

GRANT WRITING 101

Four Tips for Avoiding Common Pitfalls

ROCHELLE GREAVES & ROXANNE TACKIE



W H Y W A S O U R A P P L I C A T I O N D E C L I N E D ?

You have spent countless hours writing grants and proposals for your organization. You're sure that your project is worthy, and in fact, you know of several other organizations that have received funding for similar projects. So why was your funding request declined? Being declined can be frustrating, and in some cases, even devastating. Funds are limited, and many organizations are vying for the same grants.



Importance of Research

So, what can we do? Well, it is imperative that organizations maximize staff and volunteer time by creating the most persuasive funding requests possible. The more research you do before submitting your request for funding, the better your chances of writing a good proposal. Not to mention, there's a better chance you'll avoid submitting a funding request to a donor who is unlikely to fund you.

So let's talk about some reasons your application or proposal was declined and solutions we can use to fix it.



“The more research you do submitting your request for funding, the better your chances of writing a good proposal.”

AVOID THESE COMMON PITFALLS



Your project does not align with the funder's priorities. Do your research. Contact the funder and discuss your project with them to see if its within the area that they support before writing the proposal. Even if they don't support your project, this will save you time in the end.



Your proposal is unclear. Does your proposal make sense to someone outside of your organization? Use plain language so anyone can understand it. Also, avoid technical terms or acronyms that are used only inside your organization.



Your budget does not make sense. Is your budget realistic? Do the numbers seem inflated? Are the timelines of your stated project achievable? Always ensure your budget is well thought out so you can prove to the funder that your organization is trustworthy.



You did not follow the funder's format. Funders often receive a high volume of requests. If you submit an application that does not follow their specifications, you risk the funder not even reviewing your request at all.



Keep Working At It

Sometimes you might do everything right, but still find your project is declined. It can happen to even the most seasoned grant writers with years of experience. Writing grants and proposals takes practice. Keep at it and you will find that by avoiding these mistakes and honing your writing skills, you will find success in funding your programs.

INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK

DOWNLOAD YOUR GUIDE



Need More Grant Writing Support?

Grant writing can be challenging especially when you don't have a guide, and that's why we created our digital [Grant Toolkit](#). We want to help organizations be successful in their funding requests, and help you identify where you have gone wrong in the past and how to improve. Our workbook can help you prepare and organize key information based on commonly asked grant questions.

We welcome your feedback on other ways of how we can help you. Let us know what templates can help by contacting us at info@storypoint.ca.