

Who May Submit a Grant Proposal?

The Principal Investigator (PI) is commonly defined as the individual at the institution who takes the lead on an experiment or research project and directs all activities pertaining to the project. It is the principal investigator who initiates the development of the grant proposal, but it is the authorized organizational representative (AOR) that has authority on behalf of the institution to submit the proposal to the sponsor. The AOR is an individual who represents the institution in negotiations on sponsored activities.

Principal investigators are not allowed to submit grants on behalf of the institution without going through the appropriate administrative entity. Please use the grid below as a guide for determining the best point of contact to assist with submission of a grant application.

Funder	Submission Mechanism	Process
Federal Grant Applications (National Science Foundation, Dept. of Navy, NIH, DOD) State Grant Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSF Fastlane • Grants.gov • eRA Commons • proposalCentral • Paper submission 	Only an authorized organizational representative (AOR) is allowed to submit proposals through these mechanisms
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposalCentral • Web-based proposal submission system • Paper submission 	Only an authorized organizational representative (AOR) is allowed to submit proposals through these mechanisms
Corporate Sponsorship	N/A	Contact with corporate sponsors can only be initiated through The Citadel Foundation*

*If you feel that your program could benefit from corporate sponsorship, contact your Department Head/Chair to discuss your proposed plan.

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