

NEC Proposal Development vs. Technical Review Services

Understanding the Differences Between NEC's Grant Proposal Services

NOSOTROS Education Center (NEC) offers two primary proposal support services for TRIO and other federally funded grant competitions: Full Proposal Development Services and Technical Review Services. While both services are designed to strengthen competitiveness and improve proposal quality, the scope of work, level of involvement, and overall responsibilities differ significantly.

Key Differences Between Services

Category	Full Proposal Development	Technical Review Only
Primary Role	NEC leads and manages the overall proposal development process.	The Client leads proposal development while NEC provides review and strategic guidance.
Narrative Development	NEC develops major narrative sections, tables, and a proposal framework.	The Client develops the narrative. NEC reviews, edits, and strengthens drafts.
Proposal Architecture	NEC structures the overall proposal strategy, sequencing, and integration of sections.	NEC evaluates the Client's proposal structure and recommends improvements.
Project Management	NEC coordinates development timelines, review cycles, and proposal sequencing.	The Client manages drafting timelines with NEC providing technical feedback.
Data Integration	NEC assists with integrating institutional data into developed narratives.	The Client collects and integrates data before NEC reviews the completed drafts.
Budget Development	NEC develops and assists with structuring the project budget narrative and alignment.	NEC reviews and provides recommendations on budget alignment and justification.
Objectives & Evaluation Alignment	NEC develops aligned objectives, evaluation methods, and outcome frameworks.	NEC reviews the Client's objectives and evaluation alignment for competitiveness.
Priorities Integration	NEC integrates Competitive Preference Priorities and Absolute/Invitational Priorities throughout the proposal.	NEC reviews and recommends improvements regarding priority integration.
Meetings & Technical Assistance	Extensive collaborative meetings and ongoing proposal development assistance.	Strategic review meetings and ongoing technical assistance focused on revisions.
Overall Scope	Comprehensive consulting and proposal development engagement.	Review, editing, compliance alignment, and proposal strengthening engagement.
Typical Cost	\$20,000+ depending on competition complexity and scope.	\$10,000+ depending on competition complexity and review level.

Key Similarities

- Both services include ongoing technical assistance and strategic consultation.
- Both services focus on strengthening competitiveness and aligning federal compliance.
- Both services provide access to NEC Proposal Writing Workshops and related resources.
- Both services include proposal strategy discussions, feedback from reviewer perspectives, and recommendations.
- Both services support alignment with federal regulations, priorities, and Program Application requirements.
- Both services involve collaborative meetings via Zoom, Teams, email, and shared document platforms.
- Both services are designed to improve proposal quality, competitiveness, and overall scoring potential.

In summary, NEC's Full Proposal Development Service is best suited for institutions seeking comprehensive proposal development leadership and extensive narrative support, while NEC's Technical Review Service is designed for institutions that already have internal writing capacity but want expert federal proposal review, editing, compliance guidance, and strategic strengthening.