Funding Opportunities: A Strategic Consultation

There are a number of questions that may be helpful as you evaluate a sponsor and/or funding opportunity:

Considerations	Suggestions/Resources
Mission: *Does the sponsor's mission include the activities or research you wish to pursue?*	For federal sponsors, review their mission statements and priorities. For other sponsors, such as foundations and corporations, discuss the opportunity with the relevant GW offices.
Priorities: *Does your project fall within the sponsor's current priorities?*	
Limited submission: *Does the sponsor's funding opportunity only allow one application submission per institution requiring internal coordination?*	InfoReady portal for limited submission and intramural funding competitions
Deadlines: *Is the application submission deadline hard or continuous, and allow sufficient time for proposal preparation, departmental/institutional approval, and submission?*	
Eligibility: *Are you (and/or GW) eligible to receive funds from this sponsor (i.e. residency, applicant type)?*	
Sponsor type: *Does the sponsor actually fund others "like" you (i.e., university faculty)?*	Talk with colleagues - who is funding their work? Look at journals in your field for acknowledgement of sponsor funding.
Type of support: *Are you applying for a grant, cooperative agreement, or a contract?*	Sponsor's role on a grant (patron), cooperative agreement (partner), and contract (purchaser of services/goods).
Geographic area: *Is the conduct of the research activity in your geographic area?*	
Funding range: *Does the sponsor make awards in the dollar range you require to conduct the proposed research?*	

Ongoing funding: *Does the sponsor make one-time, one-year only awards, or is continuation and/or renewal funding possible?*	Use Pivot as well as federal agency websites like NIH's Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool. This may give you a better understanding of what projects particular sponsors favor.
Committed funds: *Of the funding available for the current fiscal year, how much has the sponsor committed to continuation funding for awards made in preceding years?*	
Cost sharing: *Is cost sharing prohibited or allowed (voluntary or mandatory)?*	
Competition: *What is the anticipated application to award ratio? How many awards will be made?*	Where possible, determine review criteria and mechanisms the sponsor uses. This information may be provided in the proposal guidelines or on the sponsor's website.
Motivation and intent: *Does the sponsor have special or undefined criteria that are used for awards? Is this a competitive opportunity or has the sponsor identified possible recipients (earmarking)?*	
Staff: *Does the sponsor have staff to provide information prior to proposal submission?*	It may be appropriate to contact a sponsor before submitting a proposal. Program staff contacts are often identified in the program announcement or in the guidelines.
Pre-submission review: *Will the sponsor review either an outline or a draft proposal if provided with reasonable lead time?*	
Collaboration: *Are multidisciplinary efforts or collaborations (multi-PIs/PDs) strongly encouraged?*	Internal/external collaborators can be found through GW offices or Pivot. Make a multi-PI/PD plan to submit with your application.
Management plan: *Does your research project require dedicated administrative coordination/support or data sharing/management components?*	Be sure to account for and justify staff and/or technology equipment/component needed to properly conduct your research. If applicable, provide a data sharing plan with your proposal. Contact GW offices for further consultation.