What Does It Take to Get Funded?

In a 2015 survey of faculty grant writers, Ted von Hippel and Courtney von Hippel investigated the costs and benefits associated with grantsmanship. Although their survey group consisted of researchers from only two disciplines—astronomy and psychology—their findings were similar to those cited in other literature. Among other results, they found that getting funded requires a combination of significant effort and persistence:

- Proposals typically require more than 110 hours’ effort from the principal investigator and more than 50 hours’ effort from co-investigators;
- Writing more grants = obtaining more funding.
Interestingly, von Hippel & von Hippel (2015) found several non-financial benefits to grantsmanship, such as “the notion that grant writing benefits [researchers’] scientific thinking,” which suggests that regardless of funding outcomes, proposal development may result in improvements in organization, idea generation, and overall quality of scientific work (p. 5).

The authors recommend, however, that institutions may want to reevaluate their pursuit of external funds in those instances where projects are less likely to be successful. To avoid falling into this “less likely to be funded” category, investigators need to know the mission and focus of the funding agencies as well as understand the state of the art in a given field of study and ensure their proposals are a good match.

Reference Cited:

**NIH Videos: “How to Apply”**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Extramural Research (OER) recently posted a four-part video series on “How to Apply” for NIH grants. Ranging in length from 4.5 to 11 minutes, the four short videos cover the following topics: 1) Overview of NIH grants, 2) Preparing to Apply, 3) Writing the application, and 4) Submitting the application.

To watch one or more of the NIH’s “How to Apply Video Tutorials,” visit this webpage: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/video/index.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/video/index.htm)

**Upcoming Funding Opportunities**

**American Council of Learned Societies**

*Collaborative Research Fellowships*

**Submission deadline:** September 27, 2017  
**Program description:** “ACLS invites applications for the ninth annual competition for ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowships, which support small teams of two or more scholars collaborating intensively on a single, substantive project in the humanities and related social sciences. The goal of the project should be a tangible research product (such as joint print or web publications) for which at least two collaborators will take credit. The program is funded by a generous grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.”

**Link to full announcement:** [http://www.acls.org/programs/collaborative/](http://www.acls.org/programs/collaborative/)

*Fellowships*

**Submission deadline:** September 27, 2017  
**Program description:** “The ACLS Fellowship program invites research applications in all disciplines of the humanities and related social sciences. The ultimate goal of the project should be a major piece of scholarly work by the applicant. ACLS does not fund creative work (e.g., novels or films), textbooks, straightforward translation, or pedagogical projects.”
American Educational Research Association

Research Grants

Submission deadline: August 31, 2017

Program description: "With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the AERA Grants Program announces its Research Grants competition. The program seeks to stimulate research on U.S. education issues using data from the large-scale, national and international data sets supported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), NSF, and other federal agencies, and to increase the number of education researchers using these data sets. The program supports research projects that are quantitative in nature, include the analysis of existing data from NCES, NSF or other federal agencies, and have U.S. education policy relevance."

Link to full announcement: http://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding/AERA-Funding-Opportunities/Grants-Program/Research-Grants

The Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation

Economic Literacy Grants

Submission deadlines: September 15, 2017 and February 15, 2018

Program description: "While the Kazanjian Foundation maintains a vital interest in the overall efforts to increase economic literacy, the Board of Trustees will give special attention to proposals and projects with national impact that addresses the following issues: ... programs that raise various public's participation in economic education and/or create a demand for greater economic literacy; the application of new strategies for teaching economics including on-line and web-based instruction is of interest to the Foundation; projects, policy studies, or programs that encourage measurement of economic understanding more often and/or more effectively are of specific interest...[and] programs that help otherwise disenfranchised youth and/or young adults with children learn to participate in the economic system."

Link to full announcement: http://www.kazanjian.org/grants/apply

Fats and Proteins Research Foundation

Research Proposals

Submission deadlines: September 15, 2017 and March 15, 2018

Program description: "FPRF welcomes research proposals to enhance current uses of rendered animal products, improve rendering processes, and develop new applications. The Foundations key areas of focus are livestock nutrition (including aquaculture), pet food nutrition, feed safety, sustainability, and novel technologies."

