

Best Practices: Obtaining NSF Funding

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Q: What are the steps to follow when writing grant proposals?

A: Steps for writing a successful proposal included a) identifying an industry driven need, developing partnerships and responses, then translating it into meaningful arguments; b) telling a good story and making sure the story theme is carried throughout the proposal with a beginning, middle and end; summarize your abstract with the intellectual merit and broader impact statements; c) highlighting the innovative aspects of the proposal and making sure they are all discussed in the text; making sure that the proposal is consistent; and organizing the proposal narrative so that topics progress naturally.

Q: How can you maintain student support after the funds run out?

A: It is necessary to state your program support, your business and educational model, your program fees and tuition return. Also state the impact of your program(s) on the training of students, on the industry and economy of your region; and explain how you make your program sustainable after funding runs out, possibly by writing more grant proposals.