Preparing budgets can be a bedevil experience for beginning - and experienced - researchers. A budget is more than a statement of proposed expenditures. It is an alternate way to express a research project’s story. Reviewers will scrutinize the budget carefully, so in addition to being mathematically accurate, it must be believable -- a sponsor’s available funding and a PI’s scope of work must match. Budget justifications have also taken on increasing significance in recent years, moving from explaining to reviewers the basis of cost calculations to persuading them that the items are essential to the success of the project. In this session, you will learn how to craft a budget justification that not only conforms to sponsor expectations but also effectively establishes the credibility of the proposed project.