not to exceed \$100,000.

- Funding Duration: 1X request, maximum time of 6 months (consecutively), non-bankable.
- Allowable Costs: Salaries for postdocs and key research staff; essential supplies; core/shared facility fees (paid directly to the facility)
- Ineligible Costs: Summer/academic year salary; travel; business meals; conferences; livery/transportation cost; membership renewals; or completed project funding; budget shortfalls or cost overruns.
- Maximum equipment purchase is \$3K to support business equipment such computers, monitors, and laptops.

Request Funding

To request an exception to use additional discretionary funds or 1X divisional funding, please submit a proposal with the following details to Cate Goebel, Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives (cgoebel@uchicago.edu):

- Current funding (internal and extramural)
- Pending funding (internal and extramural)
- Reason for anticipated funding gap
- Budget to maintain essential staff and minimal operations, up to 75% of the lost federal funds in the current project year.

Approval of temporary pivot funds will be contingent on evidence of actively seeking new funding (e.g. listing of external resources currently being pursued).

The Division of the Social Sciences Dean and senior leadership team will evaluate all requests. Final decisions will be made by the Dean. Priority will be given to early career faculty.

Faculty with personnel supported by the lost grant funds will be contacted by Christina Klespies, SSD's Senior Director of Human Resources (cklespies@uchicago), regarding the process for potential terminations following the end of the temporary support period.