

Intro to UNM's Research Support Ecosystem

Finding partners, funding, and pathways for your work



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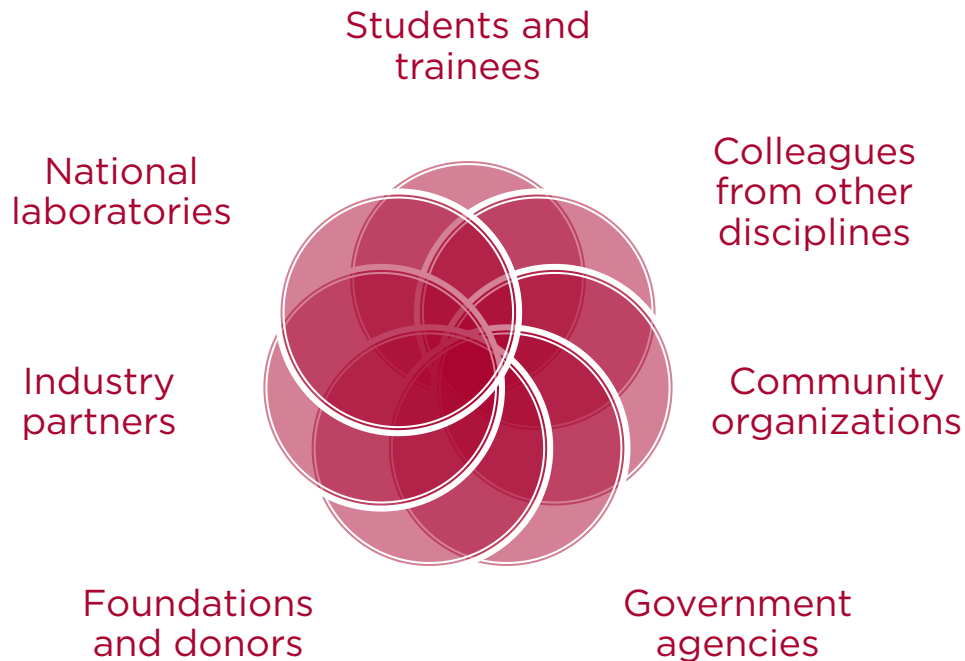
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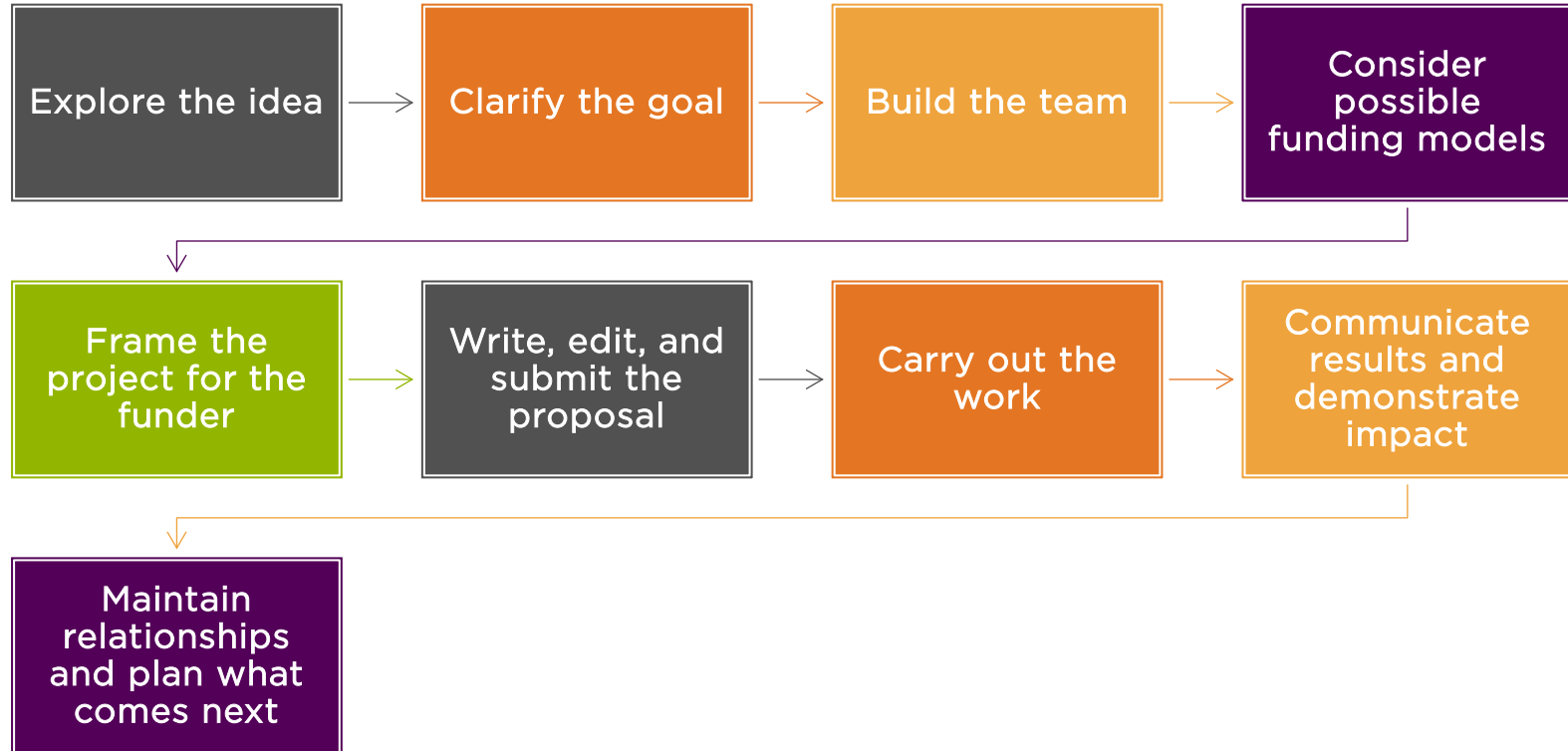
Poll

