

Characteristics of Fundable Submissions

BRG PROGRAM

PROJECT FOCUS: Consider these questions:

- Is my project biotech or does it have a biotech application?
- What is its significance? Will success of this project be important to others?
- Is it innovative? Is it novel?
- If I am successful in achieving the aims that I have outlined in my proposal, then what next?

RESEARCH PLAN: Consider these questions:

- Is my research based on a testable hypothesis?
- What are my aims?
- Can I accomplish my aims within the allotted time period and budget allocation?
- Are my methods the most appropriate for what I am planning to do? Would alternate methods work?
- Have I justified my methods?
- Have I considered what might not work in my plans? What are the experimental pitfalls?

EXPERTISE: Consider this question:

- Do these proposal elements demonstrate an understanding of the project and of the materials and personnel needed?
 - CVs
 - Letters of Support
 - Personnel and Research Administration
 - Facilities
 - Budget
 - Budget Justification

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS for a Fundable BRG Project:

- Most are strongly hypothesis-driven and based on a SINGLE hypothesis.
- The rationale for the project is well-developed and supported by sound preliminary data.
- The innovation is clearly explained.

PEER REVIEW CRITERIA: Each proposal is reviewed externally based on the following criteria:

- **Scientific Merit:** Innovative and novel?
- **Project Impact:** Will the work advance the field significantly? Is there potential for I.P. Generation? Does the work have potential for development of commercial products derived from biotechnology or for economic impact to North Carolina? Will the project impact the research potential of the institution as a whole?
- **Feasibility:** Is the project logical? Can it be completed in time period allotted?
- **Expertise:** Does PI and collaborators have a thorough knowledge of the field?
- **Justification for Funding:** Is funding required for the PI to support growth or advancement in this area?
- **Future Funding Potential:** Potential to lead to federal funding? Is an ultimate commercial outcome feasible? What are sources of future funding?
- **Budget and Funding Justification:** Is funding required for the PI to support growth or advancement in this area? Is Budget sufficient but not inflated?

IDG PROGRAM

PROJECTS: Consider these questions:

- Has each major user described how their project is biotech?
- Has each major user described why the equipment is needed for his/her research and what it will be used for in their project?
- Has each major user provided enough experimental detail to be able to judge that the equipment will be used in an appropriate manner and that it will meet the needs of the project?

EQUIPMENT SELECTION: Consider these questions:

- Have I done a competitive analysis for what makes and models are available?
- Have I talked to other core facilities or users in the field to find out what they are using and why?
- Is the equipment appropriate for the scale of the research that will be performed?
- Is there similar equipment at my university, within my region, or elsewhere in the state?

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN: Consider these questions:

- Have I selected an individual(s) with the appropriate expertise to oversee and operate the equipment?
- Have I developed a training plan for the equipment operator and/or its individual users?
- Have I identified an appropriate place to house the equipment?
- Have I provided a plan for user scheduling?
- Have I determined how the costs of supplies, repairs, and long-term maintenance will be covered?

TIPS FROM NIH: Convince Reviewers of Five Key Points

- Your hypothesis is sound and important.
- Your specific aims are logical and feasible.
- You understand potential problems.
- You can analyze the data.
- You are the ideal candidate to perform this research

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