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Finding Funding for Educational Research.pdf

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How to Find Funding for Your Educational Research

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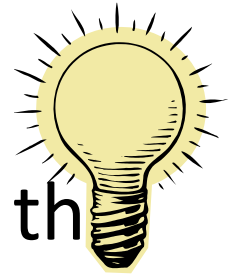Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

OVERVIEW

1. Develop an Idea
2. Find Potential Sponsors
3. Research Potential Sponsors

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STEP 1 – DEVELOP AN IDEA

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- What is the need?
- What is the project that will address the need?
- What are your qualifications and institutional capabilities?
- How will the project be conducted?

What is the need? *(Why)*

- Who has the need? (target population)

- What are their needs/problems?

- What is causing the needs/problems?

- How can the needs/problems be measured and documented?

What is the need? *(Why)*

- What are the major unanswered questions?

- What does the current literature say about the problem/need? What approaches have been tried or suggested?

What is the project that will address the need? *(What)*

- What is the proposed solution?
- What approaches can attain that solution?
- What are some alternative approaches?
- What makes the project unique?

WHAT IS THE PROJECT THAT WILL ADDRESS THE NEED? *(WHAT)*

- What makes the project important?
- What resources will be needed?
  - People, facilities, money, time
  - Institution, partners, funder
- What is the projected budget?

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES? *(WHO AND WHERE)*

- What have you done that is similar?

- What input have you sought?

- How does project fit institution's mission?

WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES? *(WHO AND WHERE)*

- What is institution's commitment to this specific project?

- What capabilities and resources does the institution have? Fiscally responsible?

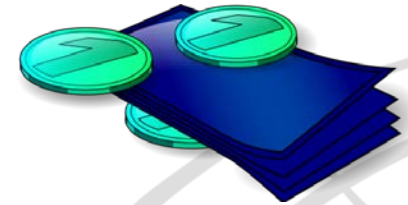- What other capabilities and resources are available?

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HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE CONDUCTED? *(HOW AND WHEN)*

- What methods will be used?

- What are the expected outcomes of the project?

- How will the project be evaluated?

- How will the project be continued after the grant expires?

Step 2 – Find Potential Sponsors

- Foundations/Corporations

- Voluntary Health Organizations

- Professional Societies

- Government Agencies

Private and corporate foundations

- Subscription services
  - Chronicle of Philanthropy - Guide to Grants
  - Foundation Center
    - History of annual grants and other giving at http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders/990finder/
    - International Directory of Foundations at http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/topical/international.html
  - GuideStar
  - SPIN (InfoEd Global), IRIS, Community of Science, etc.
- General Internet search engines

PRIVATE AND CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS

N.B.: May be **required** to notify your institution's development/advancement office before contacting a sponsor or submitting anything

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SPIN SEARCH AND RESULTS EXAMPLE

- Keywords: Medical Education, Educational/Instructional Technology, Instructional Materials and Practices, Educational Evaluation/Assessment, Classroom Instruction (many more in SPIN under Education)

  AND

- Applicant Type = *Researcher or Investigator*

- 36 results

- Spencer Foundation
  - "high-quality, innovative research with the potential to improve education"
  - $50,000 or less

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SPIN SEARCH AND RESULTS EXAMPLE

- Keywords: Medical Education, Educational/Instructional Technology, Instructional Materials and Practices, Educational Evaluation/Assessment, Classroom Instruction

  AND

- Applicant Type = Faculty Member

- 43 results

- Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER)

  – "two-year fellowship program for international health professions educators" to come to U.S.

Internet Search Results Examples

- Arnold P. Gold Foundation
  - Research Planning Grants for teams to work on multi-institutional proposals to larger funding agencies
  - "research which links humanistic healthcare and health professions education to important patient, provider and systems outcomes"

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
  - Focus areas include health leadership and workforce
  - Training and fellowship programs, policy analysis, health services research

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INTERNET SEARCH RESULTS EXAMPLES

- Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation
  - "Advancing the education and training of health professionals"

Voluntary Health Organizations

- Disease or condition specific
  - Examples: Alzheimer's Association, March of Dimes
- Fund research, service delivery, and/or education
  - Usually public/patient education
- Resources to locate VHOs
  - Subscription services (e.g., SPIN)
  - National Health Council
  - HealthFinder.gov
  - Fogarty International Center

VHO Education Funding Examples

- March of Dimes
  - Agnes Higgins Award
  - "achievement in research, education or clinical services in the field of maternal-fetal nutrition"

- Fogarty International Center (U.S. NIH)
  - Currently *CLOSED:* Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

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Professional Societies

- National Board of Medical Examiners Stemmler Medical Education Research Fund
  - "research or development of innovative assessment approaches"
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
  - Research on "education policy and practice using quantitative methods"

Professional Societies

- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
  - Medical education research and institutional research
  - "Up to $10,000 for collaborative research projects…up to $5,000 for single campus research or smaller collaborative studies."

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Government agencies

- Usually not for beginning research/researchers
- Highly competitive
    - Preliminary data
    - Track record of grants and publications
    - Institutional infrastructure

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Federal Funding Examples

- National Institutes of Health Fogarty awards

- Most of the following are for kindergarten to 12th grade or undergraduate institutions or for training physician-scientists
  - National Center for Education Statistics
  - National Science Foundation
  - NIH Career Development Awards

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Federal Funding Examples

– U.S. Department of Education

- Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
- Low-Cost, Short-Duration Evaluation of Education Interventions
- Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

• Medical schools are a tough sell – generalizability

PROPOSAL CONCEPT PAPER

- Answer questions in "Develop an Idea" section

- Practice makes perfect

- Prepare even if no funding opportunity identified

- Get feedback
  - Colleagues
  - Program staff at sponsor's office

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STEP 3 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL SPONSORS

- What are sponsor priorities?

- What are sponsor guidelines?

  - How should initial contact be made?

- What types of projects, investigators, and institutions has the sponsor funded currently/previously?

WHAT ARE SPONSOR PRIORITIES?

- Types of grants, e.g., research grant, training and professional development, seed money

- Types of applicants, e.g., faculty, residents, students

- Populations served by project, e.g., children, families, elderly

- Geographic restrictions

WHAT ARE SPONSOR GUIDELINES?

- How should initial contact be made?
  - Phone (rehearse first)
  - Letter of inquiry/intent
  - Preapplication/Preproposal
- Will program officer critique a draft?
- Citizenship and other eligibility criteria
- Maximum budget request
  - Matching requirement?
- Deadlines or open
- Success ratios

Types of projects, investigators, and institutions funded

- Collaborative vs. standalone; service delivery vs. research, etc.

- Trainees, midlevel, senior

- Grassroots and other nonprofits; large/research-intensive; another PI at your institution

- Sponsor's website, annual reports, newsletters, press releases

- Who's on review panel?

NEED GRANT WRITING TRAINING?

– Foundation Center http://grantspace.org/skills/proposal-writing

  – Free webinars

  – Videos, live chats, "Get Answers," sample documents

  – Online course for US$295

  – Classroom-based courses in larger cities around the U.S.

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REMEMBER

Lack of money is no obstacle. Lack of an idea is an obstacle.

- Ken Hakuta

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IAMSE Annual Meeting

June 4-7, 2016

- More detailed information
- Experiential learning

http://iamse.site-ym.com/events/event_details.asp?id=696997