

UWM FINISH LINE AWARDS
CYCLE 4
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Program Overview

The Finish Line is a program intended to increase the competitiveness of highly scored, but unfunded, proposals being resubmitted to federal sponsors or other sponsors that support federally negotiated F&A rates. Internal support is provided for work that is needed to address written review concerns. Applicants are required to share scores and comments from previous proposal submission(s). The performance period for all Finish Line awards will be no more than 12 months. The scope of work should be limited to that required to address the weaknesses of the previous submission.

The Office of Research anticipates funding 4 to 6 applications each fiscal year.

Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted. Funding decisions will be made approximately eight weeks after application submission.

Eligible Applicants

- UWM researchers who have submitted a research or public service proposal to a federal sponsor as a Principal Investigator within the previous 24 months, received **very strong** scores, but have not been funded.
- Will be resubmitting to the same funding opportunity announcement, or a very similar announcement, as the original submission.

Ineligible Applicants

- Post-doctoral researchers
- Students
- Those who are on notice of non-retention or who have accepted offers at other institutions

Ineligible Funding Opportunities

- Limited submission funding opportunities (where a sponsor limits the number of applications that can be submitted by an institution) are excluded from the Finish Line program.

Examples of Eligible Expenses

- Participant incentives
- Materials and supplies
- User fees and purchase of services
- Hourly graduate and undergraduate students
- One semester of RA support
- Professional writing assistance

Ineligible Expenses

- Faculty summer salary
- Course releases
- Sabbatical salary supplement
- Cost-sharing for external grants

Limit on Number of Applications

- Applicants may submit only two requests for funding per fiscal year.

Limit on Number of Awards

- One per PI per fiscal year.

Program Expectations

- For the resubmission, the PI/project team must make good-faith efforts to receive feedback from the cognizant program officer on the reviewers' comments and the project's alignment with current agency/program priorities. Documentation of this communication is a required part of the application.
- The PI/project team must submit a revised external grant application by an agreed-upon deadline to be determined as part of the Finish Line award negotiation. This date will be based on upcoming competition deadlines, but typically no more than 12 months after the date of the Finish Line award.
- The PI must notify Research Development Services (or-osp-propdev@uwm.edu) that the proposal has been resubmitted and attach a short report (one-page maximum) on how the work funded by the Finish Line program addressed the previous review comments.

If extenuating circumstances arise that prevent you from resubmitting to the sponsor, (e.g., Sponsor discontinues the identified funding opportunity after receipt of Finish Line award; critical collaborator withdraws), please contact or-osp-propdev@uwm.edu.

Secure Online Application System

Applications must be prepared and submitted in the online application system.

[Online Application](#)

[Using the Online Application](#)

Application Components and Instructions

1. *Cover Page* - Enter the following information into the online application portal

- **Principal Investigator:** Name, school/college, department, UWM email address, position title
 - **Date of original proposal submission (MM/DD/YYYY)**
 - **WISPER record (MIL) number or RAMP (FP) number of original proposal submission**
 - **Proposal title**
 - **Agency and specific funding opportunity of original submission**
 - **Budget of original proposal: Total, indirect costs, cost share (if any)**
 - **Date of expected resubmission (MM/YYYY)**
 - **Finish Line Budget Request:** Enter the total amount requested for Finish Line funding. NOTE: The average award is approximately \$25,000.
-

2. Request for Funding – 4 page maximum overall; upload as a PDF file. Requests that exceed the page limit will not be reviewed.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

- The Request for Funding must be single-spaced and all margins (top, bottom, sides) must be at least one inch.
- Allowable fonts are Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, Times New Roman, Computer Modern; minimum font size is 11 points.
- Figures, tables, graphs and diagrams may be included and are subject to the page limit. Smaller text in figures, graphs, and diagrams is acceptable as long as it is legible when the page is viewed onscreen at 100%.

CONTENT

The Request for Funding (4 page maximum overall) **must include these sections and use these headings:**

2.1 Project Summary

Provide a brief, high-level description of the aims and objectives of the original project (written for non-experts).

2.2 Summary of the sponsor's reviews

To facilitate the internal review, list the scores received (e.g., for NIH: Impact, percentile; for NSF: Excellent, Very Good, Good, etc.) and summarize (vs. repeating/copying) the review comments. You may include your own assessment of the comments, but simply saying that you disagree with the reviewers will not be viewed favorably by the internal selection panel.

2.3 Summary of contact with the Program Officer

2.4 Project resubmission workplan

- A. Describe what you will do with the Finish Line funding (should align with budget request).
- B. Explain why those actions will strengthen the proposal for resubmission.
- C. Provide an anticipated timeline for the work.

References are not required.

2.5 Finish Line Budget Justification

Provide detail and rationale for each item requested in your budget.

3. Budget Template - Download the template provided in the application, save to your computer; open in Excel, complete and save the form as a .xlsx file, upload the completed file

4. Supporting document: Copy of external grant submission – Upload as a pdf file

Attach a complete copy of the most recently submitted external proposal package (e.g., Grants.gov package) for which you are seeking Finish Line assistance.

5. Supporting document: Copy of external grant reviews – Upload as a pdf file

Attach a complete copy of the most recent feedback on the proposal from Step 4 (e.g., scores/rankings, review comments)

Application Submission Process

In the application system, review your application for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with format requirements.

- You can change any component of the application until you click **Mark as Complete**.
- Once you click **Mark as Complete**, no changes are allowed.
- You will receive an e-mail confirming the submission.
- A RAMP record is not required for this program.

Application Review Process

Stage 1: Administrative Review

Applications will be screened for completeness and may be returned for additional information.

Stage 2: Panel Review Meeting

The meeting has three parts:

1. A panel of associate deans will meet to discuss applications and what additional information may be needed for making a funding recommendation.
2. Immediately following this discussion, applicants will be invited to join the meeting to answer any questions.
3. Following the Q&A, the panel will convene and make recommendations for awards and award budgets taking into consideration the following:
 - Necessity of Finish Line funding.
 - Feasibility of the project revision plan.
 - Cost of project revision plan.
 - Overall merit - Assessment of success upon resubmission based on information such as numerical scoring of original proposal, original review comments, and any feedback from the Program Officer.

Stage 3: Teleconference

Short teleconferences will be scheduled with those recommended for funding to discuss final budgets and establish a date for proposal resubmission. This discussion will include the availability of other funding sources for the work, including start-up funds.

Stage 4: Final decision

The Vice Provost for Research and the program administrator will make final funding decisions based on recommendations and comments of the review panel, the feasibility of the revision plan, the cost of revision, and the availability of other funding sources.

Funding decisions will be made and communicated approximately eight weeks after application submission.

All funding decisions are final, appeals are not allowed.

Award Terms and Conditions

1. In addition to fulfilling the Program Expectations above, the applicant agrees to execute the award in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and institutional policies, including but not limited to those concerning:
 - Rules and regulations governing research involving human subjects under the federal Common Rule (45 CFR 46) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations (21 CFR 50, 56, 312, 600, and 812)
 - Animal care and use
 - The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
 - Use of toxic, infectious, or carcinogenic/mutagenic materials, recombinant DNA, radioactive materials
 - Environmental impacts
 - Remodeling or construction
 - Purchasing
 - Scuba diving
 - Travel
 - Hiring

Contact Us

Program Manager

Kathleen Koch
(414) 229-3699
kjk@uwm.edu

Assistance with online application

Kaitlyn Mayer
(414) 251-5008
kstielow@uwm.edu