So How Does Funding Work?
(with applications to Economics at NSF)

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Four Things To Know

• Why are you applying?
• Know your target
  – Their goal
  – Their process for application and decision
  – Their past awards
• Writing matters
• Look for the sweet spot
Know Your Target: NSF

- Basic science focus
- Lots of info at nsf.gov
- Publicly searchable database of awards
- Types of Review:
  - Mail plus Panel – the SBE standard
  - Panel Only – Other directorates and almost all special short-term initiatives.
Know Your Target: Economics Program

- All fields of economics compete.
- Experimental economics is a method, behavioral economics is a field.
- There will be experimental economists on the panel.
Where To Go For Info

• All programs have assigned program directors listed at nsf.gov
• Want to start a conversation?
  – Email
  – one-two page description of project that focuses on basic science contribution
  – Include your questions
10 Tips from Nancy

- Regular proposals are easier to write than CAREERs.
- Avoid “Trust Me” and “All Done”.
- Do have your experimental design.
- How is your work generalizable?
- Don’t say “this will be useful for xx policy” if you don’t know anything about xx policy.
- Referencing other disciplines? Do unto others as we wish they’d do unto us.
- Suggest lots of reviewers.
- Check your google rank.
- Remember your sponsored programs office may not know social science.
- Don’t apply if you can’t start the project on time.
Questions?

Find me at nlutz@nsf.gov