Not Funded ... Now What?  
Guidance from the Experts

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Should I revise and Resubmit? Critical Points:

• Revised applications have a higher success rate than first time apps
• Contact your Program Officer to discuss the review and your plans for a revision
• Revised applications can include an Introduction page to summarize what has been changed in the revision
• Revised applications are assigned to the same review panel as before but may have different reviewers
• Reviewers have access to the prior review (Summary Statement) but not the original application
I. Determine when it makes sense to submit an amended application, and when it does not

II. Describe important components needed in a resubmission

III. Describe some common submission errors
When to resubmit, and when not!

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1. Contact your Program Officer (PO)!

- PO Name/Contact info is listed on top left of your Summary Statement

- Email (don’t cold call!) PO to set up a time to talk
- Have discussion of IRG critiques: strengths (same) & weaknesses (address)

When to resubmit, and when not!
2. Resubmit or Not?

- You must have the Summary Statement back before you can resubmit
- Usually, best to regroup and resubmit - aptly addressing the previous reviewers' critiques
- But if *substantial* weaknesses (significance, investigators, innovation, environment & approach) then perhaps restart new project/new application
- If a lot of time passes before you can resubmit, reassess the science and consider submitting a new application instead of a resubmission, particularly if the science has evolved
- Discussion with PO can help you determine to resubmit or not
- NOTE - You must submit a new application (not a resubmission) if switching between a program announcement (PA) and request for application (RFA) or if changing grant mechanisms (e.g., R01 to R15)

*When to resubmit, and when not!*
3. Must be in it to win it!

Only way to NOT get funded is to Not apply; **must be in it to win it!**

Investigators who **successfully obtained new grants** showed remarkable within-person consistency across multiple grant submission behaviors, including submitting more applications per year, more renewal applications...

When to resubmit, and when not!
4. Seek Wise Counsel!

Suggestion: Prior to resubmission ask your colleagues/mentors to serve as your own internal review panel before resubmitting to NIH. Have you addressed well the review critiques from the first submission?

5. Read before Write!

Read the FOA (again) before resubmitting. Are you using most recent announcement? Has anything changed since first submission? Does the FOA even allow resubmissions? (NIGMS’ R35 MIRA program does not, would need a new application), etc.

When to resubmit, and when not!
Important components in a resubmission!

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Tips for a Strong Resubmission Application

• Capitalize on your strengths

• Respond point by point

• Include an introduction (required; one-page limit)
  • Summarize the issues and criticisms and your response
  • Summarize substantial additions, deletions, and changes
  • If possible, address comments point by point

• Update the research plan and elsewhere in the body of your application as needed
More Tips for a Strong Resubmission Application

• Don't drop important details in favor of making space to address reviewer comments
• Identify changes by outlining them in your introduction
• Add new findings and your own improvements
• See what worked for others
• Be respectful even if you disagree
• Contact your PO. We can help guide you!
Other components to consider

For non-RPG application types

• Multi-project applications: Must submit an introduction with the Overall component, but introductions within the other components are optional.

• Career development and fellowship applicants: Must arrange for resubmission of the three reference letters required for those programs.
Additional Considerations

• You must submit the resubmission application within 37 months of the new, renewal, or revision application it follows.

• Note that identifying individual changes by using brackets, indents, or change of typography in the text of Specific Aims, Research Strategy, and other application attachments is no longer required, though NIH will continue to accept applications that contain the specific mark-ups.

• Use the most recent version of the FOA and forms, even if it's not the one you used originally.
Avoid common resubmission errors!

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Common resubmission errors

1. Not contacting your program director – even if you are ND, you should call/email!

2. Not responding thoroughly to reviewer comments.
   Don’t rush. It’s better to wait for the next receipt date than to send an application back prematurely.

3. Missing the forest for the trees.
   Don’t focus only on technical critiques and fail to make needed revisions to the big picture.

4. Panel hopping.
   Don’t focus more on getting a different audience than on improving your application.
Some resubmission errors are also common in first submissions

1. Undervaluing visual communication
   • Leave good white space
   • Make figure legends large enough to read
   • Make sure figures labels are accurate and clear
   • Use of bold text strategically
   • Make good use of paragraph breaks

2. Not speaking to your audience

_The key to good grant writing is communicating your idea in a way that excites reviewers_
Questions?