

**Subject:** SERCC Newsletter

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**From:** Scientific Editing and Research Communication Core

**To:** Widmayer, Heather A

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**Scientific Editing and Research Communication Core**



## **SERCC Grant Writing Templates for NIH and NSF Proposals**

*As you may be aware, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is in the process of making changes to comply with recent federal directives. We are monitoring the impact on requirements for NIH grant applications and will update our resources accordingly.*

Did you know that you can find grant writing templates for NIH and National Science Foundation (NSF) applications on the [Scientific Editing and Research Communication Core \(SERCC\) website](#)?

Our editing team has developed templates with detailed guidelines for writing the major components of NIH Research (R), Career (K), and Fellowship (F) applications, as well as NSF CAREER Award applications. These templates, which incorporate information from multiple grant writing resources, are designed to help you organize and write your proposal so that the content closely aligns with the instructions and review criteria for the relevant grant mechanism. The templates also include ideas on how to write key sentences and how to highlight important information for reviewers. Since our templates are designed to serve as a writing guide rather than a document template, we recommend that you copy/paste key elements from the template into a new document.

Our templates are updated regularly to incorporate changes in funding agency instructions and review criteria. For example, we recently updated our NIH R, K, and F templates to reflect new review criteria that are relevant for applications submitted on or after January 25, 2025, and we are currently developing new NIH F templates to incorporate NIH's pending [changes for fellowship applications submitted January 25, 2025, and beyond](#).

The following grant writing templates are available (*each link opens as a Word document*):

## **NIH**

- **Research Grants (R)**
  - [Specific Aims and Research Strategy](#)
  - [Biosketch](#)
- **Research Career Development Awards (K)**
  - [Specific Aims and Research Strategy](#)
  - [Biosketch](#)
- **Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (F)**
  - Currently available:
    - [Research Training Project Specific Aims and Research Training Project Strategy](#)
    - [Biosketch for fellowship applicants](#)
  - Coming soon (for applications submitted January 25, 2025, and

beyond):

- Training Activities and Timelines
- Candidate's Goals, Preparedness, and Potential
- Updated Biosketch for fellowship applicants

## **NSF**

- **Faculty Early Career Development Award (CAREER)**
  - [Project Summary and Project Description](#)

In addition, the SERCC has developed the following boilerplate text and templates:

- [Boilerplate text for NIH "Facilities and Other Resources" attachment, for center grant proposals](#)
- [Boilerplate text for NIH "Facilities and Other Resources" attachment, for grant proposals](#)
- [Template for NIH "Facilities and Other Resources" attachment](#)
- [Template for timelines and milestones](#)

When writing a grant proposal, it can also be helpful to look at examples of other proposals that have been submitted. The following resources provide examples of successful grant proposals:

- **[Proposal Resource Library](#)**

The UI Research Development Office maintains an extensive library of successful proposals for various funding agencies and private foundations, including the NIH and NSF. In addition, the resource library contains examples of various components required for proposals, including budget justifications and resource sharing plans. Examples can be searched by funding agency and grant mechanism.
- **[SERCC Resources](#)**

Several of our grant writing templates include examples. For instance, an example of a Specific Aims page is included with each of our NIH grant application templates (R, K, and F), and a sample biosketch is included with each of our biosketch templates (fellowship and non-fellowship).
- **[UI Grad Success Center](#)**

The Grad Success Center has a library of donated proposal materials from other UI students.
- **[NIH Sample Applications and Documents](#)**

The NIH maintains a list of example resources provided by some Institutes, including funded applications, summary statements, and other documents.

- [Open Grants](#)

This open repository provides examples of funded and unfunded proposals for several international funding agencies, including the NIH and NSF.

For your next grant proposal, we encourage you to read through the SERCC grant writing template that is most relevant for your project and to search for example submissions using one of the resources described above. Even if you are applying to a funding agency other than the NIH or NSF, you may find that our templates provide useful suggestions that are relevant to writing about research for any grant application.

If you don't see a template for a specific grant mechanism, please [contact us](#), and we would be happy to discuss developing one for that mechanism.

Good luck with your grant writing!

- Heather Widmayer and the SERCC team

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## Announcements

### [Upcoming changes to NIH Applications and Peer Review](#)

The NIH is implementing multiple changes in 2025 that will affect the submission and review of grant applications. Click the link above for a summary of the changes and links to additional information.

### [Ask the Editor: Moving to Wednesdays in 2025](#)

Do you have a question related to writing a grant, manuscript, or other scientific document? Join our virtual office hours to talk with a scientific editor. We are also happy to answer any questions you have regarding our services. Participants are welcome to reserve time in advance and/or send in documents they would like feedback on.

## Upcoming Opportunities

Have a question about writing grants or research articles? [Contact us](#) and we will answer it in a future newsletter.

### **Maximizing Pivot to Find Funding and Collaborators**

January 31 | 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Hardin Library

Do you want to minimize your time spent searching for funding opportunities or potential project collaborators? Join us to learn how Pivot can save you time and effort in identifying the right funding opportunities for your research, as well as in identifying collaborators with the relevant expertise.

[More information](#)

### **Broader Impacts/Research Impacts Seminar**

Starting February 7 | 9:00–11:00 a.m. | Zoom

The Training Team from the NSF-supported Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS) organization will conduct three interactive virtual workshops that will cover the history of the Broader Impacts criterion and will provide strategies for conceptualizing, developing, implementing, and evaluating Broader Impact activities.

[More information](#) | [Register](#)

### **An Introduction to the NIH Fellowship Program for Prospective Candidates– Webinar**

February 11 | 9:00–10:30 a.m. | Zoom

You may already know that there's a lot that goes into an NIH fellowship application, and you may be wondering where to start. At this live, virtual event NIH experts will: discuss NIH's fellowship programs; break down the fellowship application and peer review process; share practical tips for preparing a competitive application; and answer your questions at a live Q&A session. Whether you're new to the NIH fellowship process or you just want a refresher, this webinar is for you.

[More information](#) | [Register](#)

### **Licensing and Commercialization Class**

February 20 | 3:00–4:30 p.m. | Zoom

As part of the University of Iowa Research Foundation (UIRF) Technology Commercialization Series, the Licensing and Commercialization class will provide an overview of the commercialization process, as well as IP, marketing, and licensing strategy. It will also cover various agreements that grant rights to intellectual property, which might be of interest to those interested in entrepreneurship.

[More information](#) | [Register](#)

### **College of Public Health, Rural Health Summit**

February 28 | 9:00 a.m. through lunchtime | CPH Building and Zoom

The College of Public Health (CPH) is hosting the first Rural Health Summit. This special event will spotlight rural health as one of the CPH's areas of excellence and provide a platform to showcase the impactful work being done across the college. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Diane Hall, director of the Office of Rural Health at

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Infrastructure Center. The summit will accommodate both in-person and remote participation for many of the sessions. Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees.

[More information](#) | [Register](#)

### **Obermann End-of-Year Writing Retreat**

May 12–16 | 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. | North Ridge Pavilion, Coralville, IA

Jumpstart your summer writing project! Fifteen participants will enjoy a quiet week away from the distractions of campus. Each day will include structured blocks for writing, breaks, and small-group “creative moments and check-ins,” as well as opportunities for discussion with other writers across campus. Funded by the P3 Writing for the Public Good Initiative.

[More information](#) | [Register](#)

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