Introductions - Research Development

**Jeralyn Haraldsen**
Director

- Manages Research Development team workflow, assignments
- Identifies unique, large-scale funding opps and oversees support
- Program development and capacity building

**Cailey Biles**
Grant Resources Coordinator

- Assistance with PIVOT-RP (funding database)
- Disseminates selected funding opportunities
- Administers limited competition process
Research Development

• Communicate funding opportunities

• Manage Limited Competition process

• Provide Grant Proposal Development Support

• Develop Grant Writing Resources, Programs, Tools
Where Does Research Development Fit In?

REQUIRED
Sponsored Projects Administration

Find Funding
Develop Grant Proposal
Submit Proposal
Award
Manage Project
Closeout Project

OPTIONAL
Research Development

The University of Vermont
Discussion Topics

• Major Sponsor Types and Funding Mechanisms
• Search Tools and Alert Services for Identifying Funding Opportunities
• Demonstration of the Pivot Tool for Funding and Collaborators
• How to Determine whether or not a funding opportunity is a good fit for your research project
• (Emerging Areas of funding) * BONUS topic -- if time allows
Working with Sponsored Project Administration to submit grant proposals and applications

• Sponsored projects are externally-funded activities in which a formal written agreement, i.e., a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, is entered into by recipient (UVM) and Sponsor (e.g., federal, state, other universities, industry). Sponsored projects usually support research, public service, or instructional efforts.

• External Sponsors grant awards to the institution on behalf of the individual applicant

• All proposals to external sponsors submitted by Faculty, Staff and sometimes students are required to go through SPA for review and institutional endorsement.
Landscape of Sponsor Types

**Federal**
- Biggest provider of science and engineering funding in Academia
- The big names: NSF, NIH, DOE, DoD, EPA, USDA

**Non-Federal**
- Professional societies
- State and local agencies
- Private/Public/Family Foundations
- Foreign National Governments
- Other non-profits
There are Two “Flavors” of Federal Funding Opps: (Maybe I don’t need to wait for an RFA?)

**Unsolicited** (investigator-initiated) Opportunities:
- Recurring opportunities with relatively predictable submission deadlines
- Broad areas of interest
  - Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs)
  - “Core” programs
  - “Parent” Announcements

**Solicited** Opportunities:
- RFAs or RFPs requesting projects in response to a specific topic of interest
- May have only one deadline (or a few)
- Can have short “drop” between announcement and submission deadline
Foundations Different “Flavors”

Unsolicited Opportunities (most common and most challenging):
• Typically, only fund pre-identified entities
• Will not accept proposals unless invited

Solicited Opportunities:
• RFAs or RFPs requesting proposals for research or projects
• Often require a Letter of Intent first
• Deadlines may be annual, rolling or anything in between
• May or may not be recurring
Why Do We Care About Solicited vs Unsolicited Proposals?

• “Investigator-initiated” proposals are EASY TO PLAN FOR and map into your strategic plan
  • NSF CAREER deadlines: July each year
  • NIH R01 deadlines: Feb. 5, June 5, Oct. 5 each year

• “One off” proposals are trickier to plan for – require a strategy for monitoring funding opportunity announcement
Tools for Identifying Funding Opportunities

- **Internal UVM Sources for Students and Faculty** – Career Center, Community-Engaged Learning (CELO), EPSCoR, Graduate College, Gund Institute for Environment, Humanities Center, and many more!
  - See the rest of the funding resources on the SPA Homepage under the [Find Funding](#) tab

- **Funding Agency Announcements** – Individual federal agencies (NSF, NIH), [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) for all 26 federal; individual non-federal agencies, and agency social media accounts

- **Funding Databases** Pivot-RP (UVM subscription)
What is Pivot-RP?

- Searchable funding database
- Updated daily from a wide variety of sources including Federal and regional government, foundations, professional societies, associations, and corporations
- Create customized saved searches, funding alerts, and track opps
- Claimed profiles allow for personalized alerts and collaborations
Search Tools – A Quick Interlude

1. **Boolean Operators** – and, or, not
   - “food systems” and “food security”
   - “food systems” or “food security”
   - “food systems” not “food security”

2. **Phrase Searching** – “food systems”
   - *Pivot will automatically put Boolean operators between words if there are not quotation marks*

3. **Proximity Searching** - food w/2 systems
Develop a Process for Identifying Funding Opps

Many funders have recurring opportunities with relatively predictable due dates, but others may not be as predictable.

