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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** CIRM GOVERNING BOARD  
**FROM:** CIRM LEADERSHIP  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Supplement to Support Continuity of Bridges Program  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 25, 2021

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At the January 28, 2021 meeting of the Governing Board, the Board requested that CIRM bring a proposal for a supplement award as a possible solution to ensure continuity of existing Bridges Training Programs that require an immediate infusion of funds to enable the next cohort of trainees.

Several of the existing Bridges Training Program awardees are reaching the end of their current 5-year award by June/July 2021. However, in many cases the recruitment and appointment activities required to establish the next year's trainee cohort begin 6 to 18 months ahead of the internship period. Although CIRM is proposing to issue an RFA to renew the Bridges Training Program and provide new awards to meritorious institutions, many existing awardees will experience an interruption where their next cohort skips a year due to the timing of this new opportunity.

A possible solution for some existing awardees is to provide a supplement to cover Program Administration costs from March through a new award start date in August of this year (5 months). Although a few may have already lost their next cohort, there are several that could begin activities now to avoid a disruption in starting their next trainee cohort. We propose that existing awardees, who will be applying for a new award this year and that can conduct activities necessary to avoid interruption in appointing their next trainee cohort, may request a supplement award to enable continuity of their program.

The costs covered by the supplement must be necessary for program continuity in order to qualify. If a supplement awardee is successful in earning a new Bridges Training Award, the new award amount will be reduced by the supplemented amount. If a supplement awardee is not successful, any remaining amount may be used for wind-down activities and award close out.

### **Proposed Supplement Award**

- Maximum amount for each supplement award is \$50,000.
- Supplement may only be used for Program Administration costs directly attributed to and necessary for avoiding an interruption in appointing the next trainee cohort.
- Qualifying Bridges Training Program awardees must request a supplement by providing a detailed budget to CIRM that adequately justifies the proposed costs.

CIRM proposes a total allocation of \$500,000 for approximately 10 supplement awards.