Project Concept Paper for NIH-Supported Research

A concept paper facilitates productive discussion with an NIH program official. The concept paper may address any or all of these topics depending on how far you have thought through your project. The more information you can provide a program official, the better the advice you will receive in developing your application. One approach is to email the concept paper to the program official when you ask for a phone conversation to discuss your project. It is fine to use bulleted headings exactly as below.

Grant Purpose Briefly, you want a grant from which institution/agency for a #- year period to do what? At what cost/level of effort?

Problem/Background Explain why the literature/your research leads you to think this topic needs study.

Significance What is the payoff to science AND to public health?

Question Derived from the background literature, what model will guide your hypotheses and what hypotheses will you test?

Design What is the study design that will enable testing your hypotheses? Sample/Power (N, age range, gender, race, selective characteristics), intervention, controls, measures, etc.

Analysis What statistical approach will ensure a fair test based on your hypotheses?

Team Who will be the key participants (co-investigators and organizations) on the project? Include mention of organizations whose cooperation you need to access subjects/data, and indicate if any have agreed in writing to participate.

Miscellaneous (Nice to state if you have gone this far)

* + Personal Qualifications. Is your career stage & expertise appropriate to the size, scope, & technology of the project?
  + Population Access. Can you demonstrate access to the organizations and target respondent population?
  + Logistics. Can you demonstrate willingness to grant access to needed equipment, and laboratory and field sites
  + Overlap. Have you checked NIH RePORTER and the refereed literature to minimize overlap with similar studies?

Get started

Print out these pages. Jot down your answers in the right column.

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| Grant Purpose Which institution/agency. How long? General topic. How much $? How much effort? |  |
| Problem/Background What is the problem your research will try to solve? Why does the literature/your research lead you to think this topic needs study? |  |
| Significance What is the payoff to science AND to public health? |  |
| Question and HypothesisDerived from the background literature, what model will guide your hypotheses and what hypotheses will you test? |  |
| Design What is the study design that will enable testing your hypotheses? Sample/Power (N, age range, gender, race, selective characteristics), intervention, controls, measures, etc. |  |
| Analysis What statistical approach will ensure a fair test based on your hypotheses? |  |
| Team Who will be the key participants (co-investigators and organizations) on the project? Include mention of organizations whose cooperation you need to access subjects/data, and indicate if any have agreed in writing to participate. |  |
| Miscellaneous (Nice to state if you have gone this far)   * + Personal Qualifications. Is your career stage & expertise appropriate to the size, scope, & technology of the project?   + Population Access. Can you demonstrate access to the organizations and target respondent population?   + Logistics. Can you demonstrate willingness to grant access to needed equipment, and laboratory and field sites   + Overlap. Have you checked NIH RePORTER and the refereed literature to minimize overlap with similar studies? |  |