Grant Writing Scholarship & Strategies

Part 1

Thursday, April 25, 2024

CU Denver

Agenda

- Introductions
- Resources available to faculty at CU Denver
- Understanding funders & the funding landscape
- How to find funding
- Reading a Request for Proposals

Introductions

Before we begin, let's get to know each other….

1. State your name

2. Your position at CU Denver

3. Tell us your research story (if relevant share how grants/grant writing are part of your story)

"To be a successful academic, it is not enough merely to have mastered the craft of writing intelligibly. You must also be creative enough to produce original research, persuasive enough to convey the significance of your findings to others, prolific enough to feed the tenure and promotion machine, confident enough to withstand the slings and arrows of peer review, strategic enough to pick your way safely through the treacherous terrain of academic politics, well organized enough to juggle multiple roles and commitments, and persistent enough to keep on writing and publishing no matter what. So how do academics gain this formidable set of skills, if not through formal training?"

Helen Sword

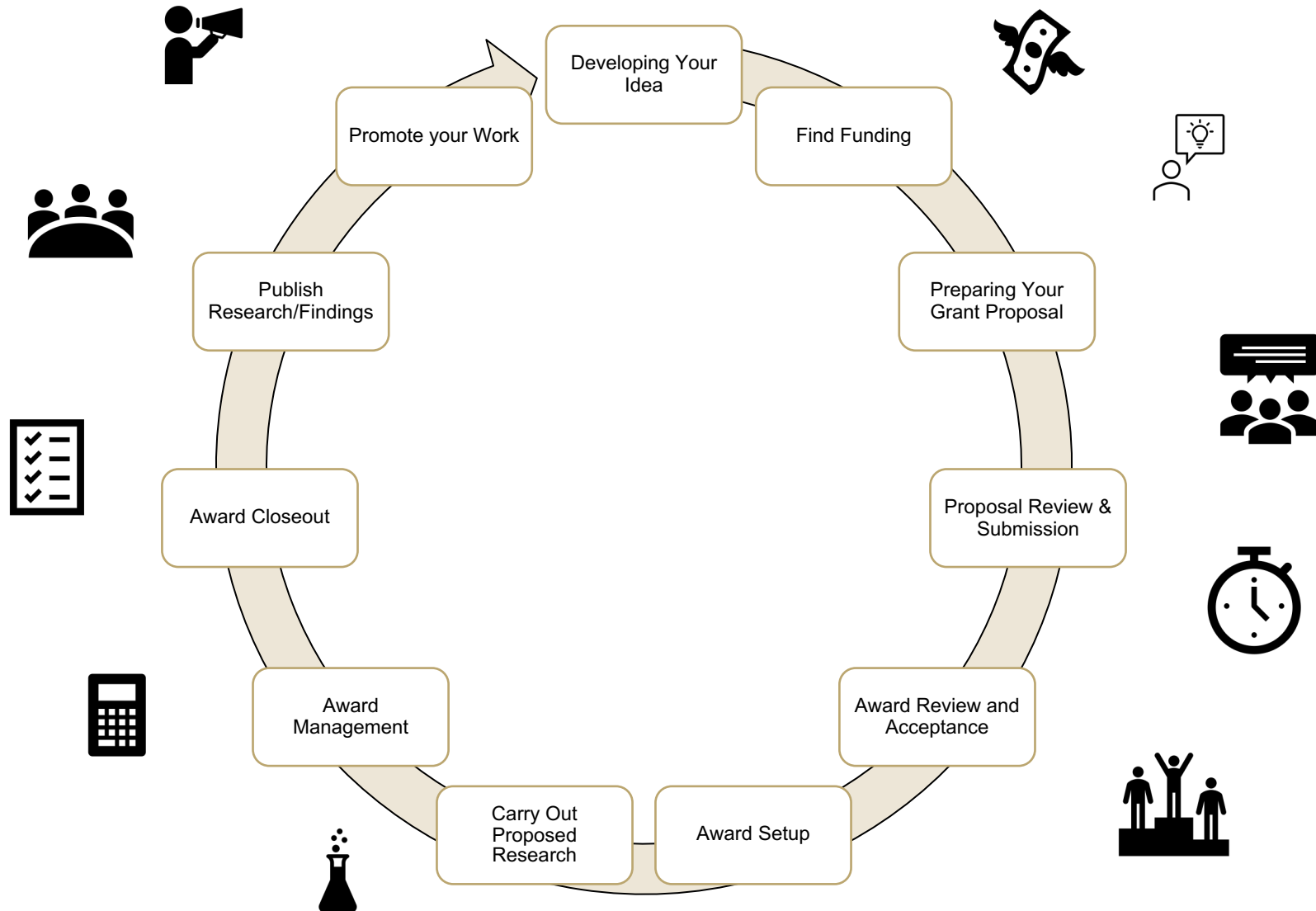*Air & Light & Time & Space: How Successful Academics Write*

