Writing Successful Grants

Why should we engage?

Funding graduate assistants

Summer salary supplement

Course buyout

Travel for development

Publishing and paying for publications
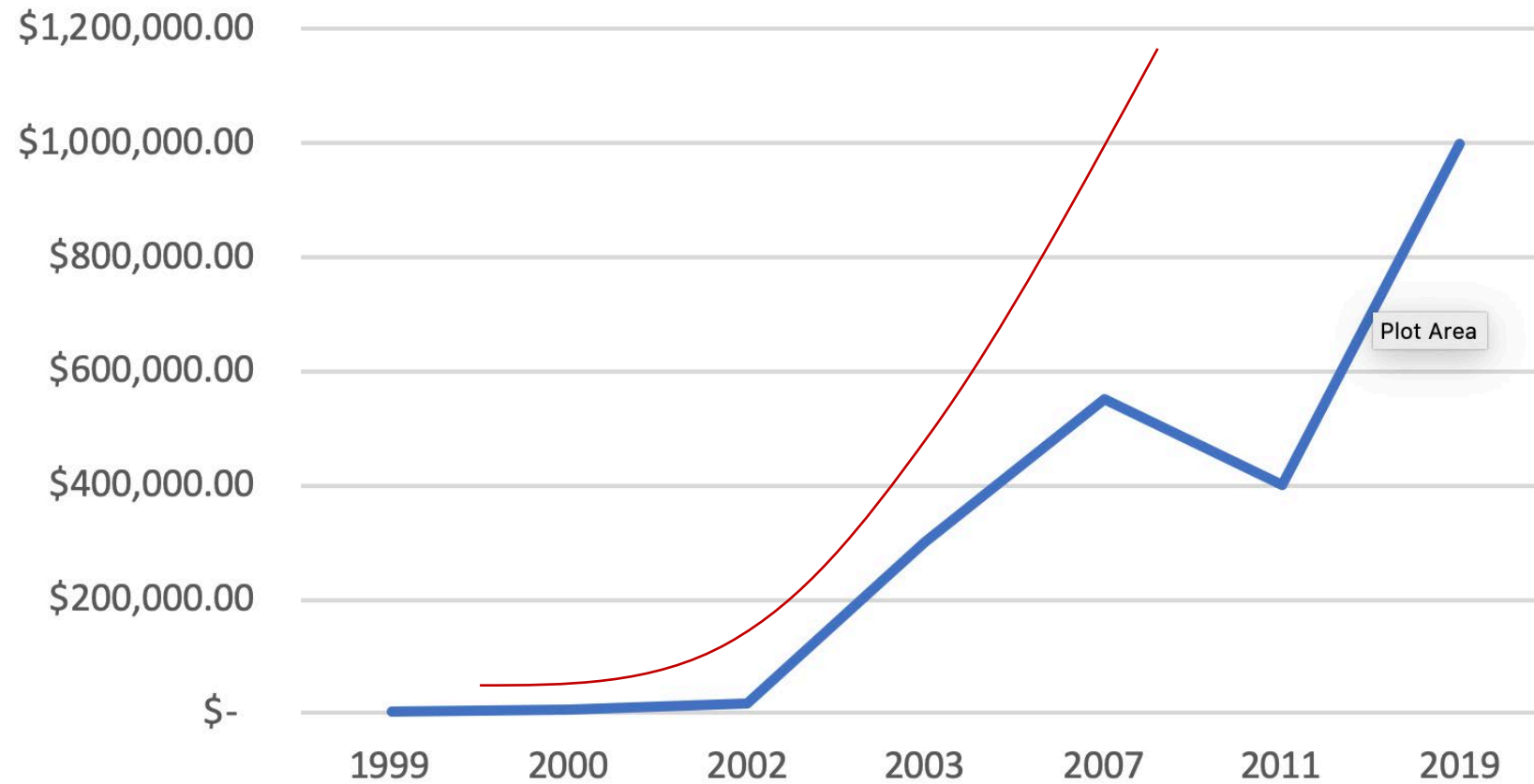
High standing at your Institution

Enhancing your profile

Tenure and Promotion

Receiving awards

Building a community of collaborators and support

The writing Process and Path to Success?

Structure of Grant a Proposal

Abstract

Narrative

Budget + Justification

Supplementary Materials

Proposal

Abstract
Narrative
Budget + Justification
Supplementary Materials

Overview that is absolutely necessary for some one to understand the project

What are the project goals and objectives?
What will you do, and how?
Who will the project impact?
What is the expected outcome?

