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What Happens After Reviews are Conducted/How to Revise Your Grant

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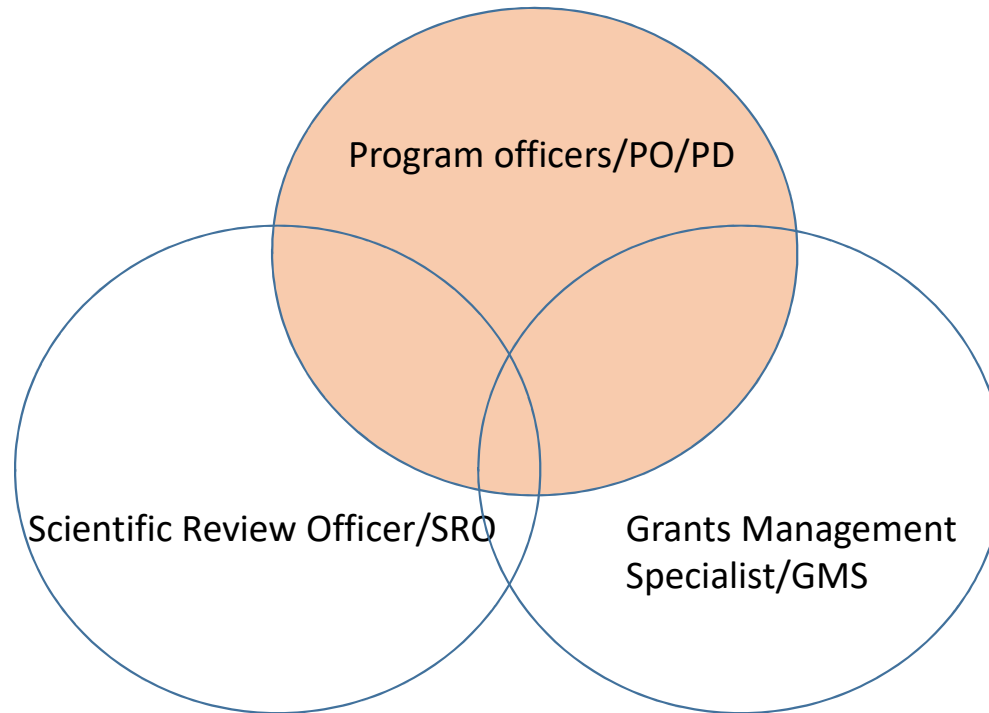# OPTIONS IF YOUR APPLICATION ISN'T FUNDED

1. **What is the role of a PO/PD?**

2. **How to Decide on Next Steps**

   ➢ How to assess the application and critiques
   ➢ How to revise and resubmit an application
   ➢ Roles of resubmission

TALKING TO NIH STAFF ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION AND GRANT

Program officers/PO/PD

Scientific Review Officer/SRO

Grants Management Specialist/GMS

WHY WOULD YOU TALK WITH YOUR PO/PD

We have three distinct roles which can help you strengthen your project and your science.

The Service: We try to be of service to the PI, to help the PI optimize his/her application, so that reviewers can judge the best version of each project, and we can then fund the best science.

The Stewardship: We work to ensure that the nation's investment in NIH is well-spent, in a legal and ethical manner.

The Vision: We strive to keep current and be forward-looking about the big picture in our field, so that we can help NIH leadership and PIs make decisions about how best to advance research.

Pre-Award Phase ...

How we interact with you and your application -

- Early discussions about your general idea for an application,
whether it is the "proper size", what is a proper funding mechanism, whether to apply soon or
wait for more progress, which study section to request, whether it is right for IC/NIH, what our
budget rules are, whether to submit it as a Multi-PI application, etc.;

- Listen to study section reviews and provide you with feedback on summary statements and
potential next submission options;

- Advocate for your application if there is discretionary funding available;

- Help you resolve any pre-award issues with scientific overlap, budget concerns, human/animal
subjects and other reviewer concerns, foreign applications/components, etc., so that your
application can be awarded;

- Work with Grants Management Specialists on administering grants: both the PO and the GMS
must hit the "GO" button to award a grant.

Post Award Phase ...

