Finding Funding Sources in Your Area of Research and Making Contacts

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Prepared for presentation at the SWS Winter meetings, Miami, Florida, Jan. 2005

- Identifying funding agencies
    - Use your organization's (e.g., university's) office of sponsored programs
    - Do searches on the Internet
        - See what they have funded
        - See what they say they want to fund (their priorities)
    - Read work in your specialty and read the footnotes where the authors acknowledge their funding sources
    - Explore opportunities for "seed money" – these small grants/contracts can get your foot in the door and give you a track record of obtaining funding and successfully completing a project
    - Explore Intergovernmental Personnel Act appointments in government agencies related to your specialty
    - Explore post-doctoral fellowships (and pre-doctoral fellowships)
    - Explore Congressional fellowships

- Making contacts
    - Establish contacts in your organization's sponsored programs office with those in your (broad) area of research
        - Ask them to inform you of agency announcements
        - Get advice from them about proposal processes – in your organization and the funding sources
    - Contact authors of funded work in your area to ascertain how they obtained funding
        - It is always good to establish communication/networks with others in your research area – for promotion and tenure also

    - Contact funding agencies' representatives in your specialty
        - Ask about their current priorities
        - Describe your proposed research and ask if it interests them. (You can e-mail a description along with your vita.)
        - Get advice on how to adapt your plan to conform to their priorities (as long a you'll still be doing what you prefer – and sometimes even if you have to compromise
        - Be sure the terms of the support meet your requirements

- Proposal process
    - Deadlines for applications/proposals are usually firm
    - Learn how much time your organization requires to process applications. Complete your part with extra time for processing (including revisions).
    - Get help with budgets, etc. from your office of sponsored programs, dean's office, department business manager, etc.