



## Slides

- **#1-2**
  - You have ideas – they come quickly for some people, others not so much. But you only need a few good ideas.
  - Get to the point and what you want to do quickly! (Don't spend too much space on introduction, prior research, etc.)
  - Timeline must be reasonable and understandable for funder
  - A good work plan can be useful for carrying out the project as well as getting funding (but you can adapt and be flexible)
  - Reviewers appreciate a shorter proposal (<15 pages or whatever is the page limit)
  - Get to know the people involved to make the process smoother
- **#3**
  - Successful proposals and successful projects benefit both the PIs and the funders!
  - Is the mission broad or specific? Read materials carefully.
- **#4**
  - Disagreed with Jim on this cartoon. The "Maybe" box always has the most proposals (70-80%). Bad proposals, fewer than 10%. Very few excellent proposals (really good idea, impressive collaboration and persuasive writing). But in this "Maybe" box, some will be funded, some will not. Try to get yours in the "funded" section.
- **#5**
  - Review by email request first and then panel. Sometimes panel only!
  - Program officers have different levels of input, depending on agency and on project.

Questions asked:

**1. How to serve on a panel?**

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/merit-review/volunteer>

**2. What stood out about the outstanding/definitely fund proposals and the definitely don't fund?**

- Either a bad idea, or perhaps don't get to the idea until the last page!
- Outstanding → stated clearly what they wanted to do, why the science addressed the need, clear pathway to do the work. Also new original ideas



Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences  
University of Colorado **Boulder**

---

in each proposal – even perhaps a little outside of the field that reviewers were focused on. Lab work + field work proposals were interesting!

- Program officer will review and perhaps adjust the budget
- Make sure that the idea and work stand out. Repeat yourself but not too much.
- Get people to review the proposal with you!

**3. Does adding students or postdocs to the proposal helps with proposal selection for funding?**

- Not really, unless the grant includes an educational focus. (I didn't say this, but adding an undergraduate student, where appropriate, can be a small expense and help the proposal and project. Probably more for on-campus research. Not so much for proposals from NOAA labs.)

**4. How useful is it to submit the LOI for a proposal if it is not required? Is it better to call the manager to check if the proposal idea would fit in the program?**

- If required, yes
- If recommended, almost certainly yes
- If not required, you don't have to call if you have submitted often and they know you

**5. Budget was called out for "seems like too much". Sometimes we aren't looking for a full budget because there is some internal funding already, but then it looks like we are going to do too much with the budget asked.**

- Use the budget justification to include some of that information
- Can't ask for money from two funders to do the same thing
- You really have to be clear about the scope of the project. Don't make it the scope of the whole program. Be clear about what you are asking for with this funding.
- Don't say that you have funding for this project already. Be clear how they are separate.
- You only have to justify what you are asking for! Don't have to explain what else you are doing.
- "Complementary but not overlapping".

**6. Private foundations preparation?**

- Don't have to follow gov't rules
- Ask them on the phone, preferably not in writing, if you should include the financial ask on a one-pager.