

GRANT/PROPOSAL FINDING TIPS

1. Things to do (one time)

- a) Get NSF username/password
 - i. This can take 2-4 weeks
- b) Write Biosketch (NSF is different from NIH)
- c) Check in with university's grants and contracts department to find out submission protocol

2. Find Grant (make sure grants aren't institutionally limited)

- a) General listings: www.grants.gov
- b) Specific agency websites (though there will be overlap with grants.gov)
 - i. NSF (www.nsf.gov)
 - ii. NIH (www.nih.gov)
 - iii. DoD
 - (1) ARO (www.aro.army.mil)
 - (2) ONR (www.onr.navy.mil)
 - (3) AFOSR (www.afosr.af.mil)
 - (4) DARPA (www.darpa.mil)
- c) Foundation websites – many of these are institutionally limited
- d) Colleagues – sometimes the best resource for not-well-known awards

3. Come up with idea

- a) Verify it is novel
- b) Summarize idea in an abstract/executive summary
 - i. under 1 page
- c) Power point slide – only for DoD

4. Contact Program Manager/Program Director/Program Officer (name changes by agency)

- a) Attach your concept to email – attach slides, include text in email
- b) Ask if your idea is suitable for their program
- c) Request phone call

5. Three possible responses:

- a) Yes:
 - i. Write proposal and submit
 - ii. Make sure to follow proposal guidelines
- b) No:
 - i. They may direct you to alternative person/program
 - ii. If so, repeat process
- c) Null response:
 - i. Try again (and again)

6. Additional points:

- a) Visit agencies and speak with relevant program managers
- b) Read recently awarded abstracts (NSF)
- c) Ask friends for recently awarded grants
- d) Ask other professors to read your proposal before submission for advice