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](http://www.grants.gov)
   b) Specific agency websites (though there will be overlap with grants.gov)
      i. NSF ([www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov))
      ii. NIH ([www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov))
      iii. DoD
         1. ARO ([www.aro.army.mil](http://www.aro.army.mil))
         2. ONR ([www.onr.navy.mil](http://www.onr.navy.mil))
         3. AFOSR ([www.afosr.af.mil](http://www.afosr.af.mil))
         4. DARPA ([www.darpa.mil](http://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