

Insights from a federal grant reviewer...



I write this as I'm in Atlanta, taking a break between grant review panel meetings. This is the fourth such time that I have had the opportunity to serve on a grant review panel for a federal agency. It's an enlightening experience and by my participation, I am able to remain cognizant of how federal proposals are reviewed, scored, and subsequently funded (or not!). A few insights while they are fresh on my mind:

1) Write your grant proposals to the peer reviewer. They know nothing of your project, your geographical location, the people that you propose to serve, etc. Provide as much detail as you can about your project and your plans so that they can fully evaluate your proposal.

2) Follow the formatting requirements to the letter. Your proposal may never make it to the reviewer's hands and be read if you fail to follow their requirements related to page limits, font size or required documentation.

3) Structure your proposal as the funder has requested. This makes it easy for the reviewer to find the re-

quested information. The easier you make it on the reviewer, the more generous they are when they are determining points to award.

4) Respond to each question in the application guidance. Completely disregarding or omitting information because you are unsure how to respond, will get you 0 points for that question/section. At least acknowledge the question, even if you feel you have an inadequate response.

And the last item is something that I learned this week from informal conversations:

5) It helps to have a call or letter from your congressman, especially with highly competitive applications. If there are 500 applications of which only 200 will be funded, the top 200 highest scores are not always the ones that are funded. If you have submitted a strong proposal, a phone call from your congressman could easily push your proposal to the "funded" stack.

Robin Boyles

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff on receiving these new grants:

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**
Center for Economic Progress
~ Deborah Moore, Project Director
- **GIS Mapping for Three Rivers**
Three Rivers Planning & Development District
~ Talbot Brooks, Project Director
- **Student Scholarships Grant**
Hearin Foundation
~ Deborah Heslep, Project Director
- **Backyards and Beyond**
MS Humanities Council
~ Emily Erwin, Project Director
- **Nursing Leadership Development Model**
Dreyfus Health Foundation
~ John Green, Project Director

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff on the continuation of these grants:

- **Delta Health Partners Healthy Start Initiative**
Tougaloo College
~ John Green, Project Director
- **Healthy Campus Initiative**
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation
~ E. E. Caston, Project Director
- **NASA Space Grant Consortium**
NASA/UM
~ Charles Smithhart, Project Director
- **Summer Institute for Improving Teacher Quality—Math**
Dept of Ed./IHL
~ Leslie Horton, Project Director
- **Summer Institute for Improving Teacher Quality—Reading**
Dept of Ed./IHL
~ Levenia Maxwell-Barnes, Project Director
- **Small Business Development Center**
Small Business Administration
~ Christie Sledge, Project Director
- **Yazoo Project**
Dept of Justice/Bureau of Prisons
~ Garry Jennings, Project Director
- **MECSAPN**
HRSA/UM Medical Center
~ Lizabeth Carlson, Project Director

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TIP GRANT 4 SUBMISSIONS:

Grant seekers should be aware that virtually no funder cares about your program like you do. What they want is results, in a measurable fashion that match their overarching goals, experts say. (Excerpted from Federal and Foundation Assistance Monitor)

Brown Bag Lunch

Tuesday
March 9th
12:00 noon
Union 306

