



June 14, 2012

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

This week is Part 2 of a Three Part tutorial series on Grant Proposal Writing 101.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Proposals) VGIF's Small Grants for Grassroots Projects

(Call for Proposals) £1 million Sightsavers Innovation Fund for NGOs

(Call for Nominations) ICIP Peace in Progress Award

(Resource) Grant Proposal Writing 101 Part 2

(Call for Proposals) VGIF's Small Grants for Grassroots Projects

The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) is providing small grants for grassroots projects that empower women and girls in developing countries. It supports women's organizations based outside of the United States by providing small grants for an array of community needs up to \$7,500 USD.

The areas of support area:

- Community development
- Health and nutritional support
- Literacy and leadership training
- Educational seminars and workshops
- Women's human rights
- Organizations that are governed and directed by women.

All interested applicants must complete a Letter of Intent (LOI). VGIF does not accept unsolicited LOIs or full proposals. The LOI process will open in May, 2012. At that time you will have access to our Letter Of Intent by creating an account, then completing and submitting your LOI to us electronically. After LOIs are reviewed, your organization may or may not be invited to move forward in our funding process, with the completion of our full application.

- The Letter of Intent must be submitted by a non-profit, non-political organization.
- The proposal addresses the empowerment of women and girls and will lead to action and sustainable change in the community.
- The proposal clearly reflects the participation of the community/target group in its development and design.
- The project addresses sustainability after VGIF funding with continued involvement in the larger community.
- Women are well represented in the leadership, staff and management of the organization and project.
- The organization can demonstrate its ability to manage resources and funding from external sources.
- The Letter of Intent provides reliable email addresses as well as phone numbers.
- The proposal must present a true budget with a clear explanation of all items. The budget amount requested from VGIF must not exceed \$7,500 USD.
- Other sponsors or potential funding for this project must be clearly identified.
- The timeline of activities is realistic and achievable and the project can begin upon the awarding of grants by VGIF in mid-May.
- VGIF will consider inclusion of an amount, not to exceed 10% of the total grant, for administration of the project to the executing organization in the country where the project is located.

Deadline for Submission: July 31, 2012

For more go to: <http://www.vgif3.org/projects2tier/index.asp>

(Call for Proposals) £1 million Sightsavers Innovation Fund for NGOs

Sightsavers has launched the new funding initiative for NGOs in developing countries. The Sightsavers Innovation Fund is part of a three-year Programme Partnership Arrangement that Sightsavers holds with the UK Government's Department for International Development. It is offering £1 million for innovative solutions to development problems.

NGOs, academic institutions, the private sector and disabled people's organisations can apply and work from this funding to help overcome challenges faced by the eye health and social inclusion sectors in developing countries.

The Fund is calling for innovative approaches which illustrate a way to overcome barriers in the promotion of eye health, inclusive education and social inclusion. Winning initiatives will receive up to £75,000 each to implement the suggested proposal over 18 months. The learning from these projects will be shared

widely within the development sector as well as being used to inform Sightsavers' own programmes.

Sightsavers is looking for proposals from a wide range of organisations. It will consider a maximum of two proposals from any single organisation. An organisation may only submit one application per sector theme.

The review process for applications will follow a two-stage process. The first review will be an internal review of proposals by Sightsavers innovation challenge team. The projects identified for the shortlist will be submitted to a second independent panel of expert judges, to ensure a level of objectivity and rigour in the choice of projects.

Deadline for Submission: June 30, 2012

For more go

to: http://www.sightsavers.org/in_depth/quality_and_learning/innovation_fund/18248.html

(Call for Nominations) ICIP Peace in Progress Award

The ICIP Award, to be granted on an annual basis, aims to reward those individuals, organizations or institutions that throughout their existence have had an important role in building and promoting peace, encouraging values and practices of a culture of peace, nonviolence, human security, disarmament or the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Award-

The ICIP Peace in Progress Award 2012 consists of an honorary distinction, public recognition, as culture created by Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and a 6,000€ reward.

Eligibility-

- Eligible for this Award are those individuals, public or private non-profit organizations or institutions from around the world that throughout their acts and career have made an outstanding contribution to the construction and promotion of peace.
- The awarded person, organization or institution shall use the reward to a project aimed at promoting and fostering peace.
- No awards will be granted posthumously.

Deadline for Submission: June 30, 2012

For more go

to: http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/icip/menuitem.722ea8deaa29e97556159f10b0c0e1a0/?vgnextoid=becf20789735b210VgnVCM1000000b0c1e0aRCRD&vgnextchannel=becf20789735b210VgnVCM1000000b0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=detall&contentid=b5793a6e05d56310VgnVCM1000008d0c1e0aRCRD&newLang=en_GB

GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING 101

It can be challenging to know and understand all of the necessary steps to achieving the goal of your program or organization. It can even be challenging to know what that goal exactly is!

