

Grants Unlocked: The Basics of Successful Grant Writing

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Workshop series recap

Be Grant-Ready Before You Apply

Know your organization's goals, who you serve, and what you need funding for—before you start searching for grants.

Look in the Right Places

Use grant databases, foundation websites, and local networks to find funders. Don't underestimate the power of word-of-mouth and funder newsletters.

Don't Chase Every Grant

Focus on funders whose priorities actually match your mission. Read guidelines closely and ask: Do we really fit what they're looking for?

Recap continued

Answer the Right Questions, the Right Way

Most proposals boil down to a few key things: what you'll do, who it's for, why it matters, and how you'll know it worked. Be clear, specific, and avoid buzzwords.

Budget must match the story

Make sure your numbers match your narrative. Include real costs, avoid vague categories, and always double-check your math.

Use AI—But Use It Wisely

Everyone's using AI, so make sure you're using it better. Be mindful of privacy and ethics, and “train” your tool by feeding it accurate, evolving information about your organization and project.

Think Beyond the Grant

Plan ahead for how you'll report back, thank the funder, and keep the relationship going. Stewardship can lead to renewal and long-term support.

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