Group Brainstorm

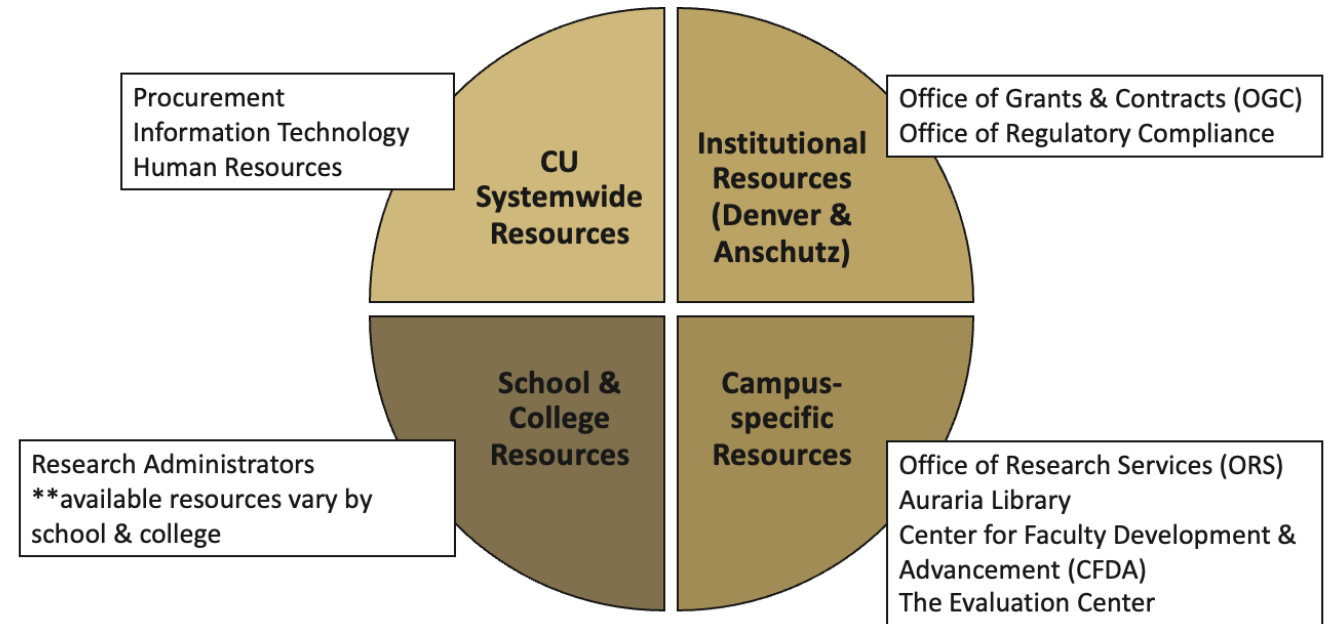What are some of the questions you currently have related to grants and grant writing?

