
Grant-Writing for VISTAs



Created by 2012 Arctic VISTA Program

“There is no grantsmanship that will turn a bad idea into a good one, but there are many ways to disguise a good idea.” -

Norm Braverman, NIH

What keeps us from writing grants?

Not understanding grants

Not knowing how

Fear of rejection

- Reality** - only one proposal in 5 is turned down because the idea wasn't good enough
- Reality** - A rejected proposal is worth about \$10,000 of free advice
- Reality** - the success rate is higher for proposals turned in a second time
- Reality** - the success rate on a third submission is almost 1:1



<http://blog.ellusionist.com/wp-content/uploads/Practice-11309047.jpeg>

Practice.



Just do it.

In 2006, a Boston University study reported that Alaska ranked 51st among all states and the District of Columbia in giving from households with annual income over \$200,000.

-forakergroup

What is a grant?

Using the words of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, a grant is “a financial donation given to support a person, organization, project, or program.” It is typically awarded *to* a nonprofit organization *from* a foundation, corporation, or government agency.

What do grants focus on?

Grants are typically awarded to a nonprofit organization for a distinct program or purpose. A grantmaker generally focuses its giving on:

- **A specific population** (such as children or organizations in Maryland)
- **Certain types of nonprofits** (such as churches or environmental groups)
- **Particular types of support** (such as seed money or funding for equipment).

Take note

Many people think that grants are an easy way of getting funded, because grant money is free. In reality, even though you do not have to pay a grant back, you *do* have to invest a considerable amount of thought, effort, time, and money.

...

After winning a grant, you will have to monitor income and expenses, measure the successes and failures of your program, and report back to the funder.

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- GET the guidelines
 - READ the guidelines
 - FOLLOW the guidelines

Find grants

The Foundation Center

The Foundation Center is the best resource for almost anything related to funding by foundations. The Center sends out a free email newsletter called *Arts Funding Watch* as well as its free *RFP Bulletin* which gives listings of newly announced [requests for proposals](#).

GrantStation

GrantStation is an interactive website that allows grantseekers to identify potential funding sources for their programs or projects, and mentors them through the grantseeking process. Searchable database of grantmakers who are actively accepting inquiries and proposals, federal grant deadlines, online tutorials, and frequent webinars. This site requires fee-based membership, although some features are free.

From About.com

Find grants

[Grants.Gov](#)

This U.S. government website has lots of useful information for nonprofits, including announcements of federal grants.

[The Grantsmanship Center](#)

Click "Sources of Funding Information" at this site and you will find links to today's ***Federal Register***, and to community foundation websites, listed by state.

