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GERO 550

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Curry Chapter 4 Abstract

Reference:

Curry, L., & Nunez-Smith, M. (2015). Definition and overview of mixed methods designs, *Mixed methods in health sciences research: A practical primer* (pp. 3-34). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

Summary:

Chapter 4 introduces how to develop a scientifically sound and compelling grant application for a mixed methods study. It contained three parts. First is identifying potential funder and communicate with them before you write. It included exploring the targeted institutions and agencies history to see whether they support mixed methods research before; talking to the staff, getting the feedback; paying attention to the deadline and leaving more feasible time. The second part is using recent data to inform that mixed methods study is the trend. In the third part of this chapter, the authors provided extensive practical guidance on planning for and preparing a competitive grant application. Each component of the grand application was discussed which include title, background or significance, specific aims, research plan or methods, investigative team and environment and cover letter.

Three Main Points:

* Before you write the grant application, it is important to choose a funding institution. You can review the interests of the funder, get the general information about the mission and funding initiatives and use public resources to identify a funding institution. When introducing to new funders about the mixed methods, cite seminal methods literature using mixed methods is a good solution. Besides, we need to limit the jargon and make the proposal easy to understand.
* The mixed methods study is becoming common these days. Even though the proportion is low, but the number of mixed methods studies is increasing.
* Follow a clear logical alignment when writing a strong mixed methods proposal. Keep track of each component: title, background or significance, specific aims, research plan or methods, investigative team and environment and cover letter.

Analysis

* Results/Conclusions:
	+ Before writing a proposal, explore the targeted institutions and agencies history to see whether they support mixed methods research before. Talk to the staff, get the feedback, pay attention to the deadline and leave more feasible time.
	+ Mixed methods study is the trend.
	+ Ensuring alignment of each component in grant application is necessary. The component includes: title, background or significance, specific aims, research plan or methods, investigative team and environment and cover letter.
* Does the author provide a persuasive argument?
	+ The authors used the general NIH application format as a guide and analyzed the trends in funding for mixed methods studies as well. The trend is that even though the proportion is low, but the number of mixed methods studies is increasing. By expressing these information, the authors were persuading that mixed methods study is the new trend.
	+ The authors informed people to understand their audiences before they write which is also a persuasive argument.
* How does the chapter relate to the topics and themes addressed in this week’s classwork?
	+ In order to conduct a successful program evaluation, people need to know what a compelling grant application will look like in the beginning. This chapter introduced the standard writing steps which we can use in program evaluation process.
* Did you like this chapter?
	+ I liked this chapter because it gives us useful tips for writing a scientifically sound and compelling grant application for a mixed methods study. This chapter is well organized and each part was very clear and easy to understand. It gave us guidelines from the beginning. Before we write the grant application, what do we need to prepare? Second part was the trends in funding for mixed methods studies. In the third part, it introduced the writing skills for each component of grant application. This is a useful chapter and we can use this chapter as an educational tool when writing grant application.
* What does this chapter add to your knowledge of aging and/or program evaluation?
	+ This chapter discussed useful tips for writing a scientifically sound and compelling grant application for a mixed methods study. And by teaching how to write, it also informed us how to evaluate a grant application. Besides, it conveyed the idea that when writing something, it is better to aim at the target audience.
* Please state your evaluation of the chapter and indicate what you think is its most salient contribution to your development as a program evaluator?
	+ The chapter is well organized and provided extensive practical guidance on planning for and preparing a competitive grant application which was very helpful. The author used general NIH application format as a guide, which gave us better understanding about what a solid grant application will look like. And when we want to evaluate a program, we can use these writing skills as strategies to examine.