

## **No Excuses! Get Ready for the Next Awards Season NOW!**

*Katie Cullum (AR), Awards Training Committee*

*I didn't do much last year.*

*It's too early to plan for next year!*

*I'm not old enough for DSA.*

These are all excuses! NOW is actually a great time to prepare for applying for awards next year. Remember, read the manual. I used to think that everything had to have been done in the past year. NOPE. Most awards are from the past 3 years.

You can start pulling the needed information NOW – background information, statistics, what you're doing, and more. Then, as the year progresses, you can just add to the file. Talk to partners. Have a plan for evaluation and impact. Look over what you have. Do you need to beef it up? You'll still have time, IF you start now.

As you're working, you'll want to plan for editing and proofing. When you start typing, you may find that you go over the 5-page limit. That's okay for now. But when you really start editing, look for clear and concise. Don't get too wordy. Check your spelling and your grammar. Ask others to proof your application. Ask more! Give them the judging sheet and ask them to score your app. This will help you to fill in some blanks and focus on the most important information.

**Awards Video:** <https://youtu.be/CIgnoLqNjac>

Good luck!