What are some of your most pressing research process questions?
(pick up to 3)

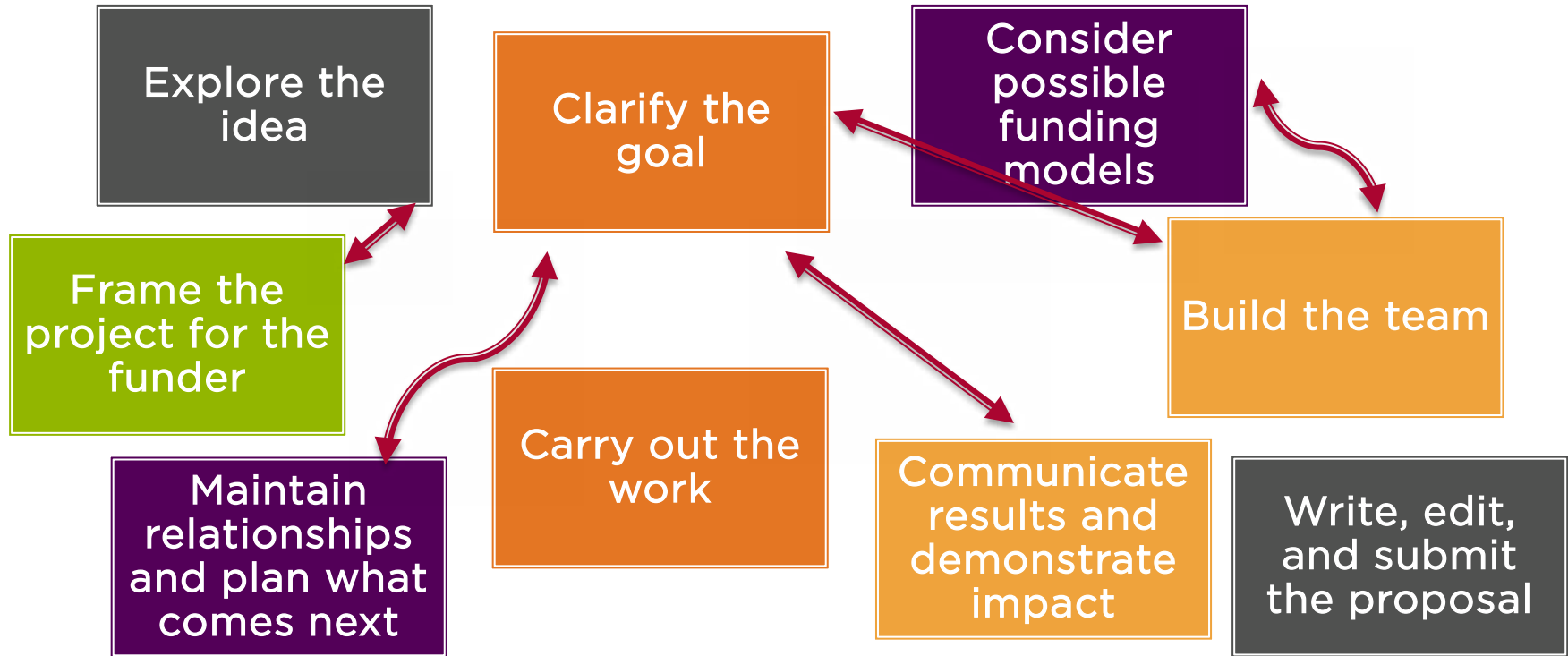
Your Work Is an Ecosystem



From Idea to Impact: IMAGINED



From Idea to Impact: IN REALITY



One Water and Energy Idea

Many Different Pathways

Outcome-Driven Pathways

- Improving water availability or quality
- Supporting resilient energy systems
- Understanding impacts on communities
- Preserving cultural knowledge and histories
- Developing or testing new technology
- Informing policy and public decision-making
- Preparing students/trainees for related careers

