* ***Start Early:*** Funding cycles are typically annual cycles (some may be biennial) this means you need to be searching at least 12 – 18 months in advance to find the most appropriate funding opportunities
* ***Resources:*** What resources are available to you that can assist you in getting grants and in successfully completing research? Generate a list specific to your topic and your work to have on hand when you write.
* ***Partner:*** Look for opportunities to partner to generate novel research ideas and to reach your goals. Partners may include other postdocs or faculty. You may even want to think about a program where you work with graduate or undergraduate students.
* ***Path:*** What is your path forward? NIH has a very clear career path for their funded scientists, but other funders do not. How do you want to progress in your field? What is a reasonable expectation? What are the main goals you have for your career? Work with your PI mentor to establish an outline.
* ***Goal:*** What is the goal of your research – What is your answer to the “So What” question? How does your work impact your career, the discipline, the wider world? Funders want to know their money is doing something in the world.
* ***Plan:*** Generate a plan for writing the grant and completing the components. Learn the internal processes required for submitting sponsored research (when the University does the compliance) versus directly awarded funds. Find out whose support you need via letters, signatures, or through administrative or facilitative capacities at the University.

TOP TIPS in DETAIL