

Identifying Funding Resources

Spring 2025 Research and Grants Workshops

Research Development

- Identify Funding
- Networking
- Concept Development
- Grant Writing

Pre-Award

- Proposal Development
- Budget Development
- IRB/IACUC Approval
- Proposal Review
- Submission

Post-Award

- Award Acceptance
- Account Setup
- Financial Management
- Compliance and Reporting
- Close out

Types of Funding

Internal

- Funded by USC or USCA
- Designed to
 - Obtain preliminary data needed for external grants
 - Increase diversity
 - Promote scholarship
- High funding rate/small awards

External

- Federal
 - NSF, NIH, NOAA, NASA...
- State
 - SC DOE, SC EPSCOR....
- Corporate
 - SRNL, Bridgestone...
- Charities/Foundations/Donors
- Low funding rate/large awards

Internal Funding Sources

Name	Amount	Description	Due Dates
RISE https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research/internal_funding_awards/faculty/rise/index.php	\$6,000	Financial support for research and scholarly activities at USC's system campuses (i.e. USCA)	December
ASPIRE I https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research/internal_funding_awards/faculty/aspire/index.php	\$15,000	Financial support for <u>early</u> career faculty to establish externally funded research at all USC campuses	April
Summer Scholars https://www.usca.edu/research/undergraduate-research/summer-scholars-institute-college/	\$5,000	Mentoring a STEM student in the Summer Scholars Program	Spring
HAS Travel Award	~\$1,000	Travel funding for those presenting scholarly work at conferences and meetings	Spring and Fall
SMART https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research/internal_funding_awards/faculty/smart.php	\$1,000	Mentor an underrepresented minority student for an 8-week summer research program	June

Historical External Funding at USCA

- SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy/BCBS Foundation
- SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO)/NNSA/DOE
- Battelle Savannah River Alliance, LLC (BSRA)/DOE
- SC Universities Research and Education Foundation (SCUREF)/SRNS/NNSA/DOE
- Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC/DOE
- SC Universities Research and Education Foundation (SCUREF)/SRNL/DOE
- SRS Community Reuse Organization(SRSCRO)/NNSA/DOE
- SC Department of Social Services (SCDSS)/HHS
- College of Charleston/NASA (EPSCoR)
- National Audubon Society, Inc.
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)/NIH
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- SC Soybean Board
- SC Department of Education (SCDE)

USC Research News

News & Publications

The Office of the Vice President for Research communications team showcases USC's innovative researchers and programs, and their economic impacts through a variety of news stories, print and multimedia publications.

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https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research/news_and_pubs/index.php



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Limited Submissions

- Some funding agencies limit the number of applicants from each institution.
- USC will have an internal competition to select the most competitive candidate(s) to submit a proposal.
- If you plan to submit a proposal for consideration, your proposal submission **MUST** be coordinated with the Office of the Vice President for Research through Research and Grant Development Services. *This process is critical as extra submissions can result in all submissions being denied.*

https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research_and_grant_development/funding/limited_submissions/index.php

Identifying funding sources

- Communicate with colleagues
- Pivot[®] /Agency searches
- Previously funded research/Publications indicating funding source
- Collaboration/Networking
- Communicate with to program directors

Talk to colleagues about funding sources

- Faculty, Department Chair, Dean
- Pitch ideas
- Get feedback

Pivot[®]

- Search funding opportunities
- Create profile (ORCID)
- Create custom email funding alerts
- Save and track funding opportunities, share them with potential collaborators.

[https://www.sc.edu/about/offices and divisions/research and grant development/funding/pivot.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research_and_grant_development/funding/pivot.php)

