

Grant Budgets



- Science requires a good idea and good money.
- That's why we write grants.

Budget Q&A

- How do budgets differ for research grants (viz., an NIH R01) compared to career development grants (K08, K23) or fellowship grants (NRSAs, aka F32)?
- Budgets for career or fellowship grants are mostly or all salary, with little money for other categories. Research grants require budgeting for salaries, supplies, equipment, other categories

Budget Q&A

- How do I know how much money/yr. to request? How do I know if my budget is out of line for a new investigator?
- Ask colleagues with experience writing and reviewing grants. Ask a program officer. Study budgets in successful (i.e., funded) grants submitted by others at your level of career development.
- Many research grants devote 60-70% of the budget to salaries.
- What is a reasonable % of the budget to request for salaries?

Budget Q&A

- I found a start up grant opportunity that fits me, but the budget is only \$75K per yr. What if can't do my project with that amount?
- Try to break your larger project into fundable subunits. If the allowed budget still is too small, the grant is not a good fit.

Budget Q&A

- Does it look better if a new investigator comes in with a really small budget?
 - No; it makes you look naïve. Ask for what you need.
- Should I pad my budget? Doesn't everyone do that?
 - No
 - No.

Budget Q&A

- How do I find out what salary to request for a position not yet filled?
 - Determine desired qualifications, appropriate job title, salary, with help from Human Resources.
- How important is it to have a name for a slot not yet filled?
 - Best to have a name; next best is detailed list of qualifications and duties.
- How do I determine a reasonable supplies budget?
 - Determine all supplies for one study or test, # of studies/yr. Multiply.

Budget Q&A

- What is the best way to avoid budget cuts?
 - The best protection (not a guarantee): write an outstanding proposal
 - Eliminate the studies you didn't want to do anyhow. Use smaller sample sizes, fewer time points, fewer drug doses, fewer diagnostic tests (good idea to plan for this contingency).
- What do I do if the agency cuts my budget ?

Budget Q&A

- NIH modular grants do not allow budget increases for inflation. How can a researcher cope?
 - Plan your budget assuming a reasonable annual inflation rate, e.g. 4% (or what your OSP suggests). Then take an average for all years of the project, calculate how many \$25K units this equals. Request that amount/yr

Budget Q&A

- How do I figure out what category a particular expense goes in? The agency categories and those for my institution don't seem to match.
- You need to consult a native guide--a staff person who knows your institution's grant process and your target agency.

Spreadsheet templates for NIH budgets

Start by checking in your own department.

Many resourceful staff persons have created excellent templates in Excel.

Help with NIH Modular Budgets (Google "nih modular budgets")

- FAQs
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/modular/modular_faq_pub.htm
- Sample modular budgets
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R_PHS398_ModBud_Variable_Sample.pdf -

General Advice: NIH Grant Budgets

- NIAID Tutorial: Developing a Grant Budget
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/cycle/part06.htm#b6a>

Budget Spread Sheet

Filename: 1_Excel Budget Sheet Jenc 081017

- Spread sheet is protected, except for colored cells
- You can enter % effort for staff, specific \$\$ figures for salaries, equipment, supplies, etc
- Calculations are done automatically to add fringe benefits, calculate total personnel costs, indirect costs (aka F&A costs), total direct costs, and sum of direct and indirect costs

Budget Spread Sheet

- Fringe benefit rates are those for Univ. of Washington: Faculty-24%; Professional Staff-28.7%; Classified staff-31.6%; Hourly staff-11.3%
- Other institutions will have different rates
- \$196,700 NIH annual salary cap (= \$16,392/month; FY09)