

INVESTIGATOR READINESS ASSESSMENT

PROPOSAL WRITING

1. What is your **MOTIVATION** for writing a proposal?
 - a) I am obligated by tenure or other organizational duties
 - b) I need funding for an adjacent project
 - c) I want to further my education or the field of study

2. Will you have the **TIME** to write a quality proposal?
 - a) I have a full class load and after-work obligations, so very little time
 - b) I have both a teaching and research appointment with time to write every week
 - c) I have ADR's who encourage research and will give me release time and support to write daily

3. Have you **IDENTIFIED** a request for application/proposal?
 - a) I know how to find one on grants.gov or another search engine
 - b) I plan on fitting my idea to an RFA that I've found
 - c) I have been waiting on a perfect fit RFA to reopen.

4. Have you **SOURCED** information on what has already been funded through this competition?
 - a) I have not searched for other projects funded through this.
 - b) I know a couple of PIs who were funded last year.
 - c) I know how to use NSF Award Search, NIH RePORTER, and other sources of funded projects

5. Have you had time to **READ** the request for application and/or grant guidelines?
 - a) I have read the title and it seems like it might fit
 - b) I have skimmed the requirements and think I can get it to work out
 - c) I have studied the agency's detailed program plan and have sketched an outline

6. Can you identify your department's **BUSINESS MANAGER** or **GRANTS & CONTRACTS SPECIALIST**?
 - a) I do not know if our department has those staff available
 - b) I know we have those personnel but not who they are
 - c) I have reached out to one or the other for assistance

7. Do you have the **PRELIMINARY DATA** necessary for research or have you created a basic program plan?
 - a) I have a general idea I've been wanting to try but no real data or plan
 - b) This is my opportunity to collect data or pilot a program
 - c) I want to further research that I've already begun or want to build or expand a well thought program

8. Do you have an idea of the **COSTS** associated with your activities for a basic budget?
 - a) I do not have activities planned yet, nor have I identified personnel needs
 - b) I have a basic idea of what I want to accomplish but have not quotes or estimates
 - c) I have outlined the associated costs and received quotes and information related to those costs

AWARD & PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Will you have the TIME to dedicate to implementation?**
 - a) I planned to hire others to do most of the work
 - b) I can devote the minimum amount of time since I have a heavy teaching schedule
 - c) I have ADR's who encourage research and will give me release time and support

- 2. Have you thoroughly READ your award contract and are you AWARE of agency requirements placed inside award documents?**
 - a) I received the contract in an email, but I haven't read it
 - b) I glanced at the award number, award dates, and final award amount
 - c) I carefully read through the award document and am aware of all requirements

- 3. Have you discussed your EXPECTATIONS with associated project personnel?**
 - a) I have not spoken to these people since they agreed to be written into the proposal
 - b) I have set a meeting with included personnel but have no agenda
 - c) I have sent an agenda to personnel and set up times to discuss their participation

- 4. Have you thought about how your team will COMMUNICATE issues/tasks with the group?**
 - a) I figured we would play it by ear as things come up
 - b) I have thought about best practices to keep the group informed but have not finalized anything
 - c) I have a written plan to give to each team member detailing expectations and best practices for communicating progress and issues

- 5. Are you aware of the annual or quarterly REPORTING requirements of the funding agency?**
 - a) I did not know I would have to report to anyone on the project's progress
 - b) I know that reports are required but have no idea of what is included
 - c) I made myself aware of reporting requirements before I submitted the proposal

- 6. Have you considered your state of READINESS at the time of award?**
 - a) I thought the first year of the program was for preparing
 - b) I have some site or structural issues that might cause a delay in beginning activities
 - c) I am ready to begin according to my proposed timeline, aside from unexpected delays

- 7. Have you initiated contact with your DEPARTMENTAL business manager or coordinator to assist with spending oversight and post-award tickets or other award maintenance?**
 - a) I know that I have a department personnel who can help with spending practices
 - b) I have reached out to my department personnel to discuss MSU policies on spending and verifying allowable and nonallowable spending and other award maintenance issues
 - c) This ain't my first rodeo, and I know exactly where to go if I have issues arise