

# 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!

