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.
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