

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Who decides which proposals get assistance?** The goal is to offer some level of assistance to any CALS faculty member who is searching for an external funding source or actively developing a competitive grant application. Christy's priorities are: (a) to support larger interdisciplinary proposals, and (b) to work with new/early career faculty who have never received funding and/or have limited experience writing competitive proposals.
2. **When should I contact Christy?** Larger interdisciplinary proposals need months, not weeks, to develop. In fact, often the RFP release date does not allow sufficient time to develop a competitive proposal from scratch. If you have a concept, idea, and/or team coming together and have identified a well-aligned funder or funding opportunity, talk to Christy. Whether it is a large team science proposal or a single PI Career award, the sooner Christy is aware of your needs and timeline, the more likely it is that she will be available to provide hands-on assistance.
3. **Does a proposal have to be above a certain dollar amount to get assistance?** No.
4. **Does Christy work on projects involving social sciences and/or Extension versus scientific research?** Yes. Part of Christy's salary is paid by Extension and she was hired to support all CALS faculty.
5. **What should I do if I have a project that does not seem to fit into any federal agency RFP?** Talk to Christy. If a proposal is not a good fit for federal or foundation funding, there might be an opportunity to partner with industry. CALS recently hired Deborah Thompson as CALS Director of Partnership. Deborah's role is to promote partnerships between CALS faculty and the private sector where synergies in research and potential commercialization opportunities exist.
6. **Best way to contact Christy?** For a more thorough and productive conversation, schedule a meeting through the calendar on CALS Proposal Development website. However, emailing or calling directly is fine as well.
7. **What is Christy's background?** Christy has over 20 years' experience assisting local government agencies, non-profits and businesses to identify and obtain federal and foundation funding. She earned her B.A. from Va. Tech. and received a masters in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University.