Workshop: Grant management

What we've learned as early PI's

Maureen Murray and Travis Gallo
July 8, 2024

Overview

- Finding grants
- Making a team
- Writing the proposal
- Budgets
- Reporting
- Products
- Adapt. Overcome. Survive.
- Discussion (last 30 minutes)

Finding grants: Types of funders

- Government (e.g. NSF, NIH, Fish and Wildlife, USDA Agreements)
- Internal (e.g. Universities)
- Foundations (e.g. Morris Animal Foundation)
- Societies and non-profits (e.g. Audubon)
- Online repositories (e.g. National Wildlife Federation, grants.gov)

Finding grants: Eligibility and fit

- What institutions are eligible?
- What individuals are eligible?
- What projects are eligible?
- What costs are eligible?
- Is it limited submission (academic specific)?

Key points

- Project fits scope
- Team is experienced
- Project is feasible
- Budget contains what you need
- Products will benefit cause

Fitting the scope

- Use key terms from funding call
- Do the funders care about…
  - Advancing theory?
  - Practical insights?
  - Community engagement?
  - Tangible benefits?
  - Training opportunities?

Making your team

- What specific expertise do you need?
  - Disciplines
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis
  - Broader impacts (education, community engagement, on the ground conservation)

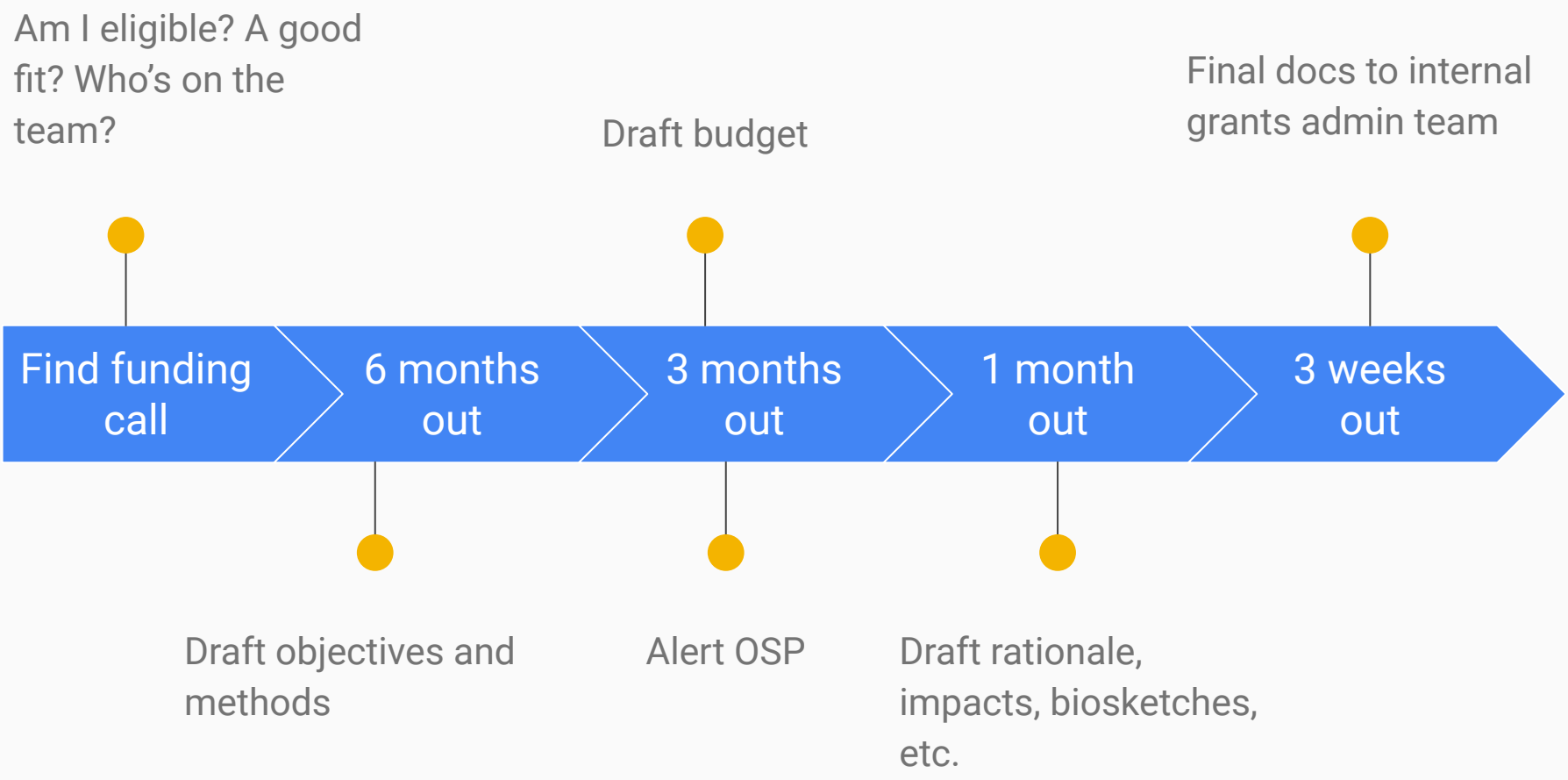
Making your team

- How many PI's?
  - Start with 2-3 core team of PIs
    - How many gaps to fill?
    - How many team members can we afford?
    - Wrangling cats
  - Interdisciplinary needs?
  - Multiple locations?
  - **Bigger = more expensive**
    - Subawards!
  - Demonstrate qualifications, experience, preliminary data
- Students (academia)?
  - Travis PhD student budget example

Making your team

- Office of Sponsored Projects
  - Each institution has one
  - Use them as a resource!
- Office of Research (Academia)
  - Can help you find personnel and collaborators

Writing the proposal


Am I eligible? A good fit? Who's on the team?
Draft budget
Final docs to internal grants admin team
Find funding call
6 months out
3 months out
1 month out
3 weeks out
Draft objectives and methods
Alert OSP
Draft rationale, impacts, biosketches, etc.

Writing the proposal

- Once you have objectives, send a one-pager to a program officer for feedback about scope, fit, overall design
- Successful examples (ogrants.org)
- Reviewers have a rubric, make it easy for them to check off requirements
- Want to convey…
  - The team is experienced and competent
  - The question/objectives are in scope and important/interesting
  - The plan is well thought out and feasible
  - The project will provide training opportunities for students/postdocs
  - The project will benefit society and other disciplines
- Check in on SMART objectives (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound)
- For large grants its a new line of research, not just a single project
  - Cohesive elements that work together and deliver multiple products

Making your budget

- Personnel (including postdocs and students)
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Travel
- Computing (i.e. UWIN Database)
- Overhead
- Fringe
- Subawards

Reporting

- Annual reports
  - Need to report on each objective
  - Training
  - Products
  - Plan enough time for each collaborator to add their contributions
- Reasons for changes
- Early products?

Products

- Publications
- Presentations
- Reports
- Educational modules
- Websites
- Workshops
- Community engagement events

Broader impacts

- Educational materials
- Communities engaged
- Benefits to society

When things don’t go to plan

- Changing research team
- Changing objectives
- Changing spending categories

Discussion

- Questions in the chat or unmute
- Have answers? Please chime in!