



GRANT APPLICATIONS

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Why Grants Matter

- ▶ FREE MONEY with stipulations...
 - ▶ Does it fit?
 - ▶ How does it affect your overall funding strategies?
- ▶ Different Types of Grants
 - ▶ Federal
 - ▶ State
 - ▶ Foundation
 - ▶ Corporation

Finding the Right Grant

- ▶ Align with your mission!
- ▶ Websites/Resources for finding grants
 - ▶ Grants.gov
 - ▶ Foundation Directory
 - ▶ State/Local Listings
- ▶ Eligibility Requirements- denied due to lack of information
- ▶ Stay Organized- build a calendar for annual grants

Preparing Before You Apply

- ▶ Mission Statement & 990's
- ▶ Letters of support, budgets, project details
- ▶ Communicate the impact this project will make
- ▶ Develop strong partnerships
 - ▶ Local Government
 - ▶ County Government
 - ▶ State Elected Officials
 - ▶ Advocate of your Grant Requests

Writing Winning Application

- ▶ Key Sections
 - ▶ Need Statement
 - ▶ Goals & Objectives
 - ▶ Project Description
 - ▶ Budget
 - ▶ Evaluation Plan
- ▶ Reviewers look for feasibility & community impact
- ▶ Common Mistakes
 - ▶ Vague Goals
 - ▶ Lack of measurable outcomes
 - ▶ Weak budgets
- ▶ In-kind contributions & matching funds

Tracking & Reporting

- ▶ After you get the Grant
 - ▶ Compliance?
 - ▶ Reporting?
 - ▶ Evaluation?
- ▶ Strong reporting builds trust for future funding!

Building Long Term Relationships

- ▶ Send handwritten Thank You notes and project updates
- ▶ Turn one-time grants into ongoing partnerships

Using AI to Strengthen Grant Applications

- ▶ Research & Discovery
 - ▶ Generate lists of potential grants based on your mission
 - ▶ Summarize complex guidelines so you understand them better
- ▶ Brainstorming & Drafting
 - ▶ Assist in creating Mission Statements, project summaries, and need statements with polished language
 - ▶ Generates multiple versions for review
- ▶ Editing & Proof
 - ▶ Use AI to check clarity and any inconsistencies
- ▶ Quick Tip- ALWAYS FACT CHECK! Funders want authentic applications

What's on the agenda today?

+ Ask anything



Key Takeaways

- ▶ Grants are competitive but achievable
- ▶ Funders want to invest in results and relationships
- ▶ Organization, solid reporting, and follow-throughs are vital
- ▶ AI can help you be more efficient and think more creatively