How to Fund your Research: NaEd/Spencer and AERA Grant Programs

Lara Perez-Felkner
Associate Professor of Higher Education and Sociology

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Where to Begin? Stage 1

• Keeping stages in mind
  – PhD applicant: internal and external fellowships and grants, often related to your IDEA, your statement of purpose
  – Doctoral student stage – small grants associated with:
    • Professional associations such as ACPA, AERA – for ideas and summer/pilot research
    • Scholarships through college, graduate school, department
    • Travel grants to meet with folks at conferences, seeds of ideas
Where to Begin? Stage 2

• Keeping stages in mind
  – Doctoral candidacy
    • [Link](https://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/the-art-of-writing-proposals/)
    • Fellowships of various sorts – again, similar sources but these also include foundations – AERA dissertation grants & 1x/yr special round for scholars of color, NaED/Spencer dissertation, others
    • Spencer is very inclusive methodologically and re: discipline
    • AERA grants more focused on quantitative methods and use of federally-funded large-scale datasets
  – Postdocs and early career awards
    • Foundations, federal agencies
    • These include Spencer small grant programs & AERA research grants and specific topic funding lines – e.g., deeper learning, or proposals as a co-PI to develop experience and prepare to be a PI

Read successful examples

FSU Successful Example Database: [https://www.research.fsu.edu/successfulproposal](https://www.research.fsu.edu/successfulproposal)

AERA: [https://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding/AERA-Funding-Opportunities/Grants-Program/Research-Grants/Funded-Research-Grants](https://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding/AERA-Funding-Opportunities/Grants-Program/Research-Grants/Funded-Research-Grants)

Spencer: [https://www.spencer.org/grant-archive](https://www.spencer.org/grant-archive)
  - see also recorded [webinar for applicants here](https://www.spencer.org/grant-archive) and [additional resources](https://www.spencer.org/grant-archive)

You can also reach out to funded folks here and in your networks, and ask program officer
Importance of editing, developing, networks

- On and close to you – accountability circles, can include NCFDD
- Early feedback with faculty, recommenders
- Revise and resubmit, edits
- Planning timelines for preparedness
- Communication is essential – with letter writers and potentially grant/fellowship contacts.
- Ask letter writers EARLY, before you’ve even committed to apply, if they would be willing – gives notification AND lets them offer advice.

Follow and Use Guides: Designed on Purpose

Office of Research Development Grant Writing Guide: All Purpose Suggestions

Contact the Program Officer Early! And Follow-Up if Needed Later for Any New Questions
They want to have the strongest pool possible and shaping the field is easier earlier than later

Review/Attend Pre-Submission Webinars for these Opportunities! E.g., Spencer (All Grants)

Spencer: A Guide to Writing Successful Field-Initiated Research Grant Proposals (PDF)
They now have guides specific for Qualitative and Quantitative Designs

AERA webinars for research preparation: https://aera.elevate.commpartners.com/
Use the Proposal (RFP) as a Strict Guide

- Echo the language – key/buzzwords
- Page limit.
- Font.
- Word count.
- Cover all the sections requested by the agency.
- Focus areas – echo that language/integrate into your proposal.
- Crosscheck your proposal against the Request for Proposals.

FROM KATHERINE YAUN, SENIOR GRANT EDITOR AT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION:
FOUNDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL

NIH “plain language” before and after examples:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/plain_language_examples.htm

Office of Research Development Plain Language help:
https://www.research.fsu.edu/research-offices/ord/proposal-help/communicating-your-work-to-any-audience/

Plain language is the law!

The Plain Writing Act of 2010 (H.R. 946/Public Law 111-274) requires the federal government to write documents, such as tax returns, federal college aid applications, and Veterans Administration forms in simple easy-to-understand language…"
Remember:
YOU are the emerging expert in your focused area

- Avoid saying things like “no one has ever researched” or “no research exists on…” – straw man problem -- often not true and irritates reviewers.
- Gaps are less appealing for funding than puzzles or problems – better setup: we misunderstand Y if we do not address Z...
- Still – you know and read the new work – showcase your motivation with confidence

QUESTIONS?
lperezfelkner@fsu.edu
https://Calendly.com/lperezfelkner