The presenters offered a number of tips and important tools on how to obtain grant funding available through a variety of organizations, ranging from government agencies to private companies.

- Do not underestimate the time required to write a good proposal. Ninety days is the approximate time that it takes to write a good grant proposal.

- Compliance with all the specified regulations (e.g., font size, margin size, length, etc.) is very important. Compliance errors may cause a review committee to reject a proposal before reviewing it.

- If your proposal is rejected, go back and fix the problems. You can use reviewer comments, panel discussion summaries, and most importantly, your program officer to assist in strengthening your proposal.

- At this point your program officer has already devoted a lot of time and energy to your proposal and will be able to offer the best suggestions on how to fix the proposal in order to get funded during the next funding cycle.

- Try to make your proposal pleasing to the eye. There is a “fatigue factor” to consider when thinking of the reviewers. Try to break your proposal up with figures, diagrams, shorter paragraphs, etc. in order to make it easier for the reviewer to read the proposal. This will add a special flair to your proposal and a higher marking from the reviewer.

- Finally, the GW Office of Chief Research Officer (www.gwu.edu/~research) can offer advice and help in writing your proposal. They can help with interpreting sponsor guidelines, preparing a budget, as well as review the proposal before submission.