Search Granting Organization Websites

- **Grants.gov**

<https://www.grants.gov/search-grants>

- **NSF**

<https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities>

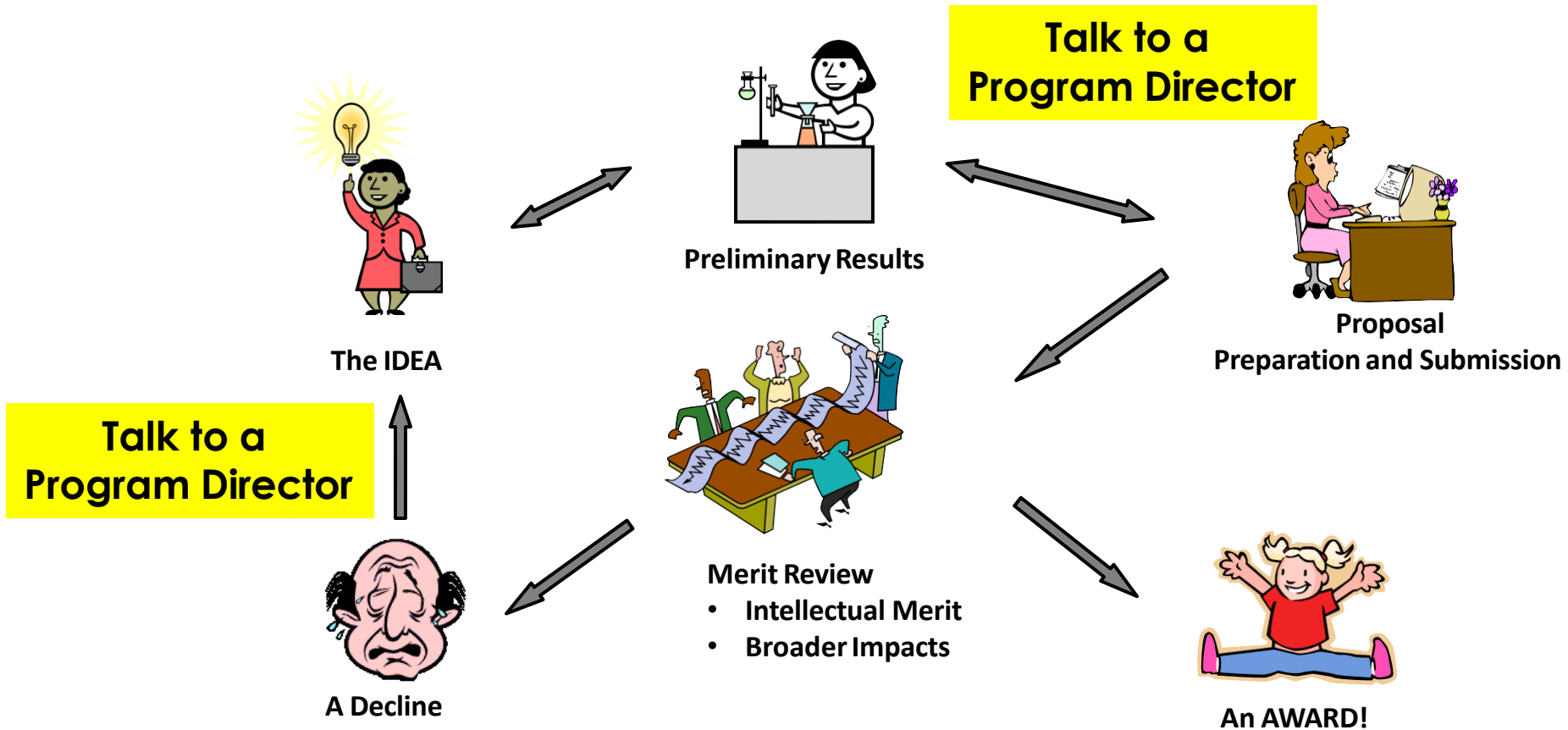
- Browse projects funded by this program

<https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?ProgEleCode=132900%2C757700&BooleanElement=Any&BooleanRef=Any&ActiveAwards=true#results>

Identifying Collaborators/Networking

- Attend relevant meetings/sessions
- Look for complementary expertise
- Engage in conversation during breaks
- Introduce yourself to presenters
- Be prepared to discuss your research
- Exchange contact information
- Follow up with emails

Proposal Cycle from PI's Perspective





Why Contact a Program Director?

- To introduce yourself, your research program, and a specific project idea
- To seek guidance on the fit of your project idea within/across NSF programs
- To ask specific questions about the NSF proposal submission and review process



Before You Contact A Program Director

Do your homework

- Peruse the NSF website (www.nsf.gov) to try and identify the most appropriate Program and Program Director
- Read info on Division websites to learn about the scientific priorities of specific programs
- Read relevant solicitations (e.g., NSF 18-585 for MCB)
- If you have never submitted to NSF before, skim the intro chapter of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide ([PAPPG](#)); NSF 20-1



Introducing Yourself

In the body of the email message:

- Provide a brief introduction to yourself
 - Current position and institution
 - General area of research interest
 - Educational/broader impact interests
 - Whether you have submitted a proposal to NSF (or any agency) previously
 - A link to your institutional or personal webpage
(include links of relevant investigators if collaborative project)



Seeking Guidance

More for the body of the email:

- State what kind of advice you are seeking
 - Program fit
 - Explain why you think this may be the right program
 - Present alternatives you are considering
 - Type of proposal to submit, e.g., CAREER, RUI, other
- Ask any other specific questions/request a meeting



Introducing Your Research

In the attachment:

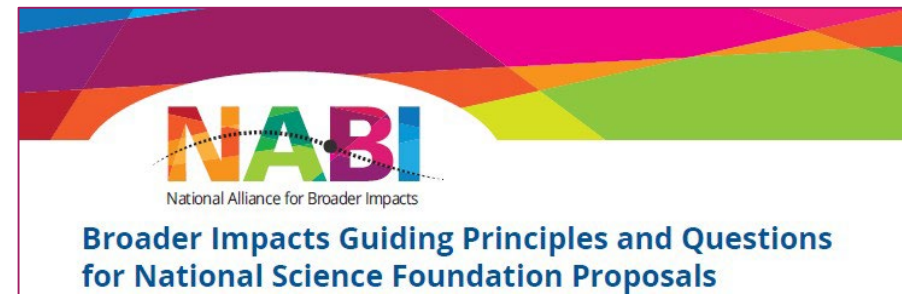
- Put your name on the first line!
- Describe your research idea
 - Brief intro to the field
 - Current state of knowledge and important gaps in understanding
 - Critical questions and hypotheses
 - Overview of plans to address hypotheses
 - Expected outcomes
 - Anticipated impact - how outcomes will advance the field



More for the attachment

Also:

- Highlight, as appropriate
 - Potentially innovative or transformative elements
 - Interdisciplinary aspects of the research
- Briefly outline your broader impacts plan
 - Need resources?
 - <https://www.researchinsociety.org/guiding-principles>





Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
Present relevant info on current state of the field	Waste half a page on general knowledge
Highlight overarching hypotheses and tightly focused specific aims	Bury the core goals and strengths of the project in dense text
Provide an overview of planned approaches or experiments	Get bogged down in experimental details
Explain your motivation, especially if the research is health related	Propose research that is disease-motivated
Write clearly and avoid technical jargon	Make the font too small; it's OK if your "one-pager" goes a bit over