CU Denver Resources

The Research Lifecycle

Resources Across the CU System

Procurement
Information Technology
Human Resources

CU Systemwide Resources

Institutional Resources (Denver & Anschutz)

Office of Grants & Contracts (OGC)
Office of Regulatory Compliance

School & College Resources

Campus-specific Resources

Research Administrators
**available resources vary by school & college

Office of Research Services (ORS)
Auraria Library
Center for Faculty Development & Advancement (CFDA)
The Evaluation Center

Research Lifecycle: Preaward

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Faculty Administrative Responsibilities

The Office of Grants & Contracts strongly encourages all faculty to complete (2) online courses via Skillsoft to support their role as faculty research leads or Principal Investigators. Faculty should also check with their school/college to ensure they can act as a PI/PD on behalf of the institution.

SHARE   BOOKMARK

Grants and Contracts

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📋 **Custom**

💡 **CU: Direct Charging to Sponsored Projects**   **LAUNCH** ⋮

  Custom - Course: 30 Minutes

💡 **CU: ePER - electronic Personnel Effort Reporting**   **LAUNCH** ⋮

  Custom - Course: 45 Minutes

All personnel involved in the conduct of human subject research must complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). Instructions for this training can be found on the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board website.

Faculty must also have an up-to-date Conflict of Interest form on file via the InfoEd eRA portal. This form must be on file prior to submission to federal agencies.

Developing Your Ideas

- As you think about developing your research/creative activities it's important that you take the following steps:
  - Conduct a literature review & identify gap(s) in the literature
  - Clarify your research question
  - Engage your network & get feedback and input on your idea
  - Work with your mentor(s)
  - Speak to your department chair, Dean or pre-award specialist to determine if your idea is fundable

Suggested Reading: What's the Right Way to Find a Mentor?

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Developing Your Ideas: WHO to go to & WHEN

Auraria Library

Support with literature review; developing research questions; data management plan consultation; ORCiD & Google Scholar Citations set up.

Office of Research Services

External funding support; promoting faculty collaboration; support with proposal development; support navigating pre-award processes.

Center for Faculty Development & Advancement

New faculty orientation; early-career faculty mentoring program; writing groups.

In addition to these resources, which are available to all CU Denver faculty, you should consult a mentor, faculty colleague, the Chair & Dean of your department, as well as the pre-award specialist in your college/school/office.

What other resources have YOU used at CU Denver to develop your research and creative ideas?

Research Personnel Support Within Schools & Colleges @ CU Denver

College of Architecture & Planning

- Michelle Haynes; Grants, Contracts, Cooperative Agreements & Service Agreements
- Stephanie Kelly; Assistant Dean of Finance & Administration
- Meg Touborg; Director of Development (Gifts)

College of Arts & Media

- Anthony Wilson; Finance & Operations Manager
- Teri Wilson; Director of People Operations/HR
- Leah Haloin; Asst. Director of the National Center for Media Forensics
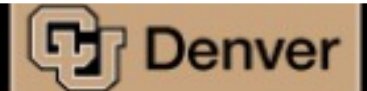- Creativity Pipeline

Business School

- Lauren K. Galleri; Human Resources & Payroll Director
- Terri Mellinger; Expenditure Control & Compliance
- Connie Amen; Asst. Dean of Finance & HR

School of Education & Human Development

- Patricia Bell, Assistant Dean of Finance & HR
- The Research Center
- The Evaluation Center
- SEHD Wiki

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Research Personnel Support Within Schools & Colleges @ CU Denver

College of Engineering, Design & Computing

ENGR

- Ali Pearks; Assistant Director of Research Development
- Karen Gilbert; Manager, Grants & Contracts
- Michelle Jaramillo; Senior Businesses Services Professional
- Christine Bravo, Pre-Award Grants Specialist
- Jason O'Connore, Post-Award

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

CLAS

- Laura Argys; Associate Dean for Research & Creative Activities
- Carol Achziger; Grants Development Coordinator
- Tracy Kohm; Grants Management Specialist

