

Identifying Sources of External Funding

External Funding at Ohio University

The majority of external funding at OHIO comes from federal sources. Major sources are the National Institutes of Health, Federal Aviation Administration, US Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, US Department of Transportation and the US Department of Defense. The Institution also receives support from State of Ohio agencies. As OHIO looks to strengthen and increase its research profile, partnerships and funding from private entities and industry will be increasing. The research dollars brought into OHIO helps the prestige and visibility of the university and are very important in the tenure process.

Tips for Getting Started

Your work thus far has likely led you to a theory needing to be proved or expanded on, or perhaps led you to recognize a need for a piece of highly valuable equipment in order to manufacture something state of the art. In either case, you will likely need to seek out someone to help fund your creative endeavor. OHIO considers the financial support from these “someones” as external funding. An initial step in the identification of external funding sources to support your research, scholarship and/or creative activity, is to ascertain which sponsors have already supported endeavors in your discipline. When reading a publication in your field, for example, take note of the acknowledgements of the funding organizations. When a sponsor funds a proposal that results in a publication, you will most always find that sponsor credited directly in the acknowledgements section of the article or in footnotes.



When reading publications in your discipline, look to the footnotes or in the body of the text to ascertain who supported the research. Then go look at their website to see if they have upcoming grant solicitations.

Another way to identify a potential sponsor in your discipline is to join or use an existing membership to a professional organization. These groups frequently have funding opportunities, often with deadline dates posted in their newsletters and/or on websites. Similarly, colleagues met through these organizations are great resources for collaborations and are knowledge of potentials sponsors.

If you know that a specific company or agency funds your type of research or programs, check out their websites. Here, you can often find abstracts of research awards, requests for proposals and deadlines for their programs. Once you have identified possible sponsors, you will want to note whether the programs are one-time competitions or on-going programs that have annual deadlines.

Using Collaborative Relationships

A good way to get your research portfolio started is to consider a collaborative effort with an already successful investigator right here at OHIO or with a mentor from another institution. Collaborations can help you build a funding track record and enable you to gain experience that will make you a stronger candidate for a PI/PD role on your own project. These successful researchers can also provide invaluable advice and critique of proposals based on their experience with specific sponsors. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) staff can assist you in identifying those faculty members with similar research interests.



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ORSP Resources

The Grant Advisor

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has several resources to help you identify potential sponsors of your work or creative activity. First, the office subscribes to The Grant Advisor Plus (<http://www.grantadvisor.com/tgaplus/>). This newsletter has been published since 1983 and is the leading source of information on grant, research and fellowship opportunities for US Institutions of Higher Education and their faculty. There is 24-hour a day access to the following features:

- 1. The Grant Advisor Newsletter (PDF or TXT):** The newsletter covers grant opportunities from federal agencies (except NIH) as well as many independent organizations and foundations and is published monthly (except July).
- 2. Deadline Memo Hyperlinks:** These powerful listings are presented in a table format and include links directly to the following (all where applicable): (a) web site of the funding agency or organization; (b) abstracts and program reviews from The Grant Advisor newsletter; (c) complete text from all current Federal Register grant listings; (d) National Science Foundation on-line documents; and (e) e-mail addresses.
- 3. Database and Article Searches:** The Database Search allows you to enter your own search criteria (such as funding agency, keywords, academic division, and more). Results are displayed in the same table format as the Deadline Memo Hyperlinks. The Article Search is available for keyword searching through hundreds of our program abstracts and Federal Register articles.
- 4. 200+ Useful Links to Funding Sources:** All subscribers have full access to an ever-expanding list of links to funding sources, separated into two categories: Federal and Related Sources, and Foundation and Independent Sources.
- 5. The Grant Works:** The electronic book of the entire series of articles by Robert J. Toft, Ph.D. presented in Acrobat® PDF format. Included are hundreds of essays providing useful advice and tips for the grantsperson in higher education. Chapter titles include Proposal Development, Running the Grants Office, Budget Considerations, Tips on Writing, Grants Office Policy, and more.

