

SOURCING FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

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Presentation Outline

- ❖ **What is a research grant?**
- ❖ **Types/Forms of research grants**
- ❖ **Why apply for a grant?**
- ❖ **How to source for research grants?**
- ❖ **Research funding agencies**
- ❖ **Overcoming funders antipathy**
- ❖ **Where are we with research grants in UB?**

WHAT IS A RESEARCH GRANT?

- “A grant is a **MECHANISM** by which a funding agency awards **MONEY** to fund a specific research study or other activity, such as an educational program, service program, demonstration, or research project.”

What is a Grant?.....

- A Grant is a **conditional gift** or a conveyance of funds with **strings** attached.
- The funding source identifies the **problem** they want addressed, but no **outcome** is known.
- The **idea** on how to solve the problem originates with the **grantee**.

Types of Grants.....(I)

- **Small to medium size grants**
 - Best for beginners such as graduates, postdocs, fellowships
 - Substantial Track record/ experience not compulsory
 - Usually awarded by NGOs, charity organizations, Govts
 - E.g IFS, TDR/WHO
- **Large grants**
 - Large in volume & complexities
 - Research credibility crucial
 - Multidisciplinary studies highly solicited
 - Networking/collaboration
 - Eg Carnegie Foundation, WHO, NIH, EU, EDCTP, DAAD, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation etc

Types of Grants.....(II)

- Scholarships**
- Fellowships/Residencies**
- Curriculum Development**
- Infrastructure/Equipment**
- Endowments**
- Travel/Conference Grant etc**

**There is something for
Everyone**

Why apply for a grant? (I)

- ❖ Advance scientific knowledge in your field AND advance your professional career.
- ❖ A grant means that experts in the field acknowledge your idea as important and worthy of public or private support.
- ❖ A grant means an enhanced prestige of your institution.

Why apply for a grant? (II)

- A grant means a contribution to the financial health of your department, school/faculty or institution
- A grant means new opportunities for your research collaborators/assistants.
- A grant means a newly funded program that otherwise can be too expensive for your institution to support and implement

Why start now?

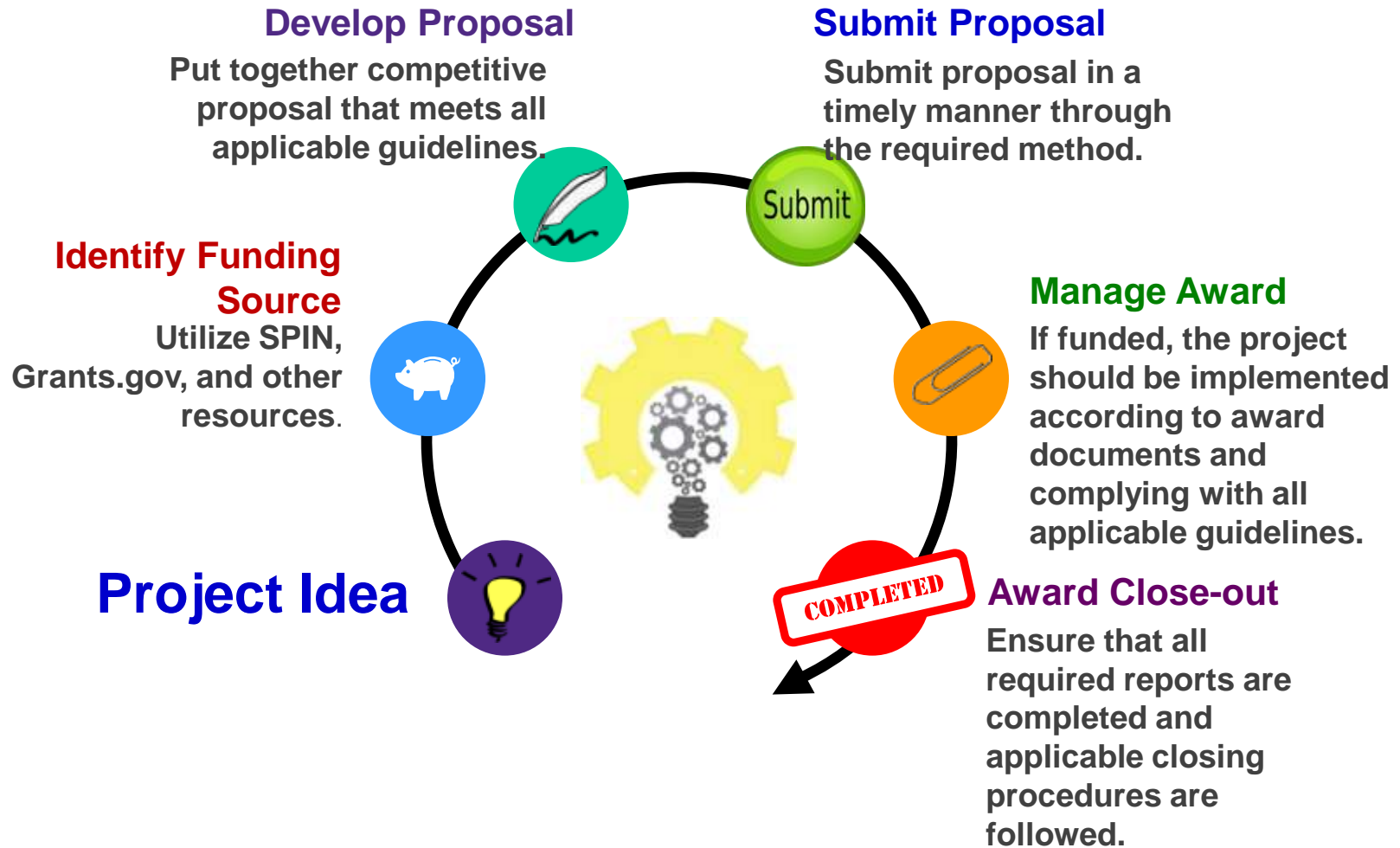
- ❖ **Grant writing is an important part of your professional growth strategy.**
- ❖ **It should become a long-term plan for your professional growth and development:**
 - **Build individual credentials**
 - **Build a track record of funding**
 - **Work on teams with more experienced researchers**
 - **Develop a plan for long-term personal development**

