

# TO REVISE OR NOT TO REVISE:

DECIDING HOW TO RESPOND  
TO AN UNFUNDED APPLICATION

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# NIH GRANT: DECIDING TO REVISE OR NOT TO REVISE DEPENDING ON:

## **Potential Scenarios:**

- Your first score is good but not good enough.
- Your second score is good but not good enough.
- Your first score is not good.
- You didn't get a score.

# Let's Start With: Not Discussed

- In general, PO's do not recommend resubmitting unscored applications.

However, some considerations:

- What were the scores – mostly 2's, 3's and 4's? or 5's and 6's?
- How were significance and innovation rated (versus approach)?
- What did the “Summary of Discussion” say?

If you re-submit a non-discussed application, should you do it as:

- A new application?
- OR as an A1 or resubmission?
  - Let the reviewer comments guide your decision

Your first score is good but not good enough.

- What should you do?
  - Is there really a choice here?
  - Always worth calling your PO, for several reasons.

Your first score is not good.

## **What should you do?**

- **Review the comments as if it were an unscored application, but with a greater inclination towards resubmission.**

Your second score is good but not good enough.

**What should you do? Some choices:**

- 1. Resubmit as a new application.**
- 2. Request a new institute or review group.**
- 3. Lay the idea to rest.**

# YOU'VE DECIDED TO REVISE: NOW WHAT?

- Writing the Introduction
- Revising the Application



# WRITING THE INTRODUCTION

## Tips:

- 1. In spirit, “The reviewer is always right.”**
- 2. Provide an overview prior to the specific changes.**
- 3. If you don’t agree with the reviewer, justify your stance, but never defensively.**
- 4. Organize letter by reviewer or by themes within the review.**
- 5. Ensure each reviewer gets attention in the introduction.**

# REVISING THE APPLICATION

## **Tips:**

- 1. You will need to delete content to make room for your revisions.**
  - a. Spaces between paragraphs
  - b. Otherwise appealing to the eye if possible
  
- 2. You don't need to identify new content in the body of the application any longer. However, you are allowed.**

# HOW DOES IT WORK WITH NSF?

**Panel make-up is a secret – panelists are not allowed to tell which panel they are on or what proposals they are assigned**

**No number score – reviewers choose Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor for each review**

**You get all individual reviews**

**If the overall ratings of individual reviews is Good or below (and have no review above a Good) the panel will probably NOT discuss so you won't get a panel summary**

**If the panel discusses your proposal, you will get the panel summary as well**

**The program officer will provide some direction for whether to resubmit in the letter they write to each PI**

**Once you get over the sting of not getting funded, talk to the program officer and say “Do you want to see this proposal again?”**

**There are no “resubmissions” – all proposals go in as brand-new submissions**

# HOW DOES IT WORK WITH IES?

**Panels based on program/topic – All include substantive experts and methodologists**

## **Review process**

- Initially assigned to 2 or 3 primary reviewers who identify strengths/weaknesses and provide initial score
- If scored high enough, assigned for full panel review
- Scoring Criterion ratings of 7 (excellent) to 1 (poor) for significance, research plan, personnel, resources
- Overall score of 1 (outstanding) to 5 (poor)
- Budget, data management plan, and human subjects narrative reviewed but not scored

**Have to indicate that proposal is a resubmission and include up to 3 pages indicating how you responded to reviewers' comments**

# HOW DOES IT WORK WITH USDA?

**There are review panels, but the membership is not made public, and it changes every year.**

**There are proposal deadlines, but they change every year, and there is only 1 opportunity to submit each year.**

**There is no limit on the number of times a revised proposal can be submitted like there is at NIH.**

**Proposals receive a priority rating type of score that ranges from 'triage' to 'outstanding.'**

**In revision, consideration should be given to the review comments and the changes outlined as an addition to the proposal text.**

QUESTIONS?