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Podcast Title:
Podcast on writing grant proposal

Department:
Community Medicine

Category:
**Research and
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TRANSCRIPT

Greetings to everyone. I am Dr. Arthi. D, post graduate, Department of Community Medicine. This is a short podcast on how to write a successful grant proposal. Statistics says that among 1738 proposals, only 23% gets selected for grants. So here are few points to remember for a successful grant proposal.

The three Traits of Good Grant proposal are good planning, extensive preparation, ready to accept input and criticism in constructive way for improvement. Before we write a grant proposal, we need necessary expertise, necessary resources, necessary personnel and preliminary data to complete the proposal. There are 7 steps in grant writing. Step 1: Maximise Lead Time (Time before the actual process starts) which begins with the proactive search for funding opportunities. Step 2: How novel is your idea? Know your bibliography (books or articles used to write an article) with the help of Comprehensive PubMed Search, EndNote, Mendeley's, Zotero, QUOSA IM, OVID, and Web of Science. Step 3: How fundable is your idea? Look for previously funded projects. Like NIH RePORTER, Eligibility, Sponsor's agenda and contact Sponsor's Grant Officer for queries. This can be identified by search databases or agency websites, by searching the literature in your field for funding sources, by identifying the agency's mission and by reviewing other proposals funded by them. Ask yourself, "Do my research interests fit with their mission?" If yes, proceed. Step 4: Call someone to help you gauge and improve your idea like peers, senior colleagues, collaborators who are already working in that area. Step 5: Gather preliminary data. Step 6: Understanding the budget. Step 7: How to improve your grant proposal- by exploring successful grants, templates & examples, learning from failed proposals, by attending Grant Writing Workshops. Funders usually look for technical, novelty in thinking, innovativeness, rigor of methodology, investigator /team, past performance and institute. Research Proposals are of two types: Solicited where the agency ask for Request For Proposals (RFPs)/ (RFAs), Unsolicited where it is Researcher Initiated, based on Agencies board guidelines. Research Project Grant for Individual project/fellowships, Program Project Grant for Several projects, Seed grants, Scaling up grants are few types of grants. COS- Community of Science - USA, Canada IRIS (Illinois Research Information System), InfoEd-Info.Office SPIN.Plus, Welch Library, The Foundation Directory, GrantsNet, Indiabioscience.org are some of online funding websites. DHR/ICMR(Indian council of medical research), DBT(Department of Biotechnology), CSIR(Council of scientific and industrial research) are few Government agency sites. MRC(Medical Research Council), NRC(Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre) are few international Government Agency sites.

Discuss your research with potential funder. Interact with agency program staff, while learning about emerging trends and priority areas. There are advanced strategies to be followed like 'Talk to colleagues!'. Who is funding them? Check "acknowledgments" section of published papers/articles. Review funded awards & abstracts on agency sites. Collaborate in research proposals. Many new investigators "launch" their research careers by collaborating with established colleagues. Contact with Program Officers, gives you an opportunity to introduce yourself, discuss your research with a potential funder, gain in valuable feedback. Be prepared. Summarize your proposed project's major goals/objectives, methods, and expected outcomes in 1-2 paragraphs, and e-mail the Program Officer. Remember to Ensure alignment, Don't judge a "not-fund" as a failure, Try not to take it too personally. Review,

Revise, Resubmit. Give careful attention to reviewer's comments and address their concerns in your re-submission. Hence strategies for successful grant writing is to try, try, try and try again. Thank you.



Signature of the Resource Person



Signature of the HOD