Process should:

• provide **early/timely** notification

• cover your target funding agencies

• cover a range of other potential funders

• meet your needs (i.e., doesn’t overwhelm)
Creating a “Funding Roadmap” Will Keep You on Target
Considerations When Creating Your “Funding Roadmap”

• How does grant seeking fit into your overall, career strategic plan?
  • Alignment with career stage (fellowships, travel, short-term/summer, postdoc funding opportunities)
    • early-career opportunities – limited eligibility window
  • Alignment with long-term research and teaching goals
  • Departmental and College expectations regarding external funding

• Assess your readiness/competitiveness

• Incorporate SMART goals/milestones

• Revisit and revise your “roadmap” periodically
Mapping Funding Opportunities into Your Plan is About Timing and Assessing Competitiveness

- What are you competitive to apply for now?
  - Many Early Career award mechanisms have time constraints or submission limits
- If you aren’t competitive now, what activities do you need to focus on to become competitive and how would you fund those activities?
  - More preliminary data, publishing, develop collaboration
  - Serve as a reviewer to gain insight
- Work backwards from your goal timeframe
- Allow time for resubmission
How Do you Assess Competitiveness?

- **Talk to people** – mentors, colleagues, program officers
- Review **examples** of successful proposals (ask mentors, colleagues, sponsor websites)
- Award databases
  - Abstracts
  - Project team
  - Awarded budget
  - Who is the assigned Program Officer?
  - What was the funding program?
Once the RFA ("solicited") is Released

• Read references and hyperlinks to relevant reports contained within RFAs
  • They’ll help you to understand the rationale and vision for the program from the Agency’s perspective

• Talk to Program Officers / Managers

• Your grant is a part of their programmatic portfolio

• PO’s want good quality proposals that fit their program, so they are motivated to provide guidance

• Contact them to gain better understanding of programmatic priorities

• Ask how your work could better align with the program
BONUS material!

How to “Expect” the Unexpected: Tips for Identifying Emerging Areas of Interest at Funding Agencies
Strategies for Identifying Emerging Areas of Interest

- Talk to Program Officers
- Deep dive into Funding Agency websites
  - Strategic plans
  - Priority Areas of interest
  - Reports and white papers
  - Advisory Council meeting minutes
  - “Cleared Concepts” – the birth of an RFA
The NIH Concepts Process

• Concepts solicited from external research community, focus groups, Institute staff
• Approved/cleared at Advisory Council meetings
• Cleared concepts are the precursor to RFAs
• Keeping up to date with what concepts are being discussed can give you a jumpstart

Concepts

Approved/Cleared Concept

RFA/PA

2 years
Cleared Concepts at NIH (e.g., NIAID, NCI, NICHD)

Concepts—Potential Opportunities

Concepts represent early planning stages for initiatives: program announcements, requests for applications, notices of special interest, and solicitations.

Below we post the concepts Council approves a few weeks after each advisory Council meeting—go to the Advisory Council for the schedule. To get an email alert when we post new concepts, sign up at NIAID Email Alerts Subscription Center and pick “Concepts, Potential Funding Opportunities” as a topic of interest.

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Another Strategy is to Examine a Federal Agency’s Annual Budget Request to Congress

FY2022 example


• First Monday in February (2021) – President’s FY22 budget released
  • OMB and OSTP websites – high-level info
  • Agency budget office web pages – more informative
    • You want to read the budget REQUEST, not the justification
  • AAAS analyzes the budget:

https://www.aaas.org/programs/r-d-budget-and-policy
NSF FY2022 Budget Request to Congress
Major NSF-wide Investments

- NSF Administration Priorities Summary
- NSF NSTIC Crosscuts Summary
- NSF Big Ideas Funding
- NSF Selected Crosscutting Programs
- NSF Programs to Broaden Participation

STEM Education Investments

- NSF EHR Funding by Division and Program
- CoSTEM Inventory and Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs by Level of Education

Research Infrastructure

- NSF Research Infrastructure Funding by Account and Activity
- NSF Research Infrastructure Summary
- Tables in Excel Format

NSF AUTHORIZATIONS

- NSF Current Authorizations
- Computer Science Education Research Report in Compliance with Public Law 114-329
- EPSCoR Report in Compliance with Public Law 114-329
- Tables in Excel Format

NSF-WIDE INVESTMENTS

Administration Priorities

- U.S. Global Change Research Program
- Clean Energy Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced Wireless
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- National Nanotechnology Initiative
- Networking and Information Technology R&D
- Quantum Information Science

NSF Research Big Ideas

- Harnessing the Data Revolution for 21st-Century Science and Engineering
- The Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier
- Navigating the New Arctic
- Understanding the Rules of Life
- Windows on the Universe

NSF Enabling Big Ideas
Interested in receiving the weekly RD funding opportunities newsletter? Email Cailey and ask to be added to the list!