Research Cafe

Putting Pen to Paper

Grantwriting Basics
Motivating Factors

- Grants allow you to set your career agenda.
- Grants provide resources such as equipment and student assistants.
- Grants can come with summer salary or release time.
- Grants enhance your professional status.
Resistance Factors

- Time pressures
- Unfamiliarity with grant jargon, with funders or with system protocols
- Budget or writing phobias
- Confusing guidelines and forms
The End to End Approach

- Develop Your Idea
- Find Funding Opportunities
- Write the Proposal
- Write the Budget
- Process within the University
- Process within the Agency
- Understand the Peer Review Process
OSP Website Resources

- Funding Opportunities
- Budget Writing Assistance
- Proposal Development Assistance
- Proposal Approvals & Processing
The Language of Grants

• U.S. Department of Education
  www.ed.gov/fund/grant/about/grantmaking/glossary.html

• Grants.gov
  www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport#

• Harvard Research Administration
  vpf-web.harvard.edu/osr/glossary.shtml

• Other Grant Glossaries
  www.alameda-coe.k12.ca.us/apps/page.asp?Q=1409
  research.uiowa.edu/dsp/main/?get=glossary
The Grant Writing Experience

If Nothing Beats Experience

I’d Like to Use Yours

- Creative Expertise is the idea
  - the science, the innovative idea, the good idea

- Administrative Expertise -
  it takes more than a good idea
  - interpreting the guidelines, formatting the proposal, marketing yourself, competitive grantsmanship, research compliance
Get Feedback!
from PI to the Peer Reviewer

Principal and Co-Investigators
Colleagues
Department Chairs and Deans
Sponsored Programs
University Administrators
Research Compliance
Program Officers
Peer Reviewers
The Guidelines

- the crucial document

➔ What is the intent of the program?
➔ What are the deadline dates?
➔ Are there any priorities?
➔ What is the range of the award?
➔ Are there budget constraints?
➔ What are the review criteria?
What goes in the grant?

✓ Face Page Form
✓ Table of Contents
✓ Abstract
✓ Proposal Narrative
✓ Budget Forms
✓ Budget Narrative
✓ Assurance and Compliance Forms
✓ Appendices
What goes in the proposal narrative?

- Introduction
- Statement of Need
- Goals and Objectives
- Plan of Action or Methodology
- Adequacy of Resources
- Key Personnel
- Evaluation or Statistical Analysis
- Dissemination
- Budget & Budget Narrative
- Attachments
The Proposal Narrative
- how to write a winning grant

✓ Don’t depend on assumptions
✓ Provide all necessary details
✓ Study a funded proposal
✓ Draft, draft, draft again
✓ Be concise, avoid jargon
✓ Study the guidelines
✓ Seek other opinions
✓ Convince the reviewers
Award Databases

- National Science Foundation
  www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/index.jsp

- National Institutes of Health
  crisp.cit.nih.gov/

- U.S. Department of Education
  www.ed.gov/fund/data/award/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln
Other Information

• OSP FY 2006 Annual Report
  www.southalabama.edu/osp/researchreports.htm
The Last Chance
Proposal Scrutiny

• Does the proposal get to the point?
• Is the science / the idea worthy?
• Is the proposal supported with sufficient detail?
• Is the proposal convincing and well-written?
• Does the proposal adhere to the guidelines?