



Granting Your Wishes: A Guide to Successful Grant Applications



BEFORE WE START...

Hello! My name is Cheryl Smith. I am the CEO for Dewlyn Nonprofit Services and the Community Heroes Program. My company helps newly formed and small to sized nonprofit organizations with growth and development. I am also an American grant-writer, nonprofit trainer, and consultant. I have been in the nonprofit industry for over 25 years, and I feel very honored to provide help and support to over 3,000 nonprofit organization leaders every year.

It is my sincere hope that you will not only find value in this this brief guide, but that it will also inspire you to pursue and acquire the funding you need to further your mission.

If you need help along the way, please don't hesitate to contact me.
Onward & Upward!

C. Smith

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*let's get
started*



This mini-guide was written as a crash course on effective grant procurement and management, which can help nonprofit organizations maximize the impact of their grant funding and build a strong reputation with funders.



STEP 1.

Introduction to Nonprofit Grant Applications

Applying for grants can be a daunting process, but it is an essential step in securing funding for your project or organization.

Grants are the second largest source of funding for U.S. public charities and they are highly competitive. The good news is, grants are available from a variety of sources, including government agencies, private foundations, and corporations. The key to a successful grant application is to do your research, plan ahead, and follow the guidelines carefully.

Before you begin, it is important to understand the different types of grants that are available. Some grants are available to individuals, while others are only available to nonprofit organizations or government agencies. Additionally, grants may be awarded for specific purposes, such as capital purchases, research, or community development.



STEP 2.

Researching Grant Opportunities

PRO TIP: Use an excel spreadsheet or grant calendar to make a list of each mission-aligned funding opportunity.

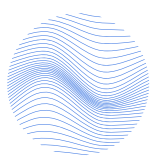
The first step in applying for a grant is to identify potential funding sources. This requires careful research to determine which grants are available and which ones are the best fit for your project or organization.

Start by looking at websites of government agencies, private foundations, and corporations to see if they offer grants that align with your goals. You can also search online databases like GrantStation or Foundation Directory Online to find grant opportunities.

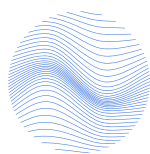
Once you have identified potential grants, read the guidelines carefully to ensure that your project or organization meets the eligibility requirements.

STEP 3.

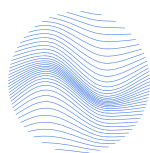
Preparing your Grant Proposal



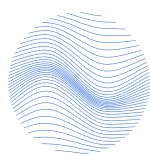
Once you have identified a grant opportunity that fits your needs, and you have made (absolutely) sure that you are mission-aligned with the potential funder, it's time to start preparing your proposal.



This typically involves (1) starting your project, (2) writing a detailed description of your project and/or organization, (3) outlining your goals and objectives, (4) drafting a detailed budget, and (5) explaining how the grant funds will be used.



It is important to follow the guidelines provided by the grantor and to make sure that your proposal is well-written, clear, and concise.



Be sure to include any supporting documentation, such as letters of recommendation or financial statements, that may be required.



Be sure to track your program's progress and be prepared to share this information with potential grant-makers. They are always interested in learning how their grant dollars have been impactful.

SUBMITTING YOUR GRANT APPLICATION

Step 4



After you have completed your grant proposal, it is time to submit your application. Make sure that you have followed all of the guidelines and that your proposal is complete and error-free. Double-check that you have included all necessary supporting documentation and that your application is submitted before the deadline.

Once your application has been submitted, it may take several weeks or months before you hear back from the grantor. In some cases, you may be asked to provide additional information or to participate in an interview before a final decision is made.



STEP 5.

Managing Your Grant Funds

Grant management is the process of effectively and efficiently overseeing grants received by an organization. It involves a range of activities, including planning and budgeting, proposal writing, grant compliance, reporting, and evaluation. Grant management aims to ensure that grant funds are used for their intended purposes, that grant requirements are met, and that grant outcomes are achieved.

If your grant application is approved, it is important to manage your funds carefully to ensure that you meet the grantor's expectations and requirements. This may involve creating a budget, tracking expenses, and providing regular reports on your progress.

Be sure to communicate regularly with the grantor and to keep them informed of any changes or challenges that arise during the course of your project. By managing your grant funds effectively, you can build a strong relationship with the grantor and increase your chances of receiving future funding.



Conclusion

Applying for grants can be a complex and time-consuming process, but it is an essential step in securing funding for your project or organization. By doing your research, preparing a strong proposal, and managing your funds effectively, you can increase your chances of success and build strong relationships with grantors.

Remember to stay organized, follow the guidelines carefully, and communicate regularly with the grantor throughout the process. With patience and persistence, you can achieve your goals and make a positive impact in your community.



Nonprofit Grant Databases

Foundation Directory Online: The Foundation Directory offers comprehensive and up-to-date information and insight on nonprofit grant-makers. This service offers expanded, in-depth profiles of each grant-maker, giving grant-seekers an inside look at the grants funders have actually made.

<https://fconline.foundationcenter.org>

GrantForward.com: This service provides research institutions (universities, centers, laboratories) with subscription-based grant database services.

<https://www.grantforward.com>

GrantGopher.com: This is a grant tracking web-based system that offers an online search engine with detailed information on available grants by location, program priority, or key word. GrantGopher.com provides users with timely email notifications about new grants each month. <https://grantgopher.com>

GrantStation.com: A subscription-based service that offers members resources and access to their online database of federal, state, and foundation funding opportunities.

<https://grantstation.com>

Instrumentl.com: A subscription-based site that pulls grant information from corporate, private, federal, and state funding sources, and offers private, corporate, federal, and state grants all in one place.

<https://www.instrumentl.com>

Grant Calendar

Foundation Name	Request Details	Amount Requested	Deadline	Application Status