How we interact with you and your grant -

- Monitor progress of your research grant by keeping an eye out for your papers, touching base with you at scientific meetings and workshops, etc.;

- Review, evaluate, and approve your annual progress reports;

- Monitor compliance of regulations, policies, special terms of the award;

- Help you identify gaps/needs/opportunities and solve problems in your project throughout your grant life-cycle;

- Serve as a contact point for information about additional sources of funding and resources for your project and your lab;

- Report your major advances to POs colleagues and IC/NIH leadership.

HOW TO FIND A PROGRAM OFFICER

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OPTIONS IF YOUR APPLICATION ISN'T FUNDED

1. **What is the role of a PO/PD?**

2. **How to Decide on Next Steps:**
    - ➤ How to assess the application and critiques;
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    - ➤ Roles of resubmission.

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

1. Summary statement

- ➢ Are the application's problems fixable?
- • Did the reviewers think the topic was <u>significant</u>?
- • Did your reviewers find problems you can easily fix to meet their expectations?
- • Did they misunderstand some points that you could easily clarify?
- • Did they have major conceptual issues, for example, the research was not state-of-the-art, or the experiments you proposed would not prove your hypothesis?
- ➢ Was it reviewed by the right study section?

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

2. Program officer

➢ **contact your program officer !!!** POs often attend review meetings as observers and may be able to

- help you understand your summary statement and possibly give you more insights into the review meeting
- help you understand next steps

➢ ask about your chances of special funding. We fund a handful of applications that score above the payline through special actions.

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

Common Fixable Problems

Problem: Poor writing, formatting, or presentation
Solution: Rewrite; get help with writing, editing, formatting, and presentation.

Problem: Insufficient information, experimental details, or preliminary data
Solution: Assess what's missing; add it to the Research Plan.

Problem: Significance not convincingly stated.
Solution: Beef up that section; show the importance to IC's mission, your area of science, and public health.

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

Common Fixable Problems

Problem: Research not shown to be feasible by the proposed staff.
Solution: Recruit collaborators and consultants with the required expertise onto your project.

Problem: Insufficient discussion of obstacles and alternative approaches.
Solution: Describe what you'll do if you get negative results or an approach doesn't pan out. Include decision trees.

HOW TO ASSESS THE APPLICATION AND CRITIQUES

Hard-to-Fix Problems

- Low-impact research topic – SIGNIFICANCE;

- Hypothesis is not sound or not supported by the data;

- Work has already been done;

- Methods proposed were not suitable for testing the hypothesis.

DECISION POINT

- For problems you **can fix**, **Revise and Resubmit an Application**
- For problems you **can't fix** – **Create a New Application** or **Apply outside of NIH**

HOW TO REVISE AND RESUBMIT AN APPLICATION
Roles of resubmission:

- You have just one opportunity to resubmit.

- You must apply within 37 months of the original application's receipt date.

- You must create a one-page introduction that addresses all your reviewers' issues that are stated in your summary statement. Reviewers will look for their comments and check that you revised accordingly.

HOW TO REVISE AND RESUBMIT AN APPLICATION

- **Capitalize on your strengths** and throw out or revise the parts reviewers felt were weak.
- **Respond point by point** to the reviewers' comments and suggestions, stating how you dealt with all the criticisms in the summary statement.
- **Be respectful** even if you disagree.
- **Identify changes –** outline them in the introduction, mark individual changes by using brackets, indents, or change of typography in the text.

RESOURCES

- Acronym List https://grants.nih.gov/grants/acronym_list.htm

- NIH Guide: **subscribe to weekly digest** https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#/

- NIH RePORT https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter_matchmaker.cfm

- **IC Program Officers:** call early, not too often ☺

- Grant writing tips (NIAID): https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/apply-grant

- CSR website: http://public.csr.nih.gov/

- SciENcv https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/

COVID-19 Information for Researchers

➢ **Stay Up to Date**

Monitor [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#) website for new information

https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm

  ➢ NOT-OD-20-123 Special Exception to the NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Post-Submission Material Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

➢ **COVID-19 Funding Opportunities and Other Information for Applicants and Recipients** [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#) website

➢ For general questions regarding these flexibilities contact the NIH Office of Extramural Research at grantspolicy@nih.gov

➢ For questions specific to your NIH award contact the grants management and program staff of the funding institute or center.

Contact your PO/PD !!!

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