

Office of Sponsored Projects

e-Funding Alert

December 2012

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One Bite at a Time

“How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time” – Unknown

An oft-quoted proverb, the answer to how one can eat a whole elephant provides the best visual of the proposal preparation and submission process. All too often, individuals seeking external grant funds take one look at the proposal requirements and immediately back off, thinking the process will be too time consuming and unmanageable. Grant writing *is* labor-intensive, but it does not have to be overwhelming. If you are interested in obtaining external funding for your research, instructional, or service project, but are not sure where to start, consider the following suggestions for successful proposal development:

1. **Don't rush yourself...** You may see a funding opportunity that seems like a perfect fit, and you may be tempted to submit a hastily prepared application to meet an impending deadline. Before moving forward, you may want to consider a couple issues, such as the extent of information required in the application, whether the competition is a one-time or annual opportunity, and if you have sufficient background information (e.g. needs assessment/literature review) to make a strong case for your proposal. Sometimes, the wiser choice is to wait for the next competition, and while waiting, prepare the resources and information you will need for the next round.
2. **...but don't sit on the fence forever.** One of the biggest challenges to overcome once you have decided to wait until the next round of funding is proposal development inertia. It's easy to say to yourself, "I'll work on it later—it's not due for [12, 11, 10...] months," then find yourself looking at a deadline that's only a few weeks away, and realize you cannot submit during the next round because you waited too long to prepare. If you decide to delay your submission until a future competition becomes available, develop a definite plan (see item 3) for preparing for the next round of funding.
3. **Plan your proposal.** Depending on the funding agency and the type of proposal, grant applications may contain a variety of components ranging from a project abstract, literature review, and methodology to budget justifications, letters of support, and equipment quotes. You should determine what components you need to include and roughly how much time it will take to prepare each of them. Developing a proposal management plan with objectives, tasks, persons responsible, and completion deadlines can help you manage your time and, especially in the case of multi-investigator projects, ensure all components of the grant are prepared well in advance of the submission deadline.
4. **Take advantage of available resources.** ASU has a variety of resources available for proposal development. The Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), for example, can assist you with gathering institutional information, requesting letters of support/commitment, preparing budgets and budget justifications, and assembling ancillary documentation. The earlier you contact the OSP, the more assistance the Office can provide.

If you are interested in preparing a competitive funding proposal, please contact the Office of Sponsored Projects (osp@angelo.edu) to learn more about the process.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Harry Ransom Center

Research Fellowship in the Humanities

Submission deadline: February 1, 2013

Program description: The Harry Ransom Center annually awards over 50 fellowships to support projects that require substantial on-site use of its collections. The fellowships support research in all areas of the humanities, including literature, photography, film, art, the performing arts, music, and cultural history. The fellowships range from one to three months, with stipends of \$3,000 per month.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fellowships/>

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

Short-Term Travel Grants Application

Submission deadline: February 6, 2013

Program description: Scholars interested in STG can apply to conduct research in up to two countries for up to eight weeks. As part of the STG fellowship, participants are provided with visa assistance, international roundtrip transportation, a monthly allowance for housing and living expenses, and emergency evacuation insurance. STG applicants must have a graduate degree (PhD, MA, MD, MBA, MFA, MPA, MPH, MLIS, MS, JD) at the time of application and must be a U.S. citizens. Eligible countries for research are mostly comprised of Eastern Europe and the former USSR states.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.irex.org/application/short-term-travel-grants-stg-application>

National Education Association

NEA Foundation Grants

Submission deadline: February 1, 2013

Program descriptions:

Student Achievement Grants: The NEA Foundation provides grants to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area(s). The proposed work should engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection.

Learning and Leadership Grants: Our Learning & Leadership grants support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes: Grants to individuals fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research; or Grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grant-application/>

National Institutes of Health

Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) (R15)

Submission deadlines: Standard R15 deadlines apply; see full announcement for details

Program description: The purpose of the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program is to stimulate research in educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. AREA grants create opportunities for scientists and institutions, otherwise unlikely to participate extensively in NIH research programs, to contribute to the Nation's biomedical and behavioral research effort. AREA grants are intended to support small-scale research projects proposed by faculty members of eligible, domestic institutions, to expose students to meritorious research projects, and to strengthen the research environment of the applicant institution.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-006.html>

National Science Foundation

Developmental and Learning Sciences

Submission deadlines: January 15, 2013 and July 15, 2013

Program description: DLS supports fundamental research that increases our understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural, and biological processes related to children's and adolescents' development and learning. Research supported by this program will add to our basic knowledge of how people learn and the underlying developmental processes that support learning, with the objective of leading to better educated children and adolescents who grow up to take productive roles as workers and as citizens.