Discipline-Driven Pathways



An engineer might ask:

How can we develop or test a technology that improves water or energy efficiency?

Discipline-Driven Pathways



**A social scientist
might ask:**

How do policies, institutions, and economic conditions affect access to water and energy resources?

Discipline-Driven Pathways



**A humanities scholar
might ask:**

How have communities understood, represented, or responded to changing water relationships over time?

Discipline-Driven Pathways



**A community-engaged
researcher might ask:**

How can communities and
researchers work together to define
problems and develop locally
relevant solutions?

Discipline-Driven Pathways



**A health researcher
might ask:**

How do water or energy
conditions affect health
outcomes and health equity?

Goals → Partners and Funders



Government
funder



Philanthropic
funder



Industry partner



Community
partner

We can help with...

STRATEGY



- Is my idea ready to pursue, or does it need more development?
- How might this opportunity connect to a longer-term research strategy?
- How can I communicate the significance of my work to a lay audience?
- Who should be part of the team?



- What kind of funding or partnership might fit this work?
- When should I consider a government agency, foundation, donor, or company?
- How should I explain the project to this particular funder or partner?

FUNDER BACKGROUND



- What does the funder value most?
- What should I know before approaching this organization?
- What types of projects have they supported in the past?

PROCESSES



- What UNM offices need to be involved at any given stage?
- How can I find internal or external collaborators?
- How can I sustain a relationship with a funder or partner after the proposal or project ends?

Come to us when...

Office	
FRDO	...you want to strategically grow your research program, build collaborations, find funding, or compete for external support.
ORTIP	...you want to connect with industry or other external partners and explore partnership or technology transfer pathways at UNM.
UNM Foundation	...you are ready to explore philanthropic funding, donor relationships, or strategic investment opportunities.
Any of us	...you are not sure where to start, need help identifying the right people, or want coaching on how to talk about your work with potential funders or partners.

What could your path look like?

Let's go back to water-energy example

Path A:

Government-sponsored research

A faculty team develops a research question aligned with a federal or state agency priority.

- Possible support path:
 - FRDO helps assess the opportunity, develop the team, and shape the proposal strategy.
 - ORTIP may help identify external or laboratory partners.
 - Other UNM offices support submission, agreements, compliance, and award management.

Path B:

Philanthropic investment

A faculty member has a compelling idea with clear social or community significance or that is high risk and there is no obvious federal solicitation.

- Possible support path:
 - The UNM Foundation helps assess philanthropic alignment and relationship considerations.
 - FRDO helps articulate the project, team, and case for support.
 - ORTIP helps with research partnership development when relevant to the opportunity.

Path C:

Industry partnership

A research team has expertise or technology connected to a company's challenge or strategic interest.

- Possible support path:
 - ORTIP connects faculty and industry around shared research interests and helps develop potential partnerships.
 - FRDO may help develop the research strategy and interdisciplinary team.
 - UNMF helps develop and steward corporate relationships and broader institutional engagement.

Path D:

Not ready for a funder yet

A humanities scholar, scientist, or interdisciplinary group has an important idea but is unsure what form the project should take.

- Possible support path:
 - Start with FRDO on brainstorming, clarify the intended impact, identify missing perspectives, and map several possible funding and partnership directions before committing to one.

TAKEAWAYS

The Landscape Is Always Changing

- Government priorities change
- New funding programs emerge
- Existing programs are revised or discontinued
- Industry priorities evolve
- Foundations may adjust their interests or institutional relationships
- Short-fuse opportunities may require rapid decisions
- New partnership models may create opportunities outside traditional grants

... We can help you navigate it

You're Not Alone

- You do not have to diagnose your own support need before contacting us.
- Start with any of us, and we will help connect you to the right people and next questions.

Start Earlier Than You Think



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Stay Connected!

- Join the PI list →
- Subscribe to relevant funding and policy updates.
- Contact us with ideas, not only completed proposal plans!
 - FRDO
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 - UNM Foundation
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<https://goto.unm.edu/pi-listsrv>

Thank you!

