

The NIH R15 (AREA) Grant and You

*Gina Mireault, Ph.D.
Johnson State College*

Questions (& answers)

- *When* (to start)
- *What* (is your project)
- *Who* (can help you)
- *Where* (to begin)
- *How* (to succeed)

WHEN to Start?

- Be aware of grant cycles & submission deadlines for your specific grant type
 - Ex) NIH R15 grant submission deadlines are Feb 25 (cycle 1), June 25 (cycle 2), and October 25 (cycle 3)
- Start 3 to 4 months in advance
 - To allow time to navigate the NIH system, website, infrastructure
 - To allow consultants to provide feedback
 - To allow necessary contact with program officer
 - To read & incorporate the most recent literature
 - To lower your stress level and increase your happiness

WHAT is Your Project?

Does the project excite you?



Are you convinced that it is a good investment of your time?

Can you persuade others that it is a good investment of money?

WHAT is (the best fit for) Your Project?

- ~ NIH has 21 Institutes
- ~ Identify the best fit between the broad goals of your project and the broad goals of the specific institutes
- ~ Apply to the institute with the best fit



WHAT is (the best fit for) Your Project?

NIH's NICHD includes:

- Center for Developmental Bio & Perinatal Medicine
- Center for Population Research
- Center for Research for Mothers & Children
- National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research
- Neuroscience Research Support

(Each "center" includes 3-5 "branches")



WHAT is (the best fit for) Your Project?



*Once you identify the NIH
Institute,
CALL or E-MAIL THE
PROGRAM OFFICER
(your new BFF)
TO CONFIRM THE FIT,
TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF,
&
TO BEGIN BUILDING AN
ALLIANCE*

WHO can help you?

Identify & contact your resources

- Your “Research Advisor”
- 2 or 3 helpful consultants in your research area (hopefully at least 1 has successful grant-writing track record)
- Your NIH Program Officer
- Your college’s Grants Specialist
- Your “B.P.I.” or other liaison b/t you and your administrators
- Alert your department & administrators that you are submitting a proposal

WHERE to Begin?

Get a Blue Print of a Successful Grant from

- One of your consultants
- Your P.O. or Grants Specialist

If possible, attend a mock NIH grant review

- check conference programs &/or ask your P.O.

WHERE to Begin?

Download & print the SF424

If you have a Grants Specialist, this is the part where you bow down & give thanks.

If you don't have a Grants Specialist, don't be intimidated. Locate a colleague who has navigated the process, & is responsive to & patient with your constant barrage of texts &/or emails.

It's not as bad as it looks.

Do it for your mother.

Take up yoga.

The image shows a screenshot of the SF 424 (R&R) application form. A callout box points to the '4. Federal Identifier' field, containing the text: '4. Federal Identifier: New project applications should leave this field blank unless a change/corrected application is being submitted.'

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
SF 424 (R&R)**

2. DATE SUBMITTED [] **App** []

3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE [] **State** []

4. Federal Identifier []

1. * TYPE OF SUBMISSION
 Pre-application Application Changed/Corrected Application

5. APPLICANT INFORMATION * Organizational DUNS: 046705849

* Legal Name: The Regents of the University of California

Department: Ofc of Research Administration Division: []

* Street1: 100 University Tower

Street2: []

* City: Irvine County: Orange

* State: CA: California Province: []

* Country: USA: UNITED STATES * ZIP / Postal Code: 92697-7600

Person to be contacted on matters involving this application

Prefix: [] * First Name: Grant Officer First Name Middle Name: []

* Last Name: Grant Officer Last Name Suffix: []

* Phone Number: 949-824-5555 Fax Number: 949-824-5544

Email: yourgrantofficer@mail.ucr.edu

6. * EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION (EIN) or (TIN): 195-2226406-A1

7. * TYPE OF APPLICANT: [] H: Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education

Other (Specify): []

Small Business Organization Type Women Owned Socially and Economically Disadvantaged

8. * TYPE OF APPLICATION:

New Resubmission A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration

Renewal Continuation Revision E. Other (specify): []

* Is this application being submitted to other agencies? Yes No What other Agencies? []

WHERE to Begin?

Write the *Specific Aims*

Write the *Abstract* (layman's language)

These determine if your grant will be read.

USE... - SF424 for page limits, etc.

- your blueprint

- your consultants for feedback

WHERE to Begin

Re-write the Specific Aims

Re-write the Abstract

Because these determine if your grant will be read.

HOW to Succeed

Give Reviewers the **Confidence** they Need

in your project

in you

in your institution

HOW to Succeed

Confidence = Project Feasibility:

use your, your consultants', & your institution's track record as evidence your project can be successfully carried out

being too ambitious can work against you

HOW to Succeed

Confidence = evidence-based argument for project:

- shows that you know your area of research

- shows that your project (& their money!) can contribute the next step to existing body of research

- if your consultant(s) have published (or been funded for) some of this work, point it out!

HOW to Succeed

Confidence = evidence-based argument for yourself:

PUBLISH or have recently submitted 1 or 2 manuscripts related to this project (preferably with students as co-authors)

PRESENT on a national or international stage

Reviewers don't want to fund science that never leaves your lab.

HOW to Succeed

Confidence = evidence-based argument for institution:

- Have other researchers at your college been funded?
- Does your college have the student-base to support your work?
- Does your college have lab space, if needed?
- Will administrators support course release?

Don't make a desperate case for your institution, but don't write a love-letter either.

HOW to Succeed

Don't bite off more than you can chew

Write a section a day or a few sections a week

Don't go it alone

Consult your consultants

Seek their critique on specific areas/sections

Don't assume the submission process will be easy

Submit a few days before the deadline

HOW to Succeed

Discover the best-kept secret...Appendices!

Up to 10!

ex: e-mail for invited symposium

e-mail confirmation of manuscript submissions/
acceptance(s)

published manuscripts (not “raw”)

e-mail consultations with an expert regarding
methodology

letters, e-mails, or certificates of relevant awards received
articles about your research in regional or national media

NOTE: You can combine some of these into a single appendix to stretch your appendices if needed

HOW to Succeed

If your grant proposal gets scored...

contact your P.O. for advice about resubmission

If you decide to resubmit...

READ and **RESPOND TO** the reviewer's comments

They took you seriously, so return the favor.

Thanks to

- JSC FACULTY:
 - Liz Dolci, Hans Haverkamp, Les Kanat
- JSC ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:
 - Sandy Duffy, Jean Reynolds
- JSC ADMINISTRATORS:
 - Barbara Murphy, Dan Regan, Sharron Scott
- RESEARCH CONSULTANTS:
 - Susan Crockenberg (UVM), John Sparrow (UNH), Paul Whalen (Dartmouth)
- NIH NICHD PROGRAM OFFICER:
 - Layla Esposito

GOOD LUCK!

