



So What's the Big Deal About Grant Writing?

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Why Write Grants?

- Obtain funding for projects and programs that are important to you
- Develop and hone skills you might not practice otherwise
- Enhance your professional reputation and career path
- Open up new relationships

Grants are Hard, Aren't They?

- Yes. . . and no
- Successful grantwriting requires bringing together a range of knowledge and skills that you might not typically use or use in this way
- And, then there is deadline pressure
- But, you can make it easier

What Makes the Process Easier?

Find the right fit – match your proposal with the right opportunity

- Start with a strong concept
- Know your funder and the opportunity
- It's not about you! Or, rather, it's only half about you
- Easier to convince the funder to support you
- Don't chase money

What Makes the Process Easier?

Plan and prepare

- Follow the instructions! Mind the details!
- Refine your concept with the funders' preferences in mind
- Write and edit narratives
- Make your budget as realistic as possible
- Propose achievable goals
- Let it sit

What Makes the Process Easier?

Work as a team

- Share the work
- Use available skills and talents
- Gain valuable perspectives
- Double check, triple check

What Makes the Process Easier?

Know and use your resources

- Office of Sponsored Programs
- Funder staff, webinars, websites, FAQs, databases
- Peers in your department and organization
- Professional association/conference contacts

Avoid Common Pitfalls

- Start early
- Read the whole instructions
- Work on the attachments early
- Make sure it all ties together
- See from the funder's perspective
- Customize (minimize copying and pasting)
- Ask for help and listen to advice
- Proofread, check math, repeat
- Know when to stop
- It's OK to not submit

Benefits of Grantwriting

- If awarded – great!
 - You can proceed with your project and do important work with the funding you need
- If not awarded – great!
 - You can still do important work, just not work funded by this grant
 - Thoughtful process – gain clarity, identify gaps/weaknesses, contributes to other plans and processes
 - Gain new skills – explaining your work to new audiences, developing persuasive writing skills, comfort with budgets, project management
 - Develop new relationships with peers and coworkers
 - Leads to new opportunities in the future

Questions?