

DOCKETED

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Budget Effort Reduction

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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EPIC Idea Exchange

What are some ideas to encourage private sector companies to apply for research funding ?

Background:

Detailed budgeting is important for the CEC to ensure appropriate spending, reasonable overhead rates, and proper funding allocation. The budgetary process for a CEC proposal may seem straightforward at first glance; however, it reveals itself as a major / detailed / and difficult task when the applicant works through the process, particularly if multiple partners/businesses are engaged in the proposal. The budgeting effort in fact becomes a significant time investment that detracts from the technical aspects of the proposal effort, thus demotivating applicants that may have excellent technical solutions to offer, but have their energy diverted to budgetary efforts that detract from the explanation of their ideas or in many cases eliminate their motivation to propose.

Suggestion:

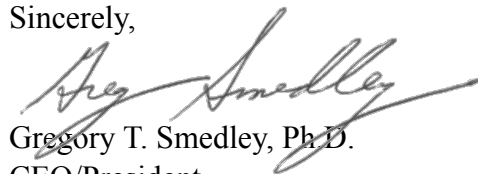
Perhaps the CEC could consider requesting that proposers provide only basic budget information with the proposal, then request that only successful candidates prepare detailed budget documents. Basic budget could include: total amount requested, total cost share expected, and period of performance, since these are adequate to judge the general budgetary level of the program and cost-share support. This will enable proposers to focus on the presentation of their ideas and reviewers to focus on the detailed merits of the proposal.

Expected outcomes:

1. More companies will propose their best ideas, since proposal burden is greatly reduced.
2. Reviewers & the CEC will enjoy improved technical proposals and a greater variety & number of ideas, from a wider range of eligible candidates.
3. Selected Awardees will be very happy & motivated to complete the detailed budget forms and negotiate a contract with the CEC, when they know they are already selected.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this idea with the CEC Team. OCC appreciates the efforts of the CEC Team to work with outside stakeholders to identify potential paths toward expanding and improving the flow and quality of ideas to drive successful rate-payer investments.

Sincerely,



Gregory T. Smedley, Ph.D.
CEO/President