

Review, Resubmissions, and Renewals – The Program Perspective

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Program Officer Responsibilities: Service Across the Grant Lifecycle

- Before submission
 - Help in identifying NOFOs, NOFO special requirements, policies, updates
 - Scientific priorities; feedback on science of your proposed research
- After review
 - Interpret the summary statement
 - Provide advise on next steps
- Before the award
 - Issues that need to be addressed/DMS Plan/JIT
- After the award
 - Annual progress report monitoring (RPPR); changes to grant; carryover; transfers
 - Supplements
 - Scientific advances, trends; advocate for an area of science

Areas Where Program Officers Can Help After the Review

- Interpreting the Review
- Advice on Resubmission
- Renewal vs New Application

Goals

- Understand the role of a Program Officer as it pertains to application resubmission or renewal
- Understand the benefits and limitations of renewal applications

Interpreting the Unfavorable Summary Statement:

- Read it through and put it aside for a week
- Read it again, as objectively as possible. Talk to your Program Officer, mentors/colleagues, and key collaborators
- Identify patterns
 - List all the strengths made by the reviewers, organized by review criteria
 - Tells you what resonated positively with the reviewers
 - List all the weaknesses or concerns
 - Similar concerns – point towards needed revisions or clarifications
 - Distinct concerns – address as appropriate
 - General comments
- Plan your response

*AN IDEA IS WORTH NOTHING
IF IT HAS NO CHAMPION*

That champion will be the reviewer(s) who will
advocate for your application.
Being adversarial to the reviewers will not help you.

Composing the Introduction to the Resubmission:

- Be direct, respectful and thoughtful about the scientific criticisms raised
- Summarize the strengths identified
 - Emphasize that these have been retained
- Carefully address the weaknesses, and summarize major changes
 - Take ownership of mistakes
 - Start with those mentioned in the Resume and Summary of discussion
 - Then address themes/issues common to the reviewers
 - Concisely describe how the issues were addressed, Whenever possible expand on how the changes specifically affect the application/team
 - e.g., added a statistician with relevant expertise for an aim. Replaced a particular model to allow better data collection and analysis.

Introduction to the Resubmission: Dealing with Criticisms of the Approach

- Rather than saying you deleted something – present why you proposed those experiments and that you can see the reviewer’s point
- Show thoughtfulness
 - Don’t just say yes or delete expts to appease the reviewers
 - Think it through. If reviewer suggestion will not work, propose an alternative
 - Don’t dismiss reviewer’s concern because you don’t agree with their solution. Understand why they suggested that and address the underlying concern.
- When it seems the reviewer doesn’t understand something, explain it without being condescending
 - What does the reviewer need to know?

Planning the Resubmission:

- Get input from program staff, trusted mentors/peers, collaborators
- Collect new preliminary data or literature
 - Ensure that new prelim data are supportive of what needs to be demonstrated
- Rethink and refine methods, clarify aims, state significance
 - Include new/revise materials to satisfy reviewers' concerns
- Delete accordingly
 - Mention what has been deleted if substantive, so reviewers will know and not ask for it back
- Don't add material that is irrelevant to reviewers' concerns
- Plan and set aside time to rewrite

Remember:

Reviewers review the application in front of them, not which application (-01 vs -01A1) is better.

Resubmit or New Application Considerations

Original score
– how well did
it do?

Study
section vibe

Number of
changes
needed

Timeline

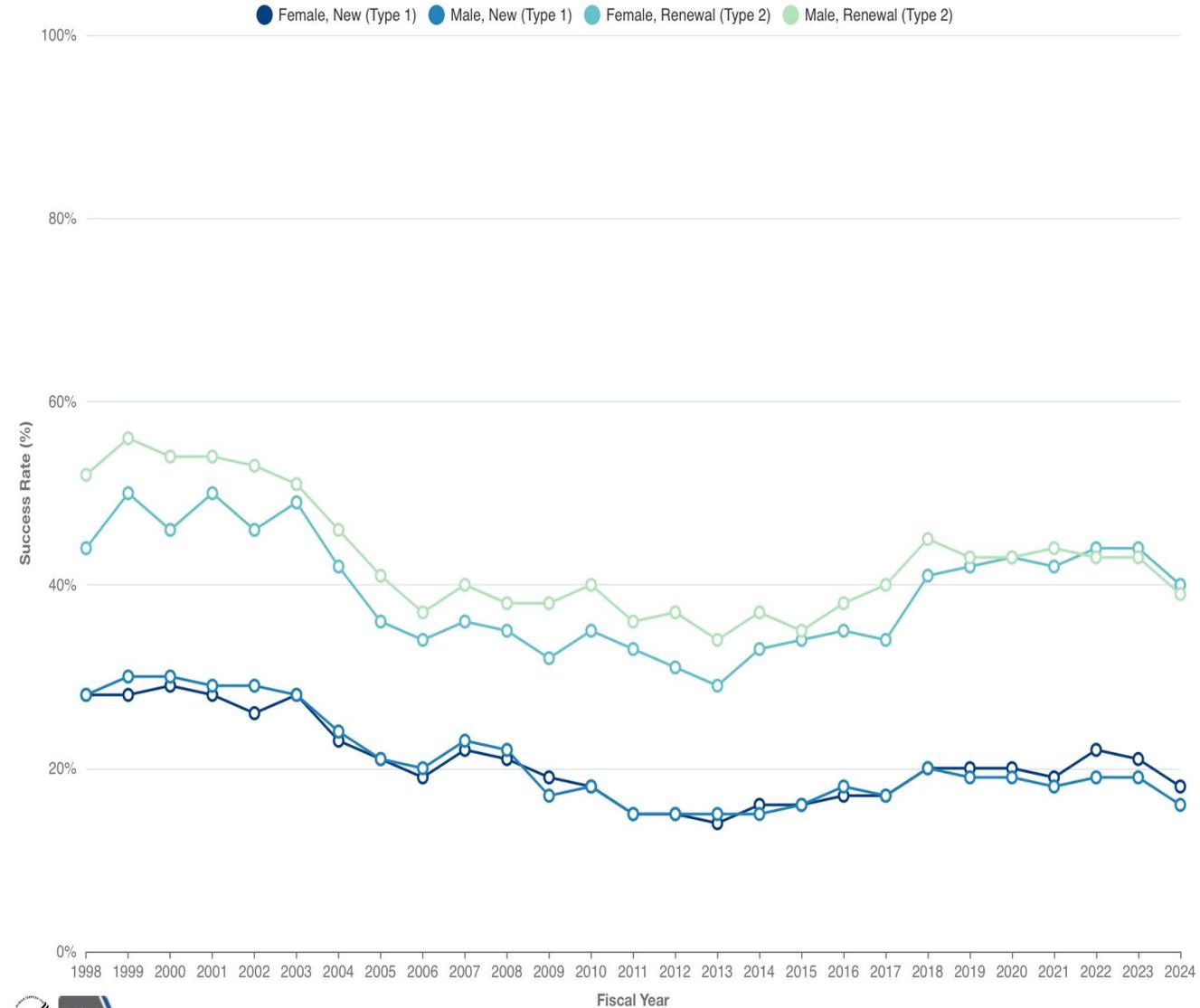
-O1 vs -A1?

The bottom line:
Has the application
changed significantly
to justify an A0?

Renewal vs new application considerations

- Productivity
 - Completed aims
 - Publications
- Direction of science
 - Extension
 - New
- Budget – type 2 cap policy
- Success rates
- Departmental requirements

R01-Equivalent Grants: Success Rates, by Sex and Type of Application



Congratulations on your award
Wish you success in future applications

