

Strategic Thinking About Extramural Research Funding

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Questions to consider for development of a new grant application

1. What are my strengths?
 - a. What have I recently published?
 - b. What have I recently discovered?
 - c. What are my research interests and goals?
2. Do I have adequate time (several months) to prepare a competitive application?
 - a. How does this application fit into my 3-5 year grant writing plan?
3. Is my proposal idea timely, feasible and is it poised to make an impact?
4. Who is currently funded in this research area?
 - a. Have I used the NIH rePORTER to identify currently funded awards?
5. Which is the best funding agency/institute for supporting this research?
6. Who are the Program Officers and Institutes I need to connect with **before** I begin writing?
 - a. Have I used the NIH rePORTER Matchmaker function?
7. Who is the Program Officer (and Institute) most likely to have a long-term interest in adding my research program to their portfolio?
 - a. Have I communicated with the PO?
8. Have I gathered the best investigators as collaborators?
9. Do I understand the process by which my application will be reviewed?
10. Which NIH study section should I request for review of my application?
11. Do I have a plan for receiving feedback on my application prior to submission?
12. Who can best assist me with discussions of these questions?