For more information, visit this Web page: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=8671

Division of Integrative Organismal Systems

Submission deadlines: Preliminary proposals – January 18, 2013; Full proposals – August 2, 2013 (by invitation only)

Program description: The Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) supports research aimed at understanding why organisms are structured the way they are and function as they do. Proposals should focus on organisms as a fundamental unit of biological organization. Principal Investigators (PIs) are encouraged to apply systems approaches that will lead to conceptual and theoretical insights and predictions about emergent organismal properties. Areas of inquiry include, but are not limited to, developmental biology and the evolution of developmental processes, nervous system development, structure, and function, physiological processes, functional morphology, symbioses, interactions of organisms with biotic and abiotic environments, and animal behavior.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13506/nsf13506.htm>

Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences: Investigator-initiated Research Projects

Submission deadlines: January 30, 2013 and November 15, 2013

Program description: The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB) supports quantitative, predictive, and theory-driven fundamental research and related activities designed to promote understanding of complex living systems at the molecular, subcellular, and cellular levels. MCB is soliciting proposals for hypothesis-driven and discovery research and related activities in four core clusters: 1) molecular biophysics, 2) cellular dynamics and function, 3) genetic mechanisms, and 4) systems and synthetic biology.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13510/nsf13510.htm>

Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL)

Submission deadline: September 15, 2013

Program description: This funding partnership between the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) supports projects to develop and advance knowledge concerning endangered human languages. Made urgent by the imminent death of roughly half of the approximately 7000 currently used languages, this effort aims to exploit advances in information technology to build computational infrastructure for endangered language research. The program supports projects that contribute to data management and archiving, and to the development of the next generation of researchers. Funding can support fieldwork and other activities relevant to the digital recording, documenting, and archiving of endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11554/nsf11554.htm>

Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI)

Submission deadline: February 21, 2013

Program description: The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education, and not-for-profit museums, science centers and scientific/engineering research organizations. This program especially seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering, by supporting proposals for shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education in research-intensive learning environments. Each MRI proposal may request support for the acquisition (Track 1) or development (Track 2) of a single research instrument for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use; development efforts that leverage the strengths of private sector partners to build instrument development capacity at MRI submission-eligible organizations are encouraged.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13517/nsf13517.htm>

Promoting Research and Innovation in Methodologies for Evaluation (PRIME)

Submission deadline: February 20, 2013

Program description: The Promoting Research and Innovation in Methodologies for Evaluation (PRIME) program seeks to support research on evaluation with special emphasis on exploring innovative approaches for determining the impacts and usefulness of STEM education projects and programs; building on and expanding the theoretical foundations for evaluating STEM education and workforce development initiatives, including translating and adapting approaches from other fields; and growing the capacity and infrastructure of the evaluation field. Two types of proposals will be supported by the program: Exploratory Projects that include proof-of-concept and feasibility studies and more extensive Full-Scale Projects.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13515/nsf13515.htm>

Science, Technology, and Society (STS)

Submission deadlines: February 1, 2013 and August 1, 2013

Program description: STS considers proposals for scientific research into the interface between science (including engineering) or technology, and society. STS researchers use diverse methods including social science, historical, and philosophical methods. Successful proposals will be transferrable (i.e., generate results that provide insights for other scientific contexts that are suitably similar). They will produce outcomes that address pertinent problems and issues at the interface of science, technology and society, such as those having to do with practices and assumptions, ethics, values, governance, and policy.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12509/nsf12509.htm>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research

Submission deadline: January 16, 2013

Program description: The *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program supports educational and other nonprofit institutions where highly qualified individuals propose to undertake broad studies of America's most challenging policy issues in health and health care. Grants of up to \$335,000 each are awarded to institutions to support Investigators from a variety of disciplines for innovative research projects that have national policy relevance.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://tinyurl.com/avx8o22>

U.S. Department of Education

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research – Field Initiated Projects

Submission deadline: January 22, 2013

Program description: The Field-Initiated Projects (FIPs) are a program of investigator-initiated research that was created by NIDRR in 1984 under its R&D authority. The FIP program supplements NIDRR's directed research portfolio by addressing diverse research issues in promising and innovative ways. Field initiated research projects cover all of NIDRR's domains, including employment, independent living, medical rehabilitation and development of new technologies, and address all disability populations with a wide range of research approaches.

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fip/index.html>

University of Edinburgh

Visiting Research Fellowships

Submission deadline: February 28, 2013

Program description: Applications are invited for Visiting Research Fellowships of between *two and six months*, tenable in the period: June 2013-September 2015. No limitation is placed on the area of research within the Humanities and Social Sciences but priority is given to those whose work falls within the scope of one of the Institute's current research strands: 1) Enlightenment; 2) Theory, Practice and Performance;

3) The University and the Wider World (The Academic and the Civic); and 4) The Human and the Environment (Atmospheres and Atmospheric).

For more information, visit this Web page: <http://www.iash.ed.ac.uk/visiting.fellowships.html>

For more information about finding other funding opportunities, please visit the Research & Grants Channel under the “My Courses” tab in RamPort.

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