What’s a Concept Paper?

Organize your thoughts for productive discussion with facilitators, collaborators, and program officers.

Grant Purpose
Briefly describe your project in lay terms. If you have an agency in mind, include this.

Problem/Background
Explain why you to think this topic needs study. If you know the funder, demonstrate how your project relates to the funder’s priorities.

Significance
Explain why this is important to the field.

Question
What hypotheses will you test (or what questions will you pursue) and what model will guide your hypotheses (or investigations)?

Design/Analysis
What is the study design that will enable testing your hypotheses (or answering your questions)? What statistical or other methodological approach?

Team
Who will be the key participants (co-investigators and organizations) on the project? What expertise is needed for your team?

Miscellaneous
Other issues that may be relevant to your plans