GRANT WRITING

Wendy Manning, Director CFDR
Why Write a Grant?

Opportunity to support research

- Data collection
- Software
- Travel
- Computing
- Human capital – Students and staff
- Time
Benefits of Grants

University

- Reputation
- Visibility
- Recruit and retain faculty and students
- Train students
- Indirect costs
FUNDING SOURCES

- UNIVERSITY
  - Faculty development programs

- FOUNDATIONS
  - William T. Grant Foundation, Child Development Foundation

- PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
  - ASA, PAA, NCFR

- NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

- NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
  - NICHD, NIMH, NIA
TYPES OF SUPPORT

- Discover what the agency and foundation funds
  - Priorities

- TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- RESEARCH SUPPORT
GRANT WRITING

- GOOD IDEA!!
  - Good grant writing cannot disguise a bad idea
  - But poor grant writing can kill a good idea

- Know your strengths and weaknesses.
GOOD RESEARCH IDEAS

- SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH QUESTION
  - Why does this matter?
  - Gap in the literature is not enough – NOT journal article

- INNOVATIVE:
  - Bring something new to the table

- FOCUSED

- FEASIBLE
STEPS

☐ Commit
☐ Homework – deadlines, page limits
☐ Project description
☐ Contact program staff
☐ Assemble team
☐ Administrative details
☐ Write proposal
☐ Feedback and revise!!!
Homework

- Read funding notices
- Review receipt dates
- Know application instructions
- Check funder’s website to see what types of research they typically support
- Copies of successful grant applications
Contact a Program Official

- Before you start
- During the process
- After review

Why?
- Program priorities
- Knows what is being done
- Observes a lot of reviews and has own tips
- Also a scientist and may have some good ideas!
GOOD GRANT WRITING

- CLEAR WRITING
- ORGANIZED
- Specific Aims – 3 aims on one page
- COMPONENTS:
  - Theory
  - Hypotheses
  - Data
  - Analysis plans

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!
Starting Point

- Address a significant question
- Bring something new to the table
- Focused and feasible
Sell Your Idea

- REMEMBER YOUR AUDIENCE
  - Reviewers’ perspective
  - Capture interest
  - Make it easy to like your application

- BE PERSUASIVE
  - Explain WHY this is an important topic
  - What will we learn that we don’t already know
Think Live a Reviewer

NIH Reviewers asked to write (and score) on five review criteria

- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach
- Investigator
- Research environment

Focus on the significance of the application

Not the significance of subject area

Not your own professional significance.
TIPS

- Find a successful grant application
- Study abstracts of successful projects
- Write specific aims or three page summary
- Speak to program officer
- Share your work
- Seek help from experienced colleagues
GOOD LUCK!