8.1: Introduction to preparing grant applications

Research funding agencies want to support outstanding researchers to conduct cutting edge studies to advance knowledge that contributes to the solution of health problems. Applicants for grants must convince the funding agency that they are high-quality scientists whose research proposal addresses important question(s) and that the studies planned will deliver the answer(s) on time and within budget. Research proposals have many common elements, but, in intervention trials involving human subjects, some critical aspects, such as ethical, legal, and social issues, must be addressed particularly carefully in the grant application. Determination, good planning, and meticulous attention to details are essential for a successful application.