# Funding Opportunities: A Strategic Consultation

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

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| **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?* |                                                                                        |
| **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)?* | Talk with colleagues - who is funding their work? Look at journals in your field for acknowledgement of sponsor funding. |
| **Sponsor type:**
*Does the sponsor actually fund others "like" you (i.e., university faculty)?* | Sponsor’s role on a grant (patron), cooperative agreement (partner), and contract (purchaser of services/goods). |
| **Type of support:**
*Are you applying for a grant, cooperative agreement, or a contract?*          |                                                                                        |
| **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 COS 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?* | 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. |
| **Staff:**  
*Does the sponsor have staff to provide information prior to proposal submission?* |  |
| **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. |