RFAs: A Recipient Perspective

Stephanie Endy
Assoc. VP, Research
Case Western Reserve University
March 2020
About Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cleveland, OH</th>
<th>5,150 undergraduate students</th>
<th>6,674 graduate and professional students</th>
<th>1826 year established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81 countries represented</td>
<td>3,501 full-time faculty</td>
<td>3,098 full- and part-time staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rankings:**

40th in U.S.

| 9 Schools and Colleges | $439 m FY19 Research Expenditures | 400+ Distinct Sponsors in FY19 |
Mea Culpa

- I suffer from the tendency to look at things from my own perspective
- Presentation content based on things that I grapple with

We are truly grateful for all the assistance and support we receive that helps move research and knowledge forward every day
Who do you send the RFA?

• Researcher
• Institution
  • Sponsored Projects/Grants Office
  • Provost
  • President
When do you send the RFA out?

• Institutional process often includes:
  • Publicizing on campus
  • Time for faculty to write and to work with administrative support
  • Time for internal approval process
Are you limiting anything?

• Eligibility
• Funding amount
• Funding types
• Funding categories
• Number of applications
Are you requiring anything other than the science?

- Cost share
- Effort commitment differing from funded salary and benefits
- Documented use of special equipment or resources
- Regulated areas of research (IRB, IBC, Animals)
- Certifications
- Contractual limitations at time of proposal
- Agreement to terms and conditions with submission of proposal
- Administrative contact information
How are you asking for proposals to be submitted?

• Required template
• Electronic submission, email, fax, paper (Really? Yes, Really!)
• Who signs
  • President
  • Provost
  • Researcher
  • Sponsored Programs/Grants Office
• Who submits
  • Researcher?
Other areas

• Do you supplement your RFA process with a formal invitation process? Who does that get sent to, who is eligible?

• Do you triage applications for administrative non-compliance?

• Does your RFA have clear review criteria for both researchers and administrators?

• Do you ever consider “Just in time” or “White Papers” to reduce the administrative workload associated with proposals and review?
Internal University Issues

• Whose grant is it anyway?
• Are we consistent in our applications of cost to meet audit requirements?
• How do we help our community be compliant with varying sponsor requirements?