Planning Matrix to use with

Specific Aims Template

This planning matrix is designed to make the job of drafting a Specific Aims page even easier! Use it with the “Specific Aims Template”.

Fill in the boxes that match your preferred format option, or fill in all the boxes and see which format option seems most logical.

You don’t need to write whole sentences. fill this out in any order.

If I were you, I would print this out, take it to the coffee shop and write in your responses with a pencil. Bring an eraser.

1. Preamble

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BIG PICTURE / CENTRAL CHALLENGE |  |
| KNOWNS  |  |
| GAP, PROBLEM, BARRIER or BOTTLENECK |  |
| ELABORATION on GAP, PROBLEM, BARRIER or BOTTLENECK |  |
| For option 1 |  |
| WHAT YOU UNIQUELY KNOW (OR YOUR THEORY) |  |
| HYPOTHESIS   |  |
| GENERAL APPROACH |  |
| TEAM (if not already clear) |  |
| For option 2 |  |
| YOUR LONG-TERM GOAL |  |
| OBJECTIVE OF THIS APPLICATION |  |
| CENTRAL HYPOTHESIS |  |
| RATIONALE |  |
| TEAM (if not already clear) |  |

2. Specific Aims (most people have 2-4)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AIM 1 | VERB + what you will do:WHY doing this is important:ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND OR RATIONALE:HYPOTHESIS:GENERAL APPROACH:EXPECTED OUTCOME: |
| AIM 2  | VERB + what you will do:WHY doing this is important:ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND OR RATIONALE:HYPOTHESIS:GENERAL APPROACH:EXPECTED OUTCOME: |
| AIM 3 (if applicable) | VERB + what you will do:WHY doing this is important:ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND OR RATIONALE:HYPOTHESIS:GENERAL APPROACH:EXPECTED OUTCOME: |
| AIM 4 (if applicable) | VERB + what you will do:WHY doing this is important:ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND OR RATIONALE:HYPOTHESIS:GENERAL APPROACH:EXPECTED OUTCOME: |

3. “Pay-off” Paragraph (you might not include all)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND/OR BENEFIT (short-term outcomes) |  |
| VALUE / IMPACT (medum-term outcome related to funder’s immediate priorities) |  |
| POTENTIAL (longer-term outcome related to funder’s long-term goals) |  |