COMMON APPLICATION PROBLEMS

Note that NIH/Center for Scientific Review (CSR) employees cannot provide instructions or feedback regarding applications; nevertheless, the following qualities are typical of applications that do not do well in peer review:

- Lack of new or original ideas
- Insufficiently developed scientific rationale
- Lack of experience in essential methodologies.
- Confusing community-based and/or community-placed research practices with CBPR.
- Questionable reasoning in experimental approach
- Uncritical approach
- Diffuse, superficial, or unfocused research plan
- Lack of sufficient experimental detail
- Lack of knowledge of published relevant work
- Unrealistically large amount of work
- Uncertainty concerning future directions
- Inadequate procedures to protect research participants from project-related risks
- Incomplete processes to ensure confidentiality of particpants and the data they provide

GENERAL APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

CSR employees also cannot provide instructions or feedback regarding applications; nevertheless, Scientific Review Administrators/Officers (SRAs or SROs) frequently provide the following suggestions to investigators who ask for suggestions:

- Read and follow all the grants,gov, PHS 398, and the Funding Oportunity Announcement's instructions.
- ALL the instructions. This means you! ☺
- ‘‘ALL the instructions" includes, "demonstrate your study's clear use of CBPR principles."
- Expect the reviewers to use <u>all</u> NIH criteria to assess your application.
- Conduct and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the literature without presenting an exhaustive literature review.
- Communicate the significance of your proposed research project in relation to the noteworthy public health problem that your application addresses.
- State the rationale of your proposed investigation.
- Be certain that your stated aims follow your rationale.
- Include well-designed tables and figures.

- Present a complete and organized research plan.
- Completely describe your plans to accomplish your proposed project.
- Send only allowable items in your appendices.
- Obtain and integrate pre-submission feedback from institutional colleagues or other peers.
- Ask your NIH program officer/director for feedback on brief written materials that reflect the application you'd like to submit.