Writing a Proposal for the APN

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What makes a good proposal?

- Provides a clear indication of methods for pursuing the idea and evaluating the findings
- Provides a well thought out plan for making the information known to all who needs to know
- Presents a good idea that is well expressed
Key questions to ask yourself:

What do I intend to do?
Why is the work important?
What has already been done?
How am I going to do the work?
Who am I going to involve?
Determine Your Long-Term Research Aims

- Develop Your Bright Idea
- Survey the Literature & the APN Website
- Contact Investigators Working on Topic
- Prepare a Brief Concept Paper & Discuss with Colleagues/Mentors
- Submit a Letter of Intent outlining the concept to the APN Advisory Service
- Skip the above step & submit a summary proposal
Prepare to do the Research

- Determine Available Resources
- Realistically Assess Needs
- Develop Preliminary Data
- Share with interested regional partners and assess their willingness to collaborate
- Continue your self-assessment by discussing with colleagues/mentors
Determine Possible Funding Sources

- How much will you need to request?
- What co-funding options do you have?
- Consider in-kind contribution options
- Remember simple rule of thumb:
  - Matching funds = stronger proposal
  - APN funds only = weaker proposal
- Exhaust all possible funding options
Are you ready to write the proposal?
① Don’t assume your reader knows

② “Sell” you proposal by addressing the evaluation criteria

③ Show the work is relevant to policy by clearly addressing the relevant literature

④ Engage policy/decision-makers as early as possible
Reasons for Declining Proposals
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😊 Improper submission format/missed deadline
😊 Lack of new or original ideas
😊 Diffuse, superficial, or unfocused research plan
😊 Lack of knowledge or published, relevant work
😊 Lack of experience in essential methodology
😊 Uncertainty concerning future direction
Reasons for Declining Proposals

😊 Questionable reasoning in experimental approach
😊 Absence of acceptable scientific rationale
😊 Unrealistically large amount of work
😊 Lack of sufficient detail
😊 Uncritical approach
😊 Lack of funds/no support from institution
😊 No real regional collaboration
!!Don’t Despair!!

Perseverance pays off
APN awards are highly competitive
Declination may be because of budgetary Limitations

If encouraged by APN = try, try again