School of Public Affairs

SPA

- Lauren Goolsby; Director of Budget & Research Services
- Dao Vue; Finance & Accounting Manager

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Additional Research Support Within Schools & Colleges @ CU Denver

- Office of Research & Creative Activities within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Center for Practice Engaged Education Research within the School of Education and Human Development
- The Research Center within the School of Education and Human Development
- Research and Creative Activities Resources within the College of Engineering, Design and Computing
- Grants and Contracts Procedures within the School of Public Affairs

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Writing Support at CU Denver

- **CU Denver Writing Center**
  - Supports faculty with professional-development and course/curriculum courses; a variety of workshops and handouts are available on the Writing Center website; the Center can connect faculty with qualified editors as well (this is a pay for use service)
- **Student Interns via the Technical & Professional Writing Undergraduate Certificate Program**
  - FREE student support for faculty writing and preparing grant applications; submit your query via this short google form
- **Center for Faculty Development & Advancement (CFDA)**
  - Offers Writing programs & retreats which offers networking opportunities and access to information and strategies to maximize writing time and effort; support for faculty Writing Affinity Groups.

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Funding: How to Find it & Understand What Funders are Looking for
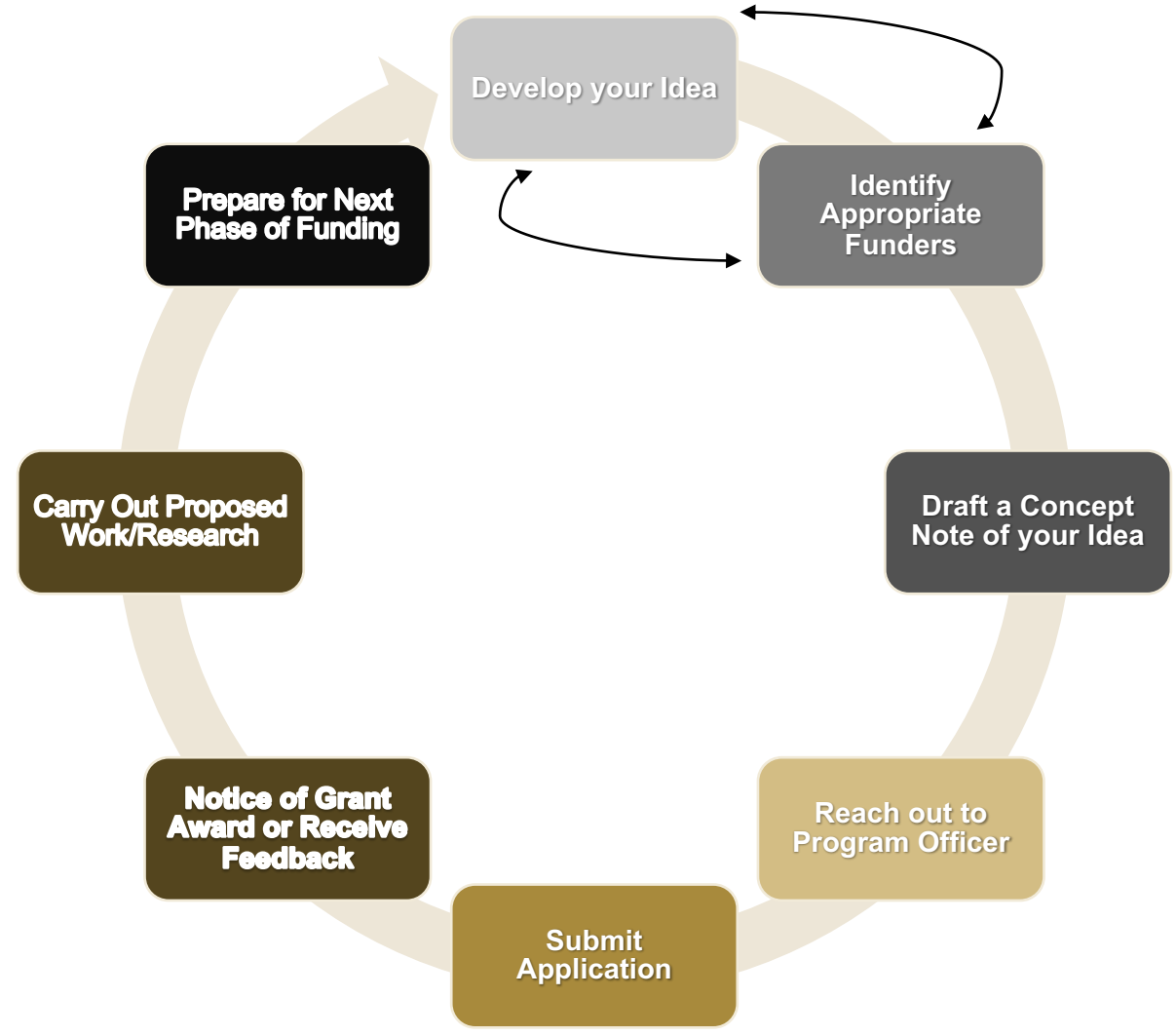
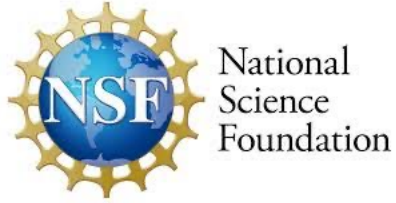CU Denver

