

RFAs: A Recipient Perspective

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About Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)



5,150	6,674	1826
undergraduate students	graduate and professional students	year established
81	3,501	3,098
countries represented	full-time faculty	full- and part-time staff

Rankings:
40th in U.S.

9
Schools and Colleges

\$439 m
FY19 Research Expenditures

400+
Distinct Sponsors in FY19

Mea Culpa

- I suffer from the tendency to look at things from my own perspective
- Presentation content based on things that I grapple with

We are truly grateful for all the assistance and support we receive that helps move research and knowledge forward every day

Who do you send the RFA?

- Researcher
- Institution
 - Sponsored Projects/Grants Office
 - Provost
 - President

When do you send the RFA out?

- Institutional process often includes:
 - Publicizing on campus
 - Time for faculty to write and to work with administrative support
 - Time for internal approval process

Are you limiting anything?

- Eligibility
- Funding amount
- Funding types
- Funding categories
- Number of applications

Are you requiring anything other than the science?

- Cost share
- Effort commitment differing from funded salary and benefits
- Documented use of special equipment or resources
- Regulated areas of research (IRB, IBC, Animals)
- Certifications
- Contractual limitations at time of proposal
- Agreement to terms and conditions with submission of proposal
- Administrative contact information

How are you asking for proposals to be submitted?

- Required template
- Electronic submission, email, fax, paper (Really? Yes, Really!)
- Who signs
 - President
 - Provost
 - Researcher
 - Sponsored Programs/Grants Office
- Who submits
 - Researcher?

Other areas

- Do you supplement your RFA process with a formal invitation process? Who does that get sent to, who is eligible?
- Do you triage applications for administrative non-compliance?
- Does your RFA have clear review criteria for both researchers and administrators?
- Do you ever consider “Just in time” or “White Papers” to reduce the administrative workload associated with proposals and review?

Internal University Issues

- Whose grant is it anyway?
- Are we consistent in our applications of cost to meet audit requirements?
- How do we help our community be compliant with varying sponsor requirements?