



Resubmission of Unfunded NSF Phase I Proposals

Unlike Phase II proposals, NSF allows resubmission of unfunded Phase I SBIR and STTR proposals...but only if “substantial revisions” have been made in response to the reviewer comments. The current solicitations (SBIR closes June 16; STTR closes June 18, 2015) instruct applicants who are preparing a resubmission to include a one-page Supplementary Document entitled “Resubmission Change Description.” The document should detail the revisions that have been made to the proposal.

Because the Resubmission Change Description is limited to one-page it will be difficult to provide the details of every revision in this limited space. Therefore, BBCetc advises that clients use the opportunity to “guide” reviewers to the appropriate revisions by:

1. Listing the major categories of critiques from previous reviewers
2. Describing in a general manner how the critiques were addressed
3. Identifying where in the revised proposal the appropriate revisions can be found

This information can be presented concisely in a three-column table. We also recommend that the table be introduced with short paragraph thanking the reviewers for their constructive comments. For maximum impact you must respond to the reviewer comments thoroughly and effectively by:

1. Critically and dispassionately analyzing each overt, or implicit, criticism in the original reviews
2. Responding (not rebutting) with substantive changes in the project or the proposal (for example, adding an expert consultant to the project team, providing additional literature citations to support the significance of the problem, changing the experimental plan to include more control groups, etc.)

Typically, your chances of funding success will be higher in a resubmission but only if you do an excellent job of fixing the deficiencies cited by the reviewers.