An Overview of the Grantmaking Process

- This process can vary by sponsor & funding mechanism
- It's not this sequential, so it often requires some flexibility and adaptability
- The Office of Research Services (ORS) is available to review concept notes and ensure you are being responsive to the solicitation

How to Contact Program Officers

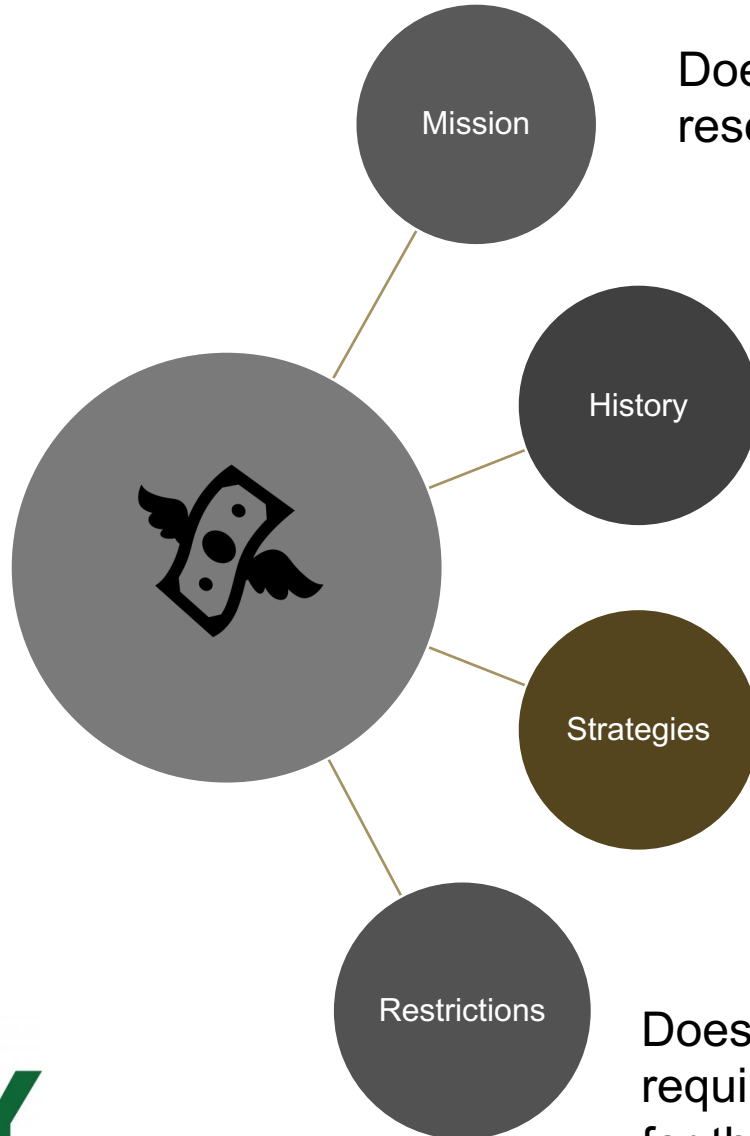Develop your Idea

Identify Appropriate Funders

Draft a Concept Note of your Idea

Reach out to Program Officer

Submit Application

Notice of Grant Award or Receive Feedback

Carry Out Proposed Work/Research

Prepare for Next Phase of Funding

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Who will fund your work?

BILL&MELINDA GATES *foundation*

National Science Foundation

NIH National Institutes of Health

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

IES Institute of Education Sciences

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mission
Does the sponsor have a mission that aligns with your research or creative activity goals?

History
Is there a history of funding similar or related projects?

Strategies
Does the sponsor have a stated strategy or focus that encompasses your project area?

Restrictions
Does the sponsor have restrictions, limitations or requirements that affect eligibility or have implications for the type or amount of award?

Example: What has the NSF Funded Previously?

From here you can perform a simple or advanced search

- Understanding what a sponsor has funded previously allows you to:
  - Assess fit or relevance for your own work
  - Understand if your work is novel or cutting edge
  - Investigate what other projects a Program Officer may be overseeing→ are you noticing any trends?
  - Find collaborators or grow your network

NSF Award Search Guide

NEH Past Awards   NIH RePORTER   Robert Wood Johnson Awarded Grants

CU Denver *Internal* Funding Opportunities

Internal Funding Opportunities at CU Denver

- Why is internal funding important?
  - Can provide an avenue for exploratory work or new directions
