

GRANT APPLICATIONS: Insider Tips

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Are you sure you really want to apply for a grant?



Not like climbing a hill



More like climbing a mountain

Do your research...



- Find the right grant
- Attend pre-grant workshop
- Request copies of recent award winners in your category
- Phone/email grantor contacts to discuss your project
- Read the application and any associated docs carefully
- Find out who within your organization can help you

Key application sections:

- ✓ Abstract/Summary
 - ✓ Problem Statement
 - ✓ Methods, Timeline
 - ✓ Evaluation/Benchmarks
 - ✓ Future Funding/Sustainability
 - ✓ Budget
 - ✓ Appendix

As you're filling out the application...

- It's all about scoring points.
- Be an applicant, not a supplicant. Don't beg.
- Strive for concrete, practical products and/or outcomes.
- Look for and establish partnerships.
- Plan ahead if you need gov't body endorsements.
- Your text must be detailed, but not too detailed.
- Make sure someone reviews your final draft!

Details, details...

Not Enough

"Another part of this tourism attraction project will be a trail to be constructed in 2019."

Too Much

"The third and final element of this tourism attraction project will be a 10-foot wide, 5-mile pedestrian/bicycle/horseback/rollerblade-friendly asphalt trail segment connecting Pixley and Hooterville, to be completed by September 30, 2019. Please see Appendix A for cross-sections, grading plans, the composition of the trail base, proposed erosion control practices, and asphalt specifications for the corridor that was approved by the County Transportation Committee at its March 2018 meeting. The contractor will not be available in the summer, but the month of September is open. The long-time mayors of both Pixley and Hooterville have promised to be on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony shortly after the completion of the trail construction. Snacks will also be served."

Just Right

"The third and final element of this tourism attraction project will be a 10-foot wide, 5-mile non-motorized asphalt trail segment connecting Pixley and Hooterville, to be completed by September 30, 2019. Please see Appendix A for engineering details."

An insider secret...



If possible, point out any connection(s) between your project and one funded in the past by the grantor.

Grantors highly value such a connection, because funding your project will be like doubling their investment.

Finding grant opportunities...

- 1) Regional Planning Commission or UW-Extension
- 2) Energy on Wisconsin newsletter
- 3) Talk to your colleagues
- 4) Internet resources

<https://wisconsin.grantwatch.com/cat/50/municipalities-grants.html>

<https://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/forms.html>

<http://www.rasmith/grants> (registration and login required)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/wi>

Potential Benefits...

- 1) Sharpens your focus
- 2) You get money
- 3) New or strengthened partnerships
- 4) Opportunity for an LTE

- 1) Grant application forces you to think about your work—what you need, \$, timeline, why you're doing it, who might help, etc.
- 2) \$ you may not have been able to get any other way.
- 3) May even make new friends.
- 4) You can make a positive impact on someone's life.

Best of luck!

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