Perspectives of a Grant Proposal Reviewer

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Study the Request For Assistance (RFA)

- The proposal must address the RFA, its points/percentages, so I study the RFA, and reference it while reviewing proposals
- I briefly review all of the proposals before evaluating & scoring
- I follow the same written and oral review format for all proposals, noting the Objectives, Strengths, Weaknesses, how it fits each of the RFA scoring categories
- Then rank the proposal by E, VG, G, F, P
Helpful Hints: Make the Proposal Easy To Read (KISS): Reviewers are Tired

- Use correct spelling and grammar
- Break the proposal into easily followed sections
- Avoid acronyms
- Avoid or explain technical terminology or methodology
- Follow the RFA
Build the Case for Success

• Answer each section of the RFA
• Be reasonable in the Expectations & Budget
• Define the Objectives and Methodologies
• Fill short-comings with collaborators
At the Panel Meeting: The Panel Member

- Must have written reviews submitted
- Be familiar with all of the proposals and other member’s reviews, particularly the ad hoc reviews
- Be prepared for an oral review and discussion
- Take notes and write synthesis reviews
- Champion deserving proposals
The Panel Review: The Panel

- Panel members are diverse with different backgrounds /expertise
- Reviewers discuss the proposal, noting its Strengths, Weaknesses, potential improvements or limitations, and develop the Synthesis
- Then the proposal is placed on “The Wall”

Ranking systems for “The Wall”, proposals placed:
- 1st: Outstanding, High, Medium or Low Priority, Some Merit, or Do Not Fund
- 2nd: Must, Should, Could Fund or Do Not Fund
- Finally, the panel makes the final ranking with side-by-side comparisons