  - Can lay foundation for developing competitive proposals for external funding
  - Creates a more equitable research climate by diversifying pool of faculty that are developing and leading research and creative activities projects
  - Certain funds can support professional development activities
- Internal funding is subject to change so it's important to check online and verify

ORS Seed Grants Program

- The focus for these planning grants is to support preliminary work in preparation for an external funding application

- **Arts and Humanities Seed Grants Program**
  - ~8 awards/year of up to $10,000 ea.
    - Has a Fall & Spring Cycle
    - PI Eligibility: full time T/TT & IRC faculty
- **Open/All-Disciplines Seed Grants Program**
  - ~12 awards/year of up to $10,000 ea.
    - Has a Fall & Spring Cycle
    - PI Eligibility: full time T/TT & IRC faculty
- **Convergence Research Seed Grant Program (2024)**
  - Supports planning, team formation, and proposal development around "high impact" interdisciplinary research and creative work to sustain the Grand Challenge initiative
  - Program budget: ranges from $50k (Type 2 Planning Awards) to $100k (Type 1 Development Awards)
  - PI Eligibility: full time T/TT faculty

ORS Seed Grants Programs

Center for Faculty Development & Advancement

- **Tenured Faculty Professional Development Fund**
  - Funds to augment tenured faculty members' existing sources of professional development funding
  - Amount: $1000 (must have matching funds)
  - Deadline: 3/15/2024

- **Early Career Professional Development Grant**
  - Funds to support TT assistant professors as they advance toward tenure
  - Amount: $500 (must have matching funds)
  - Three deadlines: 9/29/23, 2/2/24, 3/29/24 (if funds remain)

- **Faculty Success Program Grants**
  - Offers (8) funded spots in the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity's Faculty Success Program
  - Deadline: ~September to participate in the following Spring
  - Eligibility: any faculty with research as part of their contract

