

# Crafting Successful Funding Proposals

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# Why Apply for Grants?

- Fits with your research agenda
- Part of the assessment at your institution
- Ability to fund graduate students
- Another form of scholarly engagement
- Fun!

# How to Develop a Proposal

- **Determine your long-term research and education goals**
- **Develop your bright idea**
  - Survey the literature
  - Contact Investigators working on topic
  - Prepare a brief concept paper
  - Discuss with colleagues/mentors
- **Prepare to do the project**
  - Determine available resources
  - Realistically assess needs
  - Develop preliminary data
  - Present to colleagues/mentors/students

# Support in Proposal Writing

- **Publications**

- Program Announcements/Solicitations/"Dear Colleague" Letters
- Additional Program Web Pages
- Grant Proposal Guide
- Funded Project Abstracts
- Reports, Special Publications

- **Program Officers**

- Incumbents
- Former "Rotators"

- **Mentors**

- **Previous Panelists**

- **Serve as Reviewer**

- **Sponsored Research Office**

- **Successful Proposals**

# What Makes a Proposal Competitive?

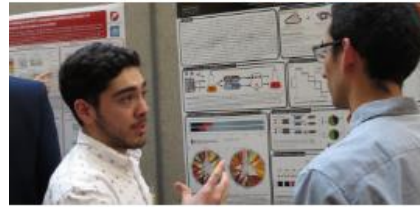
- **Clear** research question
- **Clear** research design
- **Clear** future direction
- Likely high impact
- New and original ideas
- Succinct, focused study plan
- Knowledge of subject area or published, relevant work
- Experience in essential methodology
- Sound scientific rationale
- Realistic amount of work
- Sufficient detail
- Critical approach
- **Well written!!!**
- **Timeline with reasonable expectations**

# What Gets a Peer Review Panel's Attention?

- Significant contributions to general scientific understandings.
- Enhancements of theoretical understandings in addition to any expansion of specific knowledge.
- Broader impacts, such as enhanced education, greater diversity, improved infrastructure or methods, and beneficial applications.
- Dissemination of results, especially in refereed, widely disseminated publications.



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**Thank you!**



# Start with Your Idea

- Use nsf.gov for awards search
- Check awards by program, keyword, etc. ([www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/))
- Read solicitation and/or DCL carefully (if not unsolicited competition)
- Check nsf.gov for new opportunities

# Useful to Submit Even If Declined

- Revise and resubmit
- Discover other funding sources
- Forces thinking
- Build relationships
- Receive reviews from experts