

Project and Research Agendas Helpful Hints

1. Is your idea for a one-time project, which can be appropriate, or part of a long-term and sustainable research agenda? Know where you want to go.
2. If a one-time project, such as a contract for a specific project, will the work add to your portfolio in a meaningful way?
3. Is present research inadequate or a new direction possible/required? Know what is emerging in your specialty area.
4. Develop a one-page summary for your proposed research as a guide to discuss the project with potential collaborators/funders/program officers. It's your "elevator speech."
5. Share your idea with a trusted colleague who can provide an honest opinion about the proposed research.
6. Do your publications support the direction you want to go? If not, work to publish more in the target area.
7. How do publications by other scholars align with/support your research target?
8. Do you have the qualifications to serve in a PI or Co-PI? If not, strategize to build your resume/qualifications.
9. Can you build a team – internal and external – to support the work? Can this be a long-term collaboration?
10. If you are funded, would you love working in this area for three to five years and perhaps more? If not, then rethink your direction.

J. Wiens, COE Pre-Award Coordinator, 2/2021