- **IRC Faculty Professional Development Grant (IRC-PDG)**
  - Professional development support to instructional, research and clinical teaching track faculty
  - Amount: $1000
  - Two Fall deadlines: 9/23 & 11/27

Center for Faculty Development & Advancement
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The Division for Teaching Innovation & Program Strategy

- <u>**Teaching Innovation Grants**</u>
  - To support faculty exploration, implementation, and evaluation of new and emerging pedagogies, practices, and technologies, with attention to specific trends and research that are of critical importance to students, faculty, and staff at CU Denver.
  - There will be two cycles of Teaching Innovation Grants–each a competitive process–for the 2023-2024 academic year:
    - **Fall 2023 Cycle**: Apply by May 1st, 2023; funding available from July 1st to December 31st, 2023.
    - **Spring 2024 Cycle**: Apply by November 3rd, 2023; funding available January 15th to June 30th, 2024
  - Individual awards up to $1,000
  - Eligibility: All faculty

Funding Opportunities Within CU Denver Schools & Colleges

- **College of Arts & Media**
  - Faculty Development Grants
    - ~12 awards/year of up to $2,500
    - Eligibility: T/TT & clinical teaching track CAM faculty
- **College of Architecture & Planning**
  - CAP EVOLVE Seed Grants
    - Up to $10,000 to support new or ongoing work to leverage additional support
    - Eligibility: CAP faculty

Funding Opportunities Within CU Denver Schools & Colleges

- **College of Engineering, Design & Computing**
  - CEDC Strategic Initiatives Seed Fund
    - Discretionary Funds that innovatively contribute to the goals of the Strategic Plan in any way
    - Eligibility: Full time faculty & staff
- **School of Education & Human Development**
  - Faculty Development Grant
    - Up to $1000 awarded to support a variety of faculty development activities
    - Eligibility: Unclear

Funding Opportunities Within CU Denver Schools & Colleges

- **College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Small Grants Program**
  - Presentation & Publication grant
    - To assist with sharing completed/near-completed research and creative work with other scholars
    - Up to $1000
  - Research Launch or Completion grant
    - To assist with expenses related to furthering work on a new or ongoing research/creative project
    - Up to $1000

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CU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Funding Opportunities Through the Colorado Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute

- CTRC MicroGrants Program
- Colorado Pilot Program
- Child and Maternal Health Pilot Program
- Community Engagement Pilot Program
- Translational Methods
- CCTSI KL 2 Program

Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

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CU Denver is a CCTSI-affiliated institute, meaning CU Denver faculty (assuming other criteria are met) are able to apply for grants through CCTSI. Most grants require applicants to be a CCTSI member, which is free, learn more here.

Funding Opportunities Across the CU System

- **President's Fund for the Humanities**
  - To promote arts & humanities research & scholarly activities of faculty at CU
  - Amount: up to $15,000 for one year
  - Eligibility: T/TT, clinical teaching faculty from all disciplines
- **Timmerhaus Fund Ambassadors**
  - Focused on activities that promote public understanding of the value of education in Colorado and elsewhere
  - Amount: $5,000-$30,000
  - Two cycles each year
  - Eligibility: Unclear

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*Finding & Securing **External** Funding*

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SPIN

World's Largest Database of
Sponsored Funding Opportunities

- **S**ponsored **P**rograms **I**nformation **N**etwork
- A searchable database for federal & non-federal sponsors
- It's accessible through InfoED
- Has several advantages:
  - Many ways to search
  - Allows you to save searches
  - You can create customized funding alert notices
- Supported by CU so access is free
- Access a step-by-step guide for using SPIN, available here

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https://research.ucdenver.edu/funding/spin

Pivot

- Pivot is a comprehensive database of funding opportunities & collaborators across all disciplines
- CU Denver now offers free access to and use of Pivot (in addition to SPIN)
- Faculty can sign up now OR wait for the University to launch SSO
- Two Pivot trainings will be held in June (5th & 11th) as part of professional development
- A Pivot training will be integrated into our Faculty Grants Academy

