

Request for Proposals
Graduate Education and Research Board
Future Growth Fund

Overview

The Graduate Education and Research Board (GERB) announces its 2008 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Future Growth Funds. The **Future Growth Fund** is designed to provide seed or bridge funding for the development of new graduate programs that have the potential to generate substantial new revenue. Approximately \$250,000 in one-time-only funds will be available for Future Growth awards.

Eligibility

The 2008 Future Growth Fund is focused on the development of graduate programs that service an educational need at a regional campus, including learning centers. Proposals may be submitted by a single department or school, an established institute or center, or a collaboration of faculty across multiple units on the Athens campus. The proposal must have at least one Ohio University Regional Campus as a partner. Faculty or units in the College of Osteopathic Medicine may not submit proposals independently but may be included in collaboration with Athens campus programs.

Award Criteria

This fund is primarily intended for masters programs that serve a need at a regional campus, but requests can be made by doctoral programs with the potential to attract new fee-paying graduate students.

Awards will be based on both the quality of the (potential) program or initiative and on the likelihood that it will generate significantly more revenue than its expenditures. Revenue can include tuition, fees, and subsidy income. However, because of the cap of doctoral subsidy established by the State of Ohio, doctoral students will not be considered as generating any new subsidy dollars.

Funding

There is the possibility that one program or initiative will be awarded the entire \$250,000, but it is more likely that the monies will be divided among several programs. Funding will be made as non-renewable one-time-only awards. Funds can be requested for up to two years. The program or initiative should be self-supporting after the award funds are exhausted.

Programs that are selected will have access to the funds at the start of fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008). Funded programs will be asked to pay an “overhead” charge on any new revenue generated by the program. Those dollars will be used to sustain the Future Growth Fund. The amount of the overhead will be negotiated at the time of the award.

Examples

Examples of potential proposals could include the following.

- Funds to support the development of a new graduate or certificate program (or expansion of an existing program) that will attract revenue generating graduate students.
- Funds to support offering an existing degree or certificate program in a new format or venue.

- Funds to develop a non-credit training or professional development program that will generate new revenue.
- Funds to support recruitment initiatives such as advertising or recruitment travel that will increase enrollment in a particular program.

Proposal Format

Proposals can be no longer than 5 pages (excluding budget material) and must include the following

- Abstract.
- A description of the faculty and unit(s) involved.
- Supporting letter(s) of the Regional Campus Dean(s) involved.
- Rationale and description of the program or initiative to be funded.
- A description of how the initiative will generate new revenue.
- An explanation of the link to the college strategic plan.
- An explanation of the link to VisionOHIO.
- A 2 year itemized expenditure budget.
- A 3-5 year estimate of revenue expected to be generated by the award.
- A market analysis that shows evidence that expected revenue estimates are reasonable.
- Enrollment and revenue targets that demonstrate sustainability of the program or initiative after the award funds are exhausted.
- Evidence of the quality of the program or initiative seeking funds.

Academic Dean/ Planning Unit Head Ranking

The appropriate dean(s) and planning unit heads will review each proposal for overall strength and its alignment with College priorities. After review, the dean(s) will forward all proposals to GERB for final consideration along with a letter ranking the proposals from highest to lowest. GERB will make final selections for funding.

Timetable and Process for Selecting Future Growth Awards

- April 11, 2008 – Complete proposals in an electronic format are due to the appropriate academic dean(s) and/or Planning Unit Head(s). *Multi-College proposals must be submitted to the dean of EACH college involved in the collaboration.* Proposals are due at noon.
- May 2, 2008 – The academic dean(s)/planning unit head(s) will rank the proposals prior to submitting them to GERB for final review and selection. The dean's recommendations are due to the Office of Research by 5:00 p.m.
- May 16, 2008 – GERB will recommend proposals for funding (within budget limitations) to the Provost.
- May 30, 2008 – Provost announces strategic investments in future growth.