

NOTES FROM...

Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA)
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Grant Writing & Getting

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TIPS and SUGGESTIONS:

Three Important Considerations:

1. **Clear theoretical pay-off:** build a conceptual framework clearly that includes what hypothesis or research questions you want answered.
 2. **Link hypothesis/RQ to data:** Is the data you're going to use the data necessary/required to capture the answers to your questions?
 3. **Feasibility:** can you do the research.
 - a. Can you get the data?
 - b. timeline: when will you accomplish the steps you need to
 - c. Can you parse alternative hypothesis and explanations? This is fast becoming an absolute necessity for qualitative research proposals to NSF
- If you're submitting a proposal that includes qualitative research you really should have a pilot study and some preliminary results. You can also have some preliminary results when submitting quantitative research projects for funding.
 - Yes, you can apply to multiple funding agencies. If you apply for funding for the same parts/pieces of the research just disclose it to the places you ask for funding. If you want to you can also apply for some funding from one source and additional funding from another and so on. You can fund several parts of your dissertation using many sources.
 - Are their types of research that are more likely funded? It used to be that quantitative research seemed more likely funded by NSF but not sure that is true anymore. Pat White of NSF felt qualitative research was not getting funding, so

she (with a group of scholars) made a qualitative handout/report. See NSF website for this document. <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04219/nsf04219.pdf>

- It is important that you get comments from others (not just your dissertation chair) before you send out for funding.
- Just because something has not been done before may not be a good reason why it is important to do now. You have to show much more than a “hole in the literature”.

INTELLECTUAL MERIT: (What do I write in this section?)

-  Theoretical contribution (modified, extended, new concepts) [see also Snow, David A., Calvin Morrill and Leon Anderson. 2003. “Elaborating Analytic Ethnography.” *Ethnography*, 4:2:181-200.]
-  New methodological approach sheds new light on a new problem
-  Apply new method to old population or old method to new population
-  Reformulation of new set of concepts
-  New techniques
-  Contemporary social problem
-  Don't puff it up...you're not really “revolutionizing” anything

BROADER IMPACT: (What do I write in this section?)

-  In this section say your project “could do” not “may do”
-  New agenda/shape social policy discourse at the organizational or social or political levels
-  Test efficacy of certain policies
-  Link with another discipline
-  Direct and indirect effects of the research

BUDGETS:

- ∅ Read the request for proposals (RFP) very carefully to see if they'll fund direct and/or indirect costs
- ∅ You can include items like travel, administrative costs, transcription, travel to conferences, course/workshop fees to help you further fine-tune your skills in a certain area of research or to learn from colleagues, software, etc. Do not pad your budget. Just ask for what you really need, that you cannot get locally from another source easily.

IRB—HUMAN SUBJECTS

- △ Read the RFP to determine if IRB approval is required at time of submission. If it is not, then it is up to you to determine when to apply for IRB approval. In your grant application you can just say “IRB approval pending”.

SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL:

See Department Manager Andrea Denish's documents on submitting grants through her on the SGSA website.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR FUNDING--other than NSF (a partial list)

http://www.rgs.uci.edu/grad/finance/external_2.htm

http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/index.cfm

<http://www.ucop.edu/services/grants.html>

<http://www.ghi-dc.org/guide10/frameUS.html>

<http://www.socsci.uci.edu/cng/html/Agencies.htm>

[http://www.spencer.org/.](http://www.spencer.org/)

www.nij.org

There are millions more...keep looking.