Other Search Engines for External Funding

- ‣ Federal Funding Opportunities (e.g. NIH, NSF, NEH, DOJ/E/D…)
  - ‣ Grants.gov
  - ‣ SAM.gov → some overlap with grants.gov, aggregates government contracts
  - ‣ NSPIRES → for NASA funding
- ‣ Foundation Funding Opportunities
  - ‣ Philanthropy News Digest → publishes RFPs for U.S.-based nonprofit and grantmaking organizations
  - ‣ Foundations will also display current grant opportunities on their website
- ‣ There are additional search engines but they often require a paid subscription to access, read more here

Relevant ListServs & Newsletters to Know About

- There are a plethora of ListServs to be part of which will provide updates regarding current funding opportunities and other pertinent information
  - OGC News
  - Lewis Burke Highlights → this is a newsletter but it contains funding opportunities
  - Academic Research Funding Strategies
    - This site contains helpful information and has a paid newsletter
  - Listservs for specific funders: NIH, NSF, USDA, etc.
    - NSF has a newsletter you can sign up for here
    - You can sign up for DOE funding alerts here
  - Aggregator sites (e.g. SPIN, Grants.gov) will allow you to set funding parameters which are then emailed on a schedule that you can set (daily, weekly, etc)

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Large Group Discussion:

What are some other ways you look for funding opportunities?

Understanding a Request for Proposals

What is a Request for Proposal?

- Grant solicitations start with the funding agency (aka the sponsor) publishing a funding opportunity, often called an RFP

- **RFP** stands for Request for Proposals and is an agency-created document detailing an open call for submissions for a particular project
  - The RFP is the guiding document for your proposal
  - Other acronyms used include **RFA** (Request for Applications), **NOFO** (Notice of Funding Opportunity), etc (see Key Terms & Definitions for more examples).

- The format and requirements differ, but all grant notifications contain some common elements

- The PI/PD, including any members of the proposal team, are responsible for reading and understanding the RFP
  - If you have questions or something is unclear, you can seek guidance from your College/School's research administrator or ORS

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Initial Questions to ask of an RFP

- **Am I eligible?**
  - This is the first thing to look for….are you even able to submit an application?
  - There may be PI/PD or institutional requirements that must be met
- **Is this a limited submission?**
  - See handout for CU Denver's Limited Submission guidance
- **What is the deadline?**
  - Some RFPs have multiple deadlines, for example, some may ask for a Letter of Intent (LOI) before the actual application due date
- **What is required for an application?**
  - Understanding all the proposals elements will allow you to determine the feasibility of submitting a strong proposal before the deadline
- **Ask, am I and/or my project a good fit for this funding opportunity?**
  - Consider readiness to apply and potential competitiveness

"Fred, rumor has it you're closing in on some profound, elemental truths about the universe, and I wanted to remind you that our research funding specifically prohibits that!"

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Wrapping Up

- There are several available resources at CU Denver to support faculty in their research and writing efforts
  - Your College/School's Research Administrator and the Office of Research Services are great resources you can (and should) leverage
- Understanding what funders are looking for and what types of funders are most likely to fund your work is a great way to develop a well-funded research/creative activities portfolio
- You MUST diversify how you look for funding
  - There are resources for funding searchers supported by CU but also external to the CU system
- Once you find a funding opportunity of interest, the first step is to read the funder's solicitation to determine:
  - If you are eligible
  - If the opportunity is a good fit for you and your work

Reflection

How do you anticipate using some of the information shared today in your work and grant-seeking plans?

Agenda for Workshop # 2

- Recap of resources available to faculty at CU Denver

- Assessing readiness to apply for a funding opportunity

- Elements of scholarly/academic writing

- How can AI support your writing?

- How to write a competitive proposal

- Reaching out to Program Officers & getting feedback on your ideas