

Discretionary Funding Initiative

The Discretionary Funding Initiative (DFI), supported with funding from the MSU Foundation, provides bridging funds for tenure stream faculty to support additional studies needed for resubmission of a federal grant application.

To be competitive for DFI funding, federal grant reviews must demonstrate that the proposal was subjected to full review and found highly meritorious as based on ranking. Reviews must also help build the case for a need for additional investigation to increase competitiveness of the revised submission. The DFI program will not provide bridging funds in instances where primary concerns of reviewers were grantsmanship, experimental design and or justification for project/individual aims.

DFI competitions are held bi-annually with deadlines typically in mid-September and early March. Applications are submitted online via the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (OVRGS) grant proposal system ([DFI link here](#)).

OVRGS will provide DFI applications to Dr. George Smith, CANR Associate Dean for Research, who will prioritize and submit his recommendations to OVRGS.

Program guidelines:

- MSU must be the lead institution on the application and not a subaward.
- The maximum budget request is \$50K.
- Cost share is required. OVRGS will provide 50% of the award from the DFI program AgBioResearch/CANR will provide 25% of the award and remaining 25% must come from Department/unit.
- A letter of support from the Chair or Director is required at the time of submission indicating endorsement of application and commitment to provide 25% of award if the DFI application is funded. This letter needs to be uploaded to the “Additional Documents” section along with the other required DFI application documents.
- Funds will be available for up to two years.
- A KC Proposal Development (PD) document is required for each DFI application.
- Annual reports will be required at the end of the first and the second year of funding.

DFI Online Application Requirements:

- DFI project information
- List of PI and Co-PI's
- Abstract (maximum of 500 words)
- Biographical Sketches for PI and Co-PI's
- Current & Pending Support information for PI and Co-PI's
- DFI project description (limited to 3 pages) with emphasis on major concerns of reviewers of grant submission, how you propose to address such concerns and increase competitiveness of resubmission and need for DFI funds to address such concerns.
- Budget and justification details
- Complete copy of the reviews of the previous federal grant submission
- Proposal Development (PD) document created and routed for approvals

Please direct any questions to Dr. George Smith (smithge7@msu.edu).