It can be even more challenging to translate these steps and goals on to paper, in a clear and cohesive way that makes sense to a broader audience or potential funder.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- In general, only about 10-15% of grants are funded.
- Good communication with your funder is very important throughout the entire grant process.
- The purpose of a grant proposal is to share your mission with a potential donor in order to create a long-term partnership.

This Newsflash will come in **3 parts**:

Part 1:

A “Causal Pathway” activity and Institutional Review sheet to help organize the necessary steps to achieve your program’s goals.

Part 2:

A lesson on Monitoring & Evaluation and “Indicators” (how to create tangible data for your funding organizations).

Part 3:

The basic layout/format of a Grant Proposal and a checklist to make sure that all parts of your proposal are there and nothing has been overlooked!

PART 2: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- Monitoring and Evaluation is a process—best done as a routine part of project implementation.

- It requires gathering information—quantitative or qualitative.
- Information must be used to improve the program.

Quantitative information: deals with numbers. It is measurable. Examples: number of condoms distributed, number of HIV tests given, etc. Think Quantity.

Qualitative information: deals with descriptions. Is not measurable. Examples: happiness, well being of a community, etc. Think Quality.

While both forms of information are equally important, keep in mind that Quantitative information is the most valued type of information for funders because it is measurable and therefore tangible and provable.

Indicators: are generally measurable (quantitative)—you want to get a number from it. All projects or programs should measure outputs, many will measure effects and some will measure impact.

***Remember these from last week? Outputs are the products and services that must be in place for the Effects (change in knowledge, attitudes, skills, intentions, and/or behaviors of the population of interest) that contributes to the desired impact (change in the health, social or economic status of the population of interest through sector-specific contributions) to be achieved.

Output Indicators

Measure products and services provided by the program (and the quality of these products and services).

Examples:

- # of condom posters printed
- # of workers trained
- % of trained outreach staff who received rating of “good” or “excellent” on final training exercise (here is an example of a MEASURABLE indicator of quality).

Effect Indicators

Measure the knowledge, attitudes, skills, intentions and behaviors of the population you are trying to help. It is usually a good idea to measure effects in your project or program, if possible.

Examples:

- % of adolescents aged 15-24 who know at least 3 correct sources of condoms in their community (knowledge)
- % of adolescents who correctly demonstrate how to put on a condom (skill)
- % of adolescents who report having used a condom the last time they had sex (behavior)

Impact Indicators

Measure the health, social or economic status of the population of interest.

Examples:

- Crude mortality rate (# of deaths per 1000 in a given time period)
- Maternal mortality rate
- Total fertility rate

Note: This will often be difficult to measure for a small community effort, especially in the beginning stages, as these sorts of changes take place over longer period of time.

Things to Keep in Mind when Selecting Indicators:

- Ethical—The information should be ethically obtained and managed.
- Useful—Collect only information directly related to causal pathway.
- Scientifically robust—Valid (close to the truth), reliable and reproducible, sensitive and specific (accurate), and accessible (effort to obtain information is reasonable).

What are your project's objectives? In other words, what do you hope to accomplish and measure?

Make sure your objectives are:

SMART

S Specific

M Measureable

A Attainable

R Relevant

T Time-bound

Examples of Output Objectives:

- To provide high quality HIV education and condoms in the project area through a network of 200 community health workers, to begin within 12 months of project start-up.
- To increase the number of schools in the project region providing standardized secondary HIV education to adolescent men and women from 0 to 10 in 12 months.

Examples of Effect Objectives:

- To increase the proportion of women who accept long-term contraceptive method (includes IUD, Norplant) from 20% to 40% of total users in two years.
- To increase the proportion of enrolled secondary school students in all camp schools who pass HIV exam from 50% to 75% in academic year 2012.

Examples of Impact Objectives:

- To reduce camp mortality to 1 death in 10,000 population per day by the end of the 10th week of the emergency.

***If you state an impact objective, you must be able to measure impact (which is not always attainable).

Translating into a Proposal:

While many of the pieces of the causal pathway will fit into your grant proposal structure, keep in mind that not all grant proposals may be formatted the same. That being said, all funders are essentially looking for the same information.

Group assignment

With available staff, draw the causal pathway for the program you wish to have funded. This will help with the next section. Remember not to add things that don't fit in the overall project (don't add a vehicle when it's not necessary, but make sure you cover transport...this will help when you are writing the budget).

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

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