

Division of Research and Economic Development
Office of Research Development

Tips For Grantseekers #2

Question: How is it decided which proposals are to be submitted when a grant funding agency limits the number of proposals allowed by an institution?

Due to limited funding and/or to simplify the selection process, various funding programs limit the number of proposals an institution is allowed to submit. Agencies often note such limitations in their eligibility requirements, so be certain to read through requests for proposals (RFPs) carefully. Often if agencies receive more than the allotted number of proposals from a given institution, they will request the institution to designate which proposals are to be considered. As such, if permission to submit was not properly attained from the University, a proposal that has taken months to develop may not even be considered.

For all limited competitions for proposals that are submitted through the Division of Research and Economic Development, a specific procedure is followed to decide which proposals are to be submitted on behalf of the University of Rhode Island.

1. **Limited competitions are first identified.** Using a variety of grant program funding information sources, the Division of Research and Economic Development staff make note of limited competitions for large federal funding agencies. Also, individual investigators looking for funding sources may come across programs with limited competitions and notify the Division of Research and Economic Development.
2. **Limited competitions are announced to the URI community as a whole.** The Division of Research and Economic Development posts announcements of limited competitions to the RESRCH-L listserv as well as the Division of Research and Economic Development website. At the website limited competitions are listed individually on the Limited Competitions website. A link to that site, "Limited Competition Notices" is located on the left-hand side of the Division homepage (<http://www.uri.edu/research/tro>).
3. **Individual investigators interested in submitting proposals to limited competition programs are to notify the Division of Research and Economic Development by contacting Karen Markin, Director of Research Development, at 874-2223.** Deadlines for contacting the Research Office are listed both in the RESRCH-L notices and on the Research Office webpage. If announcements have not yet been posted, the Director of Research Development will work with individual investigators to make sure all parties interested in a particular competition are identified so as to avoid any future conflicts.

4. **If more parties are interested in submitting proposals than allotted by funding agencies, interested parties prepare and submit brief preproposals to the Director of Research Development.** Each preproposal is to be no more than two pages in length and should include a summary of the intended project addressing program priorities as well as a total budget amount for the project. The significance of the project as it relates to the University as a whole, individual colleges and/or departments, researchers, students, etc. should also be addressed.
5. **A subcommittee of the Council for Research reviews all preproposals.** Council members generally review the preproposals based upon two major considerations: which proposals will have the best chance of being funded by the sponsoring agencies and which proposals generally provide the best outcomes for URI.
6. **When the Council for Research subcommittee reaches a consensus, individual investigators are notified as to whether or not they have been chosen to submit on behalf of URI.** For those investigators not chosen submit proposals, a brief justification is given to assist in further developing a project for any future considerations. All investigators are also welcome to work with the Office of Research Development to develop projects and proposals and identify additional funding sources.