

What Does a Funder Look for in a Proposal?

<p>Need Statement <i>Identified local need project will address. What change will occur as a result of the project?</i></p>	Clearly identifies a compelling problem or need. Documents with local and national statistics and references the need to be addressed and the problems to be solved.
<p>Strategic Alignment <i>How does the project align with Harvest funding priorities and goals?</i></p>	There is a strong alignment between elements of the project and Harvest strategic goals
<p>Project Goal <i>What does the project hope to accomplish?</i></p>	Program Goals are clear, focused and complete.
<p>Project Work Plan <i>Clearly and concisely describe the project.</i></p>	Clearly and concisely describes the proposed project; activities and strategies are well thought out and clearly tied to desired results. Approach is justified.
<p>Population Served <i>Who? How many? Large scope and impact?</i></p>	Sufficiently large population served to result in meaningful benefits to the community
<p>Program Objectives and Evaluation <i>Specific, <u>measurable</u> objectives that the project will achieve during the grant period that directly support its goals.</i></p>	Objectives clearly address problem/need; are measurable and realistic; clearly define steps to be taken to achieve project goals; provide success indicators; answer questions: Who? What? By when? By how much? Identify method and/or instruments to be used in evaluation and measurement.
<p>Innovative Approach <i>Does this project duplicate other community projects? Is the project innovative?</i></p>	Project is a new innovative concept with potential to change the paradigm in the community.
<p>Collaborations and Partnerships</p>	Strong commitment exists from appropriate collaborative partners, each of which adds value to the project and is involved in the planning and implementation of the project; deliverables from external partners and roles clearly identified
<p>Project Budget</p>	Budget is complete. It is specific, references proposal topics and is realistic and justified. Requested amount is within funding guidelines, with declining amount each year and includes matching funds.
<p>Organizational History <i>History, leadership, ability to implement project</i></p>	Organization has been a part of the MHC community for many years, is a strong and active organization that embraces the values of accountability and transparency. Leadership is clear and highly respected. Former grantee and/or partner with a sound proven record.
<p>Organizational Financial Health</p>	Financial statements indicate the organization has been financially solvent for <u>5</u> years with a healthy and balanced funding mix that is diversified. No evident red flags or concerns.
<p>Staff Qualifications</p>	Clearly demonstrates that the organization has the staff, skill, knowledge and capabilities to make the project a success; makes case why organization is the one to perform the project
<p>Sustainability</p>	Includes specific and realistic plans for long-term sustainability of the project.