



4.1 Writing a Research Coproduction Grant Proposal

Ian D Graham, Chris McCutcheon, Jo Rycroft-Malone,
and Anita Kothari

Overview

- Globally, public and private research funders are increasingly funding coproduction research.
- While research coproduction proposals are like traditional researcher-driven proposals in many ways, they also differ in important ways.
- Successful research coproduction proposals not only effectively describe the research question, the study design and methods, analysis, etc.; they also describe both how the proposal was coproduced and how the research will be coproduced with the relevant knowledge users.

Overview

- Strong research coproduction proposals engage knowledge users in and throughout the research process; the research question addresses an issue of concern for the knowledge user partners; commitment and buy-in from partners is demonstrated; tailoring and timing the dissemination of results to the audience(s) are described.
- With two exceptions, there are no right or wrong ways to write coproduction proposals. The exceptions are: 1) failing to address the objective of the call for proposals or its evaluation/adjudication criteria and 2) not demonstrating authentic and meaningful partnership between the researchers and the knowledge users on the team.

Key Learning Points

- Collectively, the team (researchers and knowledge users) should come to agreement at the outset on how they want to work together (i.e. principles of coproduction/partnership, roles, governance, involvement during the lifecycle of the project).
- Start researcher-knowledge user discussions as early as possible and allow time to coproduce the grant proposal.
- Read all instructions related to the call for grant proposals carefully, paying particular attention to the funder's evaluation or adjudication criteria.

Key Learning Points

- Describe clearly how the proposal writing followed a coproduction approach and how the research will be coproduced.
- Demonstrate the authenticity of the researcher-knowledge user relationship in the proposal and in supporting documents (e.g., authentic letters of support).
- Budget for knowledge user costs related to participating on the team and the research endeavors.
- Submit the proposal to an internal review by knowledge users and researchers before submitting it to the funder. Revise accordingly.