SPINPlus

ORSP also subscribes to The Sponsored Programs Information Network (SPIN) (<http://www.ohiou.edu/orsp/spin>). SPIN is a computerized database of federal, non-federal and corporate funding opportunities designed to assist faculty and staff in the identification of external sources of support for research, education and development projects. The database is searchable using SPIN keywords, Sponsor name(s), Award type(s), Applicant Type(s), Geographic Region, and/or Deadline Date/Date Ranges. This is web-based and is accessible to the entire university community as long as you connect to the Internet through an Ohio University server. A description of SPINPlus, along with highlights of the features is found below:

- Comprehensive, web-accessible service promotes growth of sponsored programs
- Worldwide, more than 600 institutions subscribe to SPIN plus
- Integrated 398 Bio-Sketch included
- No charge access to FedBizOpps, Agricola, Medline, US Geo, and US Patent records
- Cover Federal, Non-Federal, International and Private sponsors
- Advanced Boolean search capabilities
- Searches are filtered to eliminate duplication
- Layout tool allows for customized reports
- CV database limited to members-only, ensuring quality records



SPIN can only be accessed through an Ohio University server.

The Foundation Directory, Online

This is an online source that can be accessed on your behalf by the ORSP staff. The Foundation Center, founded in 1956, is the nation's leading authority on philanthropy and is dedicated to serving grant seekers, grant makers, researchers, policy makers, the media, and the general public. The Directory includes information on the giving priorities of the 10,000 largest US Foundations by total giving. The ORSP Grants Information Manager can assist you in using any of the ORSP services listed above. To set up an appointment or to ask questions, please call 593.0374.

External Funding for Equipment Grants

If your research or project requires an expensive piece of equipment you will need to seek funding externally for support. In addition to requesting funding in a grant budget for support, you may also want to seek out those funding sources dedicated strictly for the purchase of significant pieces of equipment. Four examples of such funding can be found on the following page.



Many proposals for research equipment require significant cost sharing. Proposals to the Vice President for Research for such cost share support should be made well in advance of the proposal deadline.

1. **NIH National Center for Research Resources (NCRR):** Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG) Program – The Objective of the program is to make available to institutions expensive research instruments that can only be justified on a shared-use basis and for which meritorious research projects are described. Applications are limited to instruments that cost at least \$100,000 per instrument or integrated instrument system. The maximum award is \$500,000.
2. **NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI):** Eligible project costs for instrument acquisition proposals include instrument purchase, installation, commissioning and calibration. Eligible costs for instrument development proposals include parts and materials needed for the construction of the instrument, commissioning costs, as well as the direct and indirect costs associated with support of personnel engaged strictly in the instrument development effort. The costs of instrument maintenance and operations are not eligible in either category of proposals.
3. **Ohio Board of Regents ACTION Fund:** The ACTION Fund allows Ohio's universities to compete more effectively for federal and other peer-reviewed research support by providing matching funds for university research proposals that include capital equipment or facilities. Submissions are made by OHIO's Vice President for Research on behalf of the Principal Investigator/Project Director.
4. **US Department of Defense:** Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) – Awards will be used for the acquisition of major equipment to augment current or develop new research capabilities to support research in the technical areas of interest to the DoD. Proposals to purchase instrumentation may request \$50,000 to \$1,000,000. Proposals requesting less than \$50,000 or more than \$1,000,000 will not be considered.

In many cases, significant cost sharing/matching from OHIO is needed at proposal time. Be sure to contact the Vice President for Research well in advance of any program deadline for assistance.

Grants for Beginning Investigators

Several federal agencies set aside a portion of their grant funding to assist new faculty members in starting their research careers. These specially targeted programs increase fundability as they significantly reduce the applicant pool to specific areas of study and other qualifications. Below are three examples of beginning investigator programs that are often applied for at OHIO:

1. **National Institutes of Health - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01)** - provides support for an intensive, supervised career development experience in one of the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence. Candidates for this award normally must have a research or health-professional doctorate and postdoctoral research experience at the time of application. In addition, the candidate must be able to demonstrate the need for a three, four, or five-year period of additional supervised research as well as the capacity and/or the potential for highly productive independent research. The proposed career development experience must be in a research area new to the applicant and/or one in which an additional supervised research experience will substantially add to the research capabilities of the applicant. The candidate must provide a plan for achieving independent research support by the end of the award period.

2. National Science Foundation – Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program - is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. Such activities should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of integrated contributions to research and education. NSF encourages submission of CAREER proposals from junior faculty members at all CAREER-eligible organizations and especially encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and persons with disabilities to apply.

3. American Cancer Society's Research Opportunity Grants for Beginning Investigators - Research Opportunity Grants provide rapid, one-time funding for novel ideas or for targeting urgent problems with immediate human benefit. One time awards are made for up to \$72,000 total cost for one year.

The above tips and examples are just some of the ways to go about finding a potential sponsor for your work. Whatever path you have chosen to identify funding prospects, the ORSP staff will help you through the process. Once you have found a sponsor, the next section, *The Grant Submission Process*, will guide you through applying for a grant at OHIO.