



The Grant Writing Process

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CORE Faculty Development



Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to:
 - Identify the essential elements to the grant application.
 - Describe why grant proposals fail.
 - Discuss tips on writing a successful grant application.

Grant writing: What the Literature Says

- Five essential elements to the grant application (St. James, D. (1988). Writing and Speaking for Excellence. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers):
 - You – the applicant
 - Your sponsor or mentor
 - Your research environment

- Your research project
- Your budget



Why Grant Proposals Fail (Cuca, J.

(1987). Cancer Investigation. 5(1).

■ Experimental design

- Technical methodology is questionable, unsuited, or defective
- Data collection procedures are confusing or use inappropriate instrumentation, timing, or conditions
- Study group or controls that are of inappropriate composition, number, or characteristics.

■ Experimental design...

- Data management and analysis that are vague, unsophisticated, and not likely to provide accurate and clear-cut results.

Why Grant Proposals Fail

■ Research Problem

- Hypothesis is ill-defined, faulty, diffuse, or unwarranted
- Proposal is unimportant, unimaginative, or unlikely to provide new information.

■ Investigator

- Has inadequate expertise or familiarity with literature in the research area, poor past performance, poor productivity on an NIH grant, or insufficient time to be devoted to the project.





Why Grant Proposals Fail

- Resources
 - Inadequate institutional setting, support staff, laboratory facilities, equipment, or personnel
 - Restricted access to appropriate patient population
 - Insufficient collaborative involvement of colleagues and co-investigators.



Tips on Writing a Successful Grant

- Carefully read the review process and criteria (grubbing for points, review process, funding preferences, budget issues, supplemental grants).
- Thoughtfully address the components of the project description (overall needs assessment/rationale), specific measurable objectives (SMO), problems/potential solutions, support letters, practical logistics, proof read).

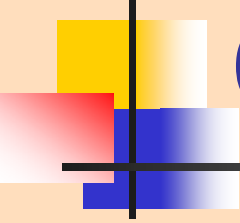


Tips on Writing a Successful Grant...



- Richard Williams, Professor and Chairman and Reuben H. Flocks Chair, Department of Urology, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinic, offers these tips:
 - Call the funding agency to see if your topic is considered “high priority”.
 - Choose your PI and co-PI carefully.
 - Design a concise, yet inclusive title.
- Stay within the maximum page allowance.
- Enclose references related to your research subject.
- Be realistic and explicit when it comes to the budget.
- Be wary of asking for computer hardware.
- Discuss in the Methods section your approach to answering each research question or specific aim.

Tips on Writing a Successful Grant...

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- Enclose a realistic timeline.
 - Consult a biostatistician.
 - Include in the appendix section graphs, pictures, supporting data, submitted manuscripts, letters from consultants and corroborators, IRB approval, and animal use forms.
 - Make sure your references are honest and accurate.
 - Design diagrams carefully.
 - Avoid the temptation to pad the proposal with hundreds of pages.
 - Type double space and use a 12 point font.
 - Be innovative, but always remain within the bounds set by proposal guidelines.
 - Make figures attractive, clear, and simple to understand without complex legends and explanations.
 - Meet all deadlines for supporting documentation.
 - Follow directions and proofread carefully.



Workshop Activity/Quiz

- HRSA awards grants and cooperative agreements that expand and improve:
 - primary healthcare for medically underserved people
 - health and related services for people with HIV/AIDS
 - maternal and child health



Workshop Activity/Quiz...

- health professions training and education
- rural health
- telemedicine
- organ donation



Workshop Activity/Quiz...

- Choose one area from the HRSA list and develop a brief proposal. Outline 1 or 2 specific measurable objectives with rationale, methods, and evaluation (why are the objectives important and what would these accomplish?, how will the objectives be accomplished?, and how will the objectives be measured?)



Workshop Activity/Quiz...

- Please e-mail your response to either kirkland@exchange.oucom.ohiou.edu or sheehan@exchange.oucom.ohiou.edu
- Deadline: 2 weeks after the Director's Meeting.