Proposal

Abstract

Narrative

Budget + Justification
Supplementary Materials

Define your idea with focus and clarity

A compelling story of your project told in various sections of the proposal.

Narrative

Need /Rationale
Goals/Objectives
Significance
Research Plan
Evaluation
Sustainability
Broader Impacts
Outcomes
Dissemination

Demonstrate the Need: The statement of need or rationale defines a challenge, its causes and symptoms supported by facts and evidence

What is the challenge **or** the opportunity?
Why are you asking for funds?
What is the broader context for the need? Why is it important?
How will the success look like?
Use research and data to make your case

Narrative

Goal is a broad statement on what you plan to accomplish, **objectives** are the steps towards accomplishing the goals

Are your goals and objectives directly tied to your need statement?

How will the project advance knowledge?

Improve a condition?

Are the objectives results explained in terms of "outcomes"?

Narrative

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The statement of significance make an argument that **funding is an integral component** for development of your project.

How important is your project in addressing the stated challenge or opportunities?
What is the **innovation**?
How will successful completion of your project change the concepts, methods, or techniques that drive your field? How does it advance the field?

Narrative

The overall approach or methodology to accomplish the stated objectives of the project

What is your plan for conducting the project?
What are the project activities?
Why particular activities are chosen?
Have you looked at other methods?
Why the activities you have selected are superior to others?
Why you and your team is qualified to do the project?

Narrative

Measuring the effectiveness of your project

What type of **evidence** you will collect and present to show the success of your project?

How will you evaluate the collected evidence?
How will you assess your plan?
How will you measure the success of your project?

Narrative

How will the project continue?

How will the project be sustained beyond the funding period?

What are the possible avenues for funding beyond the grant?

Can the project be institutionalized?

Narrative

A statement of how the project will promote research, teaching, training, and learning or benefit society.

What is potential impact on research, teaching and learning in the field?
Who will benefit from the project?
What may be the benefits of the project to society?
Will the project broaden understanding of the issue?
Why you and your team is qualified to do the project?

Narrative

Project deliverables

What are the expected outcomes?
Are they clearly stated?

Narrative

Need /Rationale
Goals/Objectives
Significance
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Dissemination

Description of how the project results will be shared with the appropriate audience

Who needs to know about the project outcomes?
How will they know about it?

Proposal

Budget justification explains how the budget was generated. It provide details to justify the rationale for purchasing the item for the proposed project

Are you following the funding agency's guidelines?
Does every budget line item have a justification?
Is the personnel effort justified?

Proposal

Abstract
Narrative
Budget + Justification
Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Materials may be allowable by some funding agencies

Are your supplementary materials persuasive?
Does it help to tell your story?

Academic Writing VS Grant Writing

Academic Writing

Research Centered: Scholarly passion
Past oriented: Work that has been done
Expository: Explaining to reader
Impersonal: Objective, dispassionate
Individualistic: Usually sole activity
Verbosity rewarded: Few length constraints
Specialized terminology: Insider jargon

Grant Writing

Sponsor Centered: Service attitude
Future Oriented: Proposing a project
Persuasive: "Sell" the reader
Personal: Convey excitement
Team Oriented: Working with others
Brevity rewarded: Easily understood language
Accessible language: Broad Audience

Robert Porter, Program Development Manager, Research Division Virginia Tech

Writing Tips

Pre-proposal

Extensive preparation, **read the call carefully and make sure you are matching the funding organization interests and requirements.**

Use literature review to establish your case.

Ask for a sample of a successful proposal.

Proposal

Place important content at the beginning

Use only as many words as you need

Make average sentence length 15 to 20 words.

Use short paragraphs separated by appropriate spacing.

Put your points positively when possible

Use charts for simplification of ideas, schedules, tasks, etc.

Key Points

Include **community stakeholders** from the beginning and solicit their input.
Plan for your project **well in advance of gran**t deadlines.

For federal grants or other large dollar grants, consider allowing yourself at least several months to complete the application.

Follow the grant guidelines very carefully. Make sure your proposal is complete, compliant, and persuasive.

Determine ways to make the project **sustainable after the grant period**

Texas Instruments Grant Writing Guide for Large Scale Grants

Key Points

Find existing programs in your community with which you can **partner for infrastructure, resources, funding, and expertise.**

If you are seeking funds from a foundation or corporate giving source, **contact the grant officer PRIOR to developing your proposal.**

Use personal contacts whenever possible with foundations and corporate giving sources.