Link to full announcement: https://fprf.org/research-proposals/

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

Research Travel Grants Program

Submission deadlines: September 15, 2017 and March 15, 2018

Program description: "The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation awards grants of up to $2,200 each in support of research in the holdings of the Gerald R. Ford Library. A grant defrays travel and living expenses of a research trip to the Ford Library."

Link to full announcement: https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/foundationgrants.asp

e-Funding Alert – June 2017
Lyndon B. Johnson Library

Moody Research Grant
Submission deadlines: September 15, 2017 and March 15, 2018
Program description: "The LBJ Foundation awards a limited number of grants for research at the LBJ Library, which are underwritten by The Moody Foundation of Galveston, Texas. Grants may be used for research for dissertations, theses, senior papers, publications and other projects. Grants range from $600 to $3,000. Funds are awarded for the sole purpose of helping to defray living, travel and related expenses incurred while conducting research at the LBJ Library during the grant period."
Link to full announcement: http://www.lbjlibrary.org/page/foundation/initiatives/moody-research-grant/

National Endowment for the Humanities

Public Humanities Projects
Submission deadline: August 9, 2017
Program description: "Public Humanities Projects grants support projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to analyze significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art history, or to address challenging issues in contemporary life. NEH encourages projects that involve members of the public in collaboration with humanities scholars or that invite contributions from the community in the development and delivery of humanities programming."
Link to full announcement: https://www.neh.gov/grants/public/public-humanities-projects

National Science Foundation

EHR Core Research (ECR)
Submission deadline: September 14, 2017
Program description: "The EHR Core Research (ECR) program of fundamental research in STEM education provides funding in critical research areas that are essential, broad and enduring. EHR seeks proposals that will help synthesize, build and/or expand research foundations in the following focal areas: STEM learning, STEM learning environments, STEM workforce development, and broadening participation in STEM."

Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)
Submission deadline: September 5, 2017
Program description: "ITEST is a research and development program that supports projects to promote PreK-12 student interests and capacities to participate in the STEM and information and communications technology (ICT) workforce of the future. ... The ITEST program supports research on the design, development, implementation, and selective spread of innovative strategies for engaging students in technology-rich experiences that: (1) increase student awareness of STEM occupations; (2) motivate students to pursue appropriate education pathways to STEM occupations; or (3) develop disciplinary-based knowledge and practices, or promote critical thinking, reasoning skills, or communication skills needed for entering STEM workforce sectors. ITEST projects may adopt an interdisciplinary focus that includes multiple STEM disciplines, focus on a single discipline, or focus on one or more sub-disciplines."

Research in the Formation of Engineers (RFE)
Submission deadlines: September 27, 2017 and January 24, 2018
Program description: “The goal of the Research in the Formation of Engineers (RFE) program is to advance our understanding of professional formation. It seeks to both deepen our fundamental understanding of the underlying processes and mechanisms that support professional formation and to demonstrate how professional formation is or can be accomplished. Ultimately, RFE aims to transform the engineering formation system. Therefore, the impact of proposed projects on this system must be described in the proposal. Proposers should provide a roadmap detailing how they envision the proposed research will eventually broadly impact practice within the engineering formation system, even if these activities are not within the scope of the submitted proposal.”

Link to full announcement: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503584

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program (NLGCA)

Submission deadline: September 15, 2017

Program description: “NLGCA Institutions may use the funds: (a) to successfully compete for funds from Federal grants and other sources to carry out educational, research, and outreach activities that address priority concerns of national, regional, State, and local interest; (b) to disseminate information relating to priority concerns to interested members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities, the public, and any other interested entity; (c) to encourage members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities to participate in priority education, research, and outreach activities by providing matching funding to leverage grant funds; and (d) through: (1) the purchase or other acquisition of equipment and other infrastructure (not including alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings); (2) the professional growth and development of the faculty of the NLGCA Institution; and (3) the development of graduate assistantships.”

Note: ASU is a NLGCA and is therefore eligible for this program.

Link to full announcement: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/capacity-building-grants-non-land-grant-colleges-agriculture-program-nlgca

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