

# Aligning Grants with Research Goals

Ensuring your grant proposal aligns with the objectives outlined in the request for proposals (RFP) is crucial for a proposal to be successful. Here are some steps to refine and bolster the alignment of your proposal with the stated grant objectives:

## Understand the Grant Objectives

Gain a clear understanding of the goals and objectives laid out in the grant guidelines and identify the specific language used to describe the desired outcomes and impacts.

## Align your Project Goals with the Grant Objectives

Establish a direct connection between each of your project goals and the objectives outlined in the grant guidelines and articulate how your project will contribute to fulfilling the overarching mission of the grantor.

## Use the Same Language as the Sponsor

Integrate the language and terminology from the grant guidelines into your proposal and add the grantor's priorities and values to your narrative.

## Demonstrate your Project's Impact

Clearly outline how your project will positively and measurably impact in accordance with the grantor's objectives and provide evidence or examples supporting your claims about the proposed outcomes.

## Tailor the Objectives in Your Proposal

Customize your project objectives within the proposal to mirror the specific language used by the grantor and ensure your objectives are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).

## Address Each Objective Separately

If multiple objectives are outlined in the grant guidelines, address each one separately in your proposal by clearly articulating how your project will fulfill each objective and contribute to overall grant success.

## Align the Grant Activities with the Objectives

Ensure proposed activities directly align with the objectives outlined in the grant guidelines and clearly explain how each planned activity contributes to achieving specific objectives.

## Highlight Institutional Compatibility

Emphasize the alignment between Western Carolina University's mission and values and those of the grantor to showcase compatibility between organizational priorities and grant objectives.

## Connect Your Budget Items to the Objectives

Establish a clear link between your budget items and the attainment of grant objectives. Also provide detailed justifications for how each budget line contributes to fulfilling stated objectives.

## Provide Evidence and Examples

Support your alignment claims with concrete evidence and examples from past institutional successes or relevant experiences and use data or case studies to reinforce the feasibility of achieving grant objectives.

## Consider the Long-Term Impact

Address the lasting impact of your project beyond the grant period and illustrate the sustainability of your efforts in relation to grantor's objectives.