

Life Sciences Discovery Fund
Policy Regarding Grant Budgets
(Adopted April 6, 2010)

In order to secure the maximum benefit to Washington state under the research and development activities it supports and to ensure responsible stewardship of its funds, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) has developed this policy regarding grant budgets. This policy is implemented through the LSDF grant agreement.

A. General

All grants are contingent upon LSDF having sufficient funds and expenditure authorization. All terms and conditions regarding the grant are specified within the grant agreement. LSDF is not responsible for expenditures made prior to the effective date of the grant agreement or expenditures in excess of the grant award. Awards are made for a set grant period and are broken down into estimated annual expenditures within defined categories.

Grant funding is provided on a cost-reimbursement basis subject to LSDF's receipt and approval of written invoices and grantees' timely progress in meeting the grant's milestones and timeline. Invoices are required to be in a form and at a frequency that provide LSDF with a timely understanding of expenditure rates.

Reimbursement is provided for allowable costs incurred by grantees or their co-applicants during the grant period and only for the work specified within the grant agreement. Allowable costs are specified by LSDF and grant budgets must be consistent with grantees' fiscal policies. Expenditures for facilities and administration are allowable, provided that such expenditures represent the true and actual costs of performing the LSDF-funded work and are expressed as direct costs.

LSDF reserves the right to require expenditure documentation as part of the reimbursement process. Grantees must record grant-related expenditures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in a form that enables verification that the funds were expended for the stated purposes of the grant. After expiration or termination of the grant, all pertinent records must be retained by grantees for a period of time specified by LSDF. LSDF reserves the right to audit, or have audited, grantees' expenditure records to ensure that funds were spent for the purposes of the grant.

Grantees may not encumber grant funds for expenditures whose nature cannot be accurately determined at the time of execution of the grant agreement without the advance written permission of LSDF. Such expenditures include, but are not limited to, re-granting activities.

Grantees must provide an annual financial report of all expenditures made during a budget year.

Final requests for reimbursement must be submitted in a timely manner after accomplishment of the grant's milestones or completion of the grant period, whichever is earliest. LSDF will not make a final reimbursement until it has received and approved the final invoice and progress report for the work.

B. Budget Modifications

Grantees may make reallocations of grant funds between expenditure categories within a budget year subject to a limitation amount specified by LSDF. The advance written approval of LSDF is required for transfers between budget categories or expenditures greater than the reallocation limit, for expenditures that previously were not a part of the grant budget, or for programmatic changes that impact the budget.

Unexpended funds from a budget year may only be carried over to the subsequent budget year upon advance written approval of LSDF. In the event that unexpended funds remain at the end of the grant period and there are remaining milestones to be accomplished, LSDF may authorize a no-cost extension of the grant period to allow the grantee to accomplish the milestones.

C. Budget Supplements

A "budget supplement" is funding, provided by LSDF to an existing grantee during the course of the grant period, in excess of the amount specified within the grant agreement. LSDF will consider and may provide grant supplements only under rare and exceptional circumstances. A budget supplement may be provided:

1. when a disruptive event, that could not be foreseen or predicted at the time the award was consummated, threatens accomplishment of the grant's milestones within the award budget. For example, disruption to LSDF-funded work may be due to a serious event that shuts down all work within an area (*e.g.*, fire), or to an event that disproportionately affects the LSDF-funded work (*e.g.*, equipment, co-applicant or vendor failure). In such instances, supplemental funding could help the principal investigator accomplish the originally anticipated milestones. LSDF does not consider events that could have been reasonably predicted, (*e.g.*, changes in facilities and administrative charges or salary or tuition increases) to be eligible for budget supplementation.

2. when findings in LSDF-funded work, that were not anticipated at the outset, promise significant health or economic benefits to Washington. In such an instance, supplemental funding could help the principal investigator perform additional experiments to confirm findings and develop pilot data for grant submission to a sponsor. Experiments performed in the absence of a significant precipitating discovery would not be eligible for budget supplementation.

Grant supplements must be requested in writing by an authorized official of the grantee organization within a reasonable time of the occurrence of the precipitating event. Supplement requests are expected to be for modest amounts of funding and well below the scale of the annual grant budget. Provision of a budget supplement is subject to the sole discretion of LSDF and the availability of funds. LSDF may use external expert reviewers in evaluating supplement requests.

D. Budget Surpluses

A “budget surplus” is a positive balance of funds that remains after all of a grant’s milestones have been accomplished or, at LSDF’s discretion, accepted as met. LSDF will consider requests from grantees for authorization to spend a budget surplus provided that the following conditions are met:

1. the grant’s milestones have been accomplished or, at LSDF’s discretion, accepted as met;
2. the request is made in writing during the grant period by an authorized official of the grantee organization;
3. the grantee organization provides an accurate projection of the budget surplus;
4. the request includes a detailed description of the activities to be performed using the budget surplus along with a set of milestones and a timeline for their accomplishment; and
5. the activities to be performed are consistent with the overall goals of the grant.

Uses of surplus funds could include, but are not limited to: continuation of research and development to enhance the probability of commercialization, translation to health benefit or follow on funding; application of study results within a new realm; or implementation of study results into health-care practice.

Authorization for a grantee organization to spend a grant surplus is subject to the sole discretion of LSDF. LSDF may use external expert reviewers in evaluating requests to spend budget surpluses.