

## Chapter 16

### Grant Writing

**Student assignments and activities designed to enhance learning and stimulate critical thinking.**

1. Using the Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP, <http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/>), perform a search for nutrition-related projects in your state during the current fiscal year. Choose one of the projects that best addresses nutrition in public health and answer the following questions:

- What is the name of the project?
- Summarize the project in one to two sentences.
- Who is the Primary Investigator (PI)? What is their title? What institution are they from?
- How long will the project take?
- What agency is funding the project? Why is this project a match for funding through this agency?

2. Using the federal grant program website (<http://www.grants.gov>), perform a search for nutrition-related grant opportunities. Choose one of the grant opportunities that best addresses nutrition in public health and answer the following questions:

- What is the title of the grant?
- Summarize the purpose of this grant in one to two sentences.
- Who can apply for this grant, and by when must applications be received?
- How many awards will be made under this grant opportunity?
- What is the range of funding an applicant may receive?
- What agency is distributing the funding? Why is this grant opportunity a match for this agency?

3. Often successful programs collaborate with local organizations, foundations, hospitals, schools, agencies, and large and small businesses. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of collaborating with others.

4. You have been asked to write a grant to start a neighborhood child obesity prevention program that aims to encourage children and their caretakers to eat well and exercise regularly. This program will take place during the summer months (in between school years) and should include educational workshops and hands-on activities, such as cook shops and noncompetitive sports. A handful of professionals will be needed to start the program, including a medical doctor, registered dietitian, and physical activity instructor. The details and overall design of the program have been left up to you.

- A. The purpose of a literature review is to document the need for your program, as well as to identify strategies for program design, implementation, and evaluation. A thorough literature review will critically examine the existing work that relates to your proposed program. Conduct a literature review, provide a summary of the relevant literature, and show how it relates to your proposed program. Include a statement of need: why is this program needed in your community? How will this program help neighborhood children and their families? You may want to locate information with regard to obesity and your specific population by consulting:
- 1) Government reports of studies related to the problem itself, e.g. statistics that demonstrate the type, size, and scope of this nutrition/health-related problem on a national level; information about the at-risk population; incidence and prevalence; ages; SES; community assessment (include epidemiological data, mortality, morbidity, debility statistics and surveys that have been done).
  - 2) Studies that describe the characteristics and extent of the problem in your community
  - 3) Evaluation of the nutritional or nutrition education needs of the at-risk population:
    - Anthropometry
    - Biochemical assessment
    - Clinical assessment
    - Dietary assessment
    - Educational needs assessment; environmental resources & challenges, etc.
  - 4) Studies and reports that discuss the cause of the problem and its social and economic impact.
  - 5) Resources that identify specific means of prevention. What have similar programs done in the past? Were they successful? Why or why not?
- B. Give your program a title. Based on your literature review, create a program logic model illustrating the your design of the program. Be sure to include the resources you need, activities you will accomplish, immediate outputs of the accomplishments, program outcomes after one year, and program impact in three to five years. Before starting this logic model, review Section 16.3.1 and Figures 16-1 and 16-2.
- C. List the goals and objectives of your program.
- D. Describe the program methods (How? When? Why? Where? Who?) Also include participant eligibility criteria, other organizations involved, and any major barriers you anticipate and how your program will be able to overcome those barriers.

- E. Discuss how you plan to evaluate the program. What evaluation mechanism will you use and why? How will you know that you met your goals and objectives? Who are the evaluators and who or what would be evaluated?
- F. Describe a plan for sustainability of the project.
- G. Create a budget worksheet, including an estimate of all costs (direct and indirect costs, salaries, etc).
- H. Now that you have completed the necessary sections of a grant proposal, find a grant opportunity that would potentially fund your program. Grant opportunities can be found online through the federal grant program website (<http://www.grants.gov>) and the Foundation Center (<http://fdncenter.org>). Provide a brief description of the grant opportunity, including the funding organization, title and purpose of the grant, and range of possible funding.
- I. Grants are usually monetary awards but they may also include in-kind support, such as products, supplies, equipment, corporate service/facilities, professional services, and employee expertise. Refer to Gifts In Kind International (<http://www.giftsinkind.org>). List the type of in-kind support your program could use, and where and from whom you might be able to receive this support. State how your program would benefit from the support you identified.
- J. Finally, write the abstract for your grant proposal. Remember, the abstract is a brief (300 words or less) description of your proposed project.