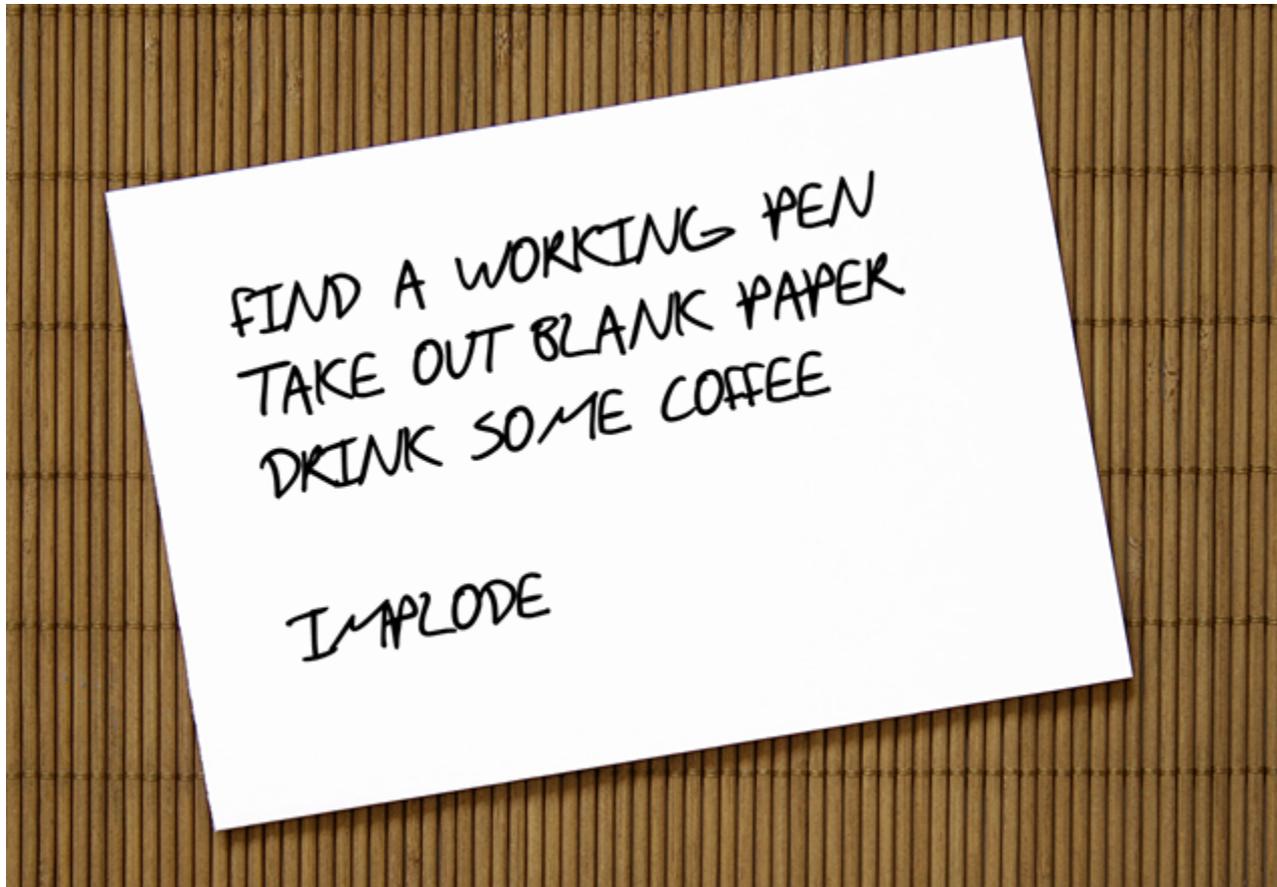
From About.com

Make contact



<http://liveforfilms.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/teddy-barnes-michael-laurino-tries-to-make-contact.jpg>

Parts of a grant



FIND A WORKING PEN
TAKE OUT BLANK PAPER
DRINK SOME COFFEE

IMplode

<http://www.nortoncreative.com/images/postcard.png>

-
- **Cover Page**
 - **Table of Contents**
 - Abstract
 - Problem or Needs Statement
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Methodology
 - Quality of Key Personnel
 - Evaluation
 - Dissemination
 - References Cited
 - **Budget & Narrative**
 - Vitae
 - Appendices,
 - **Forms, Tax IDs, Certifications and Assurances**

From Whitworth University

Language to use

- Grant Writing is a form of technical writing
- Put sentences in logical sequence
- Use action verbs
- Never write in first person
- Use lists when you have several items
- Use the active voice
 - avoid “to be”
 - subject first
- Use parallel construction
- Avoid noun strings
- Go on a “which” hunt
- Avoid openers with There is, There are, and It is - try “ing”

From Whitworth University



http://mojosavings.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/C_amp_CMorning.jpg

Be clean and clear (and concise).

Cite.

<http://citationmachine.net/>

era. In their own unique ways, Cousteau and Heyerdahl became popular symbols of modes of thought and physical engagement that brought the ocean's flooding into America's national imagination. But as history has shown, frontiers—and people in those frontiers—often pay a heavy price for national inclusion. Heyerdahl and Cousteau came to realize this in the 1970s. The project of articulating a fully fledged ocean ethic was left to others.

[end of paper]

First
end note

¹ Leo Marx, Machine in the Garden: Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America (New York: Oxford University Press, 1965).

² David E. Nye, Narratives and Spaces: Technology and the Construction of American Culture (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997).

What is a Match/In-kind?

- Funders like to see that the institution is putting funds into a project as well.
- **Match** - A 50% match for a \$100,000 grant is \$50,000
- A 50% **Cost Share** of the total project cost where the funder puts up \$100,000 is \$100,000 because it is 50% of \$200,000.

Work together

You

Your Organization

The granting organization/contact

VISTA:
**Keep a record for
your organization.**



reuse -a-
Palooza

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_1V_U0Hdw1yI/TEziLKMdBLI/AAAAAAAAAB6A/iXKEet8BtgY/s1600/blog+design+reuse-a-palooza.jpg

Keep good stuff.
