



Welcome!

In4Grants[™] Webinar Series

Ann Arbor, Michigan

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Making the Jump to Larger Grants: What Faculty Members Need to Know!



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About the Presenter:

Russell Olwell, Director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities at Eastern Michigan University has been a successfully funded federal, state and foundation PI over the past 6 years. He has also worked with his campus Office of Research Development to coach faculty on finding resources for research funding.

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To learn more about research at Eastern Michigan University visit <http://www.ord.emich.edu>.

Going After Major Money: What Faculty Members Need to Know!

Experience at my institution (MA, Regional, Public)

- Few faculty write grants higher than 100K.
(20/700)
- Few faculty move from grants of 100K< to >100K
- A majority of faculty who do write grants can fall into a rut of low-paying grants and contracts
- The majority of grant funds received is accounted for by a handful of people – top 10 = \$8 million
- When one of those people leaves, often not replaced in a department or center.

Key steps in the process:

Choosing a team

- Divide labor among a team
- Keep the team together and on the same page
- Rule: one high maintenance person per team (maybe)
- Rule: Everyone needs to pull weight
- Key roles: evaluation, data collection, needs assessment

Peer review of proposals

- Large grants are too competitive for individual writing/editing – small mistakes add up to failure
- Looking at a grant for too long makes your vision blurry
- Group reading and critiquing of submissions is needed – experienced grant-writers, managers.
- Peers have a role in helping increase the ambition level of PIs

Key steps in the process: working within the campus grant system

- Research Office and AVPR
- Grants accounting and compliance
- Spending and tracking offices
- Department Heads and Deans
- Leveraging relationships across campus – marketing, housing, government relations

Keeping peace with colleagues in your department

- Grants can require a shift in duties and time
- Maintain a visible presence in your home department
- Use grant-related relationships to aid your department and college
- Communications is key to this relationship, especially with department chair and college

Keep perspective

- Grants ebb and flow, and form just part of one's career (and life)
- Use grants and grant-writing as a professional development opportunity
- Do not become over-identified with a single program or funder
- Keep a research, teaching, and presenting agenda that is separate from grant work
- Be kind to people on the way up...