Funding = Your interest + The interests of a Funding Agency

- No matter how good your idea and how well-written your proposal is, if the agency to which you are applying is not interested in your project, you will not be funded!**

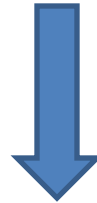
“Even the best idea will not be funded unless it matches the interest of a funding agency. Competitive ideas must reflect both contemporary thought in a field and the interests of an agency”

Life Cycle of a Funded Project

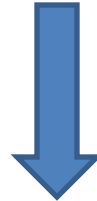


Grantmanship Process

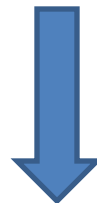
Develop an Idea



Identify Funding Source



Prepare & Submit Grant Application



Await Outcome

How do I get a grant? (I)

- ❖ Source from potential funding agencies (funding databases) and these include:
 - ❖ Advertisements in mass media
 - ❖ Professional/institutional newsletters
 - ❖ Acknowledgements in articles/presentations
 - ❖ Colleagues
 - ❖ Networks
 - ❖ Research Offices
 - ❖ Internet Sources (search engines, computerized databases, professional websites etc)

Never limit search to one source as a beginner

How do I get a grant? (II)

Some Funders include:

- ❖ The grantsmanship Centre - www.tgci.com
- ❖ Te Foundation Centre - www.fdncenter.org
- ❖ Guidestar - www.guidestar.org
- ❖ Grants Net - www.os.dhhs.gov/grants/index.shtml
- ❖ Grants.gov
- ❖ ResearchAfrica.Net
- ❖ WHO/TDR, NIH, CDC, MRC, Wellcome Trust, DAAD, Volkswagen , Bill & Melinda Gates foundation, MMVI etc

Contact Funders

- ❖ Ask for details/guidelines and technical assistance
- ❖ Inquire about the review process
- ❖ For huge grants always ask for guidance on how to develop the budget – very critical

Usually call for grant applications are very competitive and so your proposal must comply with the interest of the funding agency and be Innovative!!!

Identifying Funding Sources

- ❖ Match objectives (research interests, personal interest & competences)
- ❖ Career Phase
- ❖ Gender
- ❖ Ethnicity
- ❖ Geographical Location

Issues to ponder upon before considering a grant application

Some Characteristics of Well-written, Fundable Proposals

- **Innovation**
- **Relevance**
- **Demonstrated Competence/expertise of PI**
- **Feasibility study has been done**
- **Time Schedule**
- **Enthusiasm**
- **Simple Straightforward Language**
- **Complete and contemporary Literature Search**

Keys to Success

- **Innovation and Creativity is important**

- Looking for new solutions to old problems

- How do you create creativity?



- **Calling the Grant Officer is the most important element**

- 85% of all successful grant seekers have had contact with the program/grant officer of the funding agency



Overcoming Funders Antipathy

- ❖ Funding track record
- ❖ Visibility to the scientific community – publication record
- ❖ Collaborations (South-South; North-South)
- ❖ Networks membership
- ❖ Institutional email address- **yahoo.com xxx**

Where do we stand in UB (I)

- ❖ Although over the years the number of externally funded grants have exponentially increased, we need to ask ourselves some pertinent questions:
- ❖ What is our grantsmanship Quotient? (UB/Faculty/School/Departments)
- ❖ How do we compare with other institutions nationally, regionally, continentally and internationally?

Where do we stand in UB (II)

- ❖ How can we install & improve a culture of grant hunting?
- ❖ What platform should we put in place to facilitate this?
- ❖ What are the responsibilities on the part of administration and staff?

THANK YOU!



THE PLACETO BE

University of Buea