



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:

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

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| <p>Ongoing funding: <i>Does the sponsor make one-time, one-year only awards, or is continuation and/or renewal funding possible?</i></p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Committed funds: <i>Of the funding available for the current fiscal year, how much has the sponsor committed to continuation funding for awards made in preceding years?</i></p> | |
| <p>Cost sharing: <i>Is cost sharing prohibited or allowed (voluntary or mandatory)?</i></p> | |
| <p>Competition: <i>What is the anticipated application to award ratio? How many awards will be made?</i></p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Motivation and intent: <i>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?</i></p> | |
| <p>Staff: <i>Does the sponsor have staff to provide information prior to proposal submission?</i></p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Pre-submission review: <i>Will the sponsor review either an outline or a draft proposal if provided with reasonable lead time?</i></p> | |
| <p>Collaboration: <i>Are multidisciplinary efforts or collaborations (Multi-PIs/PDs) strongly encouraged?</i></p> | <p>Internal/external collaborators can be found through GW offices or PIVOT. Make a Multi-PI/PD plan to submit with your application.</p> |
| <p>Management plan: <i>Does your research project require dedicated administrative coordination/support or data sharing/management components?</i></p> | <p>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.</p> |