

TIPS FOR SUBMITTING A STRONG GRANT APPLICATION



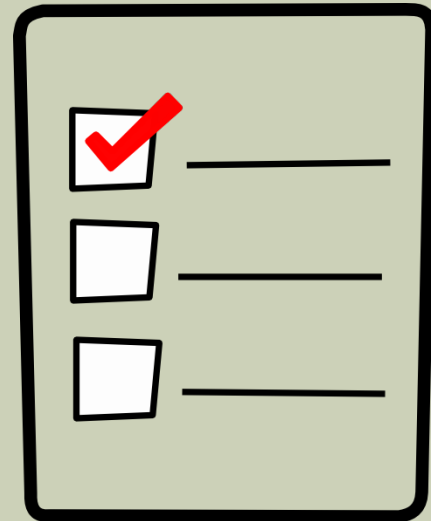
START PREPARING YOUR GRANT APPLICATION EARLY

- Give yourself plenty of time to review the grant application and consider each of the questions.
- To avoid any technical problems or challenges, submit your grant application before the deadline.



SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Be sure to review the grant application instructions and guidelines to understand which documents, in addition to your grant application are required with your submission.



BE CONCISE, CLEAR, AND COMPLETE

- Keep your responses readable and ensure the review can easily digest the information that you include in your grant application.
- Some sections of the application may have more than one question
 - Be sure to read each section carefully and respond to all questions in the grant application.

PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST AND HOW FUNDS WILL BE USED

- Give the reviewer a clear sense of how you will support the individuals you serve and how your organization will positively impact the community.
- Be sure to provide a description about how the grant maker's funds will **SPECIFICALLY** be used to support your program.

EXPLAIN YOUR OBJECTIVES AND VALIDATE A NEED

- Provide the reviewer with clear understanding of your project.
 - Purpose
 - Goals
 - Objectives
- Describe the social needs of the population you serve and how your proposed project will help enhance your work.

ILLUSTRATE HOW YOUR PROJECT ALIGNS WITH THE GRANT MAKER'S FOCUS AREAS

- If the grant making organization serves targeted focus areas (e.g. child hunger, homelessness), clearly demonstrate how your program will further its mission to serve these prioritized areas.



DEMONSTRATE THAT YOUR APPROACH IS FEASIBLE

- Ensure that your proposed approach is rational and give the reviewer reasonable belief that the anticipated objectives, goals and outcomes can be achieved through plausible strategies during the grant period.



HIGHLIGHT YOUR EXPERTISE

- Share why your organization and staff are equipped to implement the proposed program.
- Make the reviewer trust that you are capable of creating the positive impact you describe in your application.

ARTICULATE YOUR DESIRED IMPACT

- Clearly outline your process for measurement and reporting.
- Provide the reviewer with an understanding of your approach and anticipated results so that he or she has a stronger understanding of the difference the grant maker's dollars will be making in the community.

GRANT RESOURCES

- Livestrong.com – youth foundation
- Finishline.com – youth foundation
- Momstream.com – overall research and sources
- Kohls.com – youth foundation
- Grants.gov – federal programs
- Goodsports.com - providing equipment, apparel and footwear to those most in need.

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- Grantwriters.net
 - Grantwatch.com