

Realizing the American Dream

Grants Funded by the Society for the American Dream

"I believe that we are lost here in America,...I think that the true discovery of America is before us. I think the true fulfillment of our spirit, of our people, of our mighty and immortal land is yet to come." -- Thomas Wolfe

Mission Statement

We believe that although Thomas Wolfe's words may have been rendered years ago, his message still resonates with contemporary America and forces us to question whether or not *all* Americans are able to live their American Dream. The mission of the Society for the American Dream is to provide grant monies to those individuals or groups who seek to help others in their quest for their American Dream.

Applying for a Grant

In order to apply for funds from the Society for the American Dream, you will need to do the following.

1. Complete the grant application (attached)
2. Submit your grant proposal (as part of the application)
3. Prepare four professional copies to be delivered to your panel prior to your presentation
4. Present and "sell" your program in ten minutes to a panel who will distribute grant funds
5. Be prepared to answer any questions they have for you

Planning your grant proposal

1. What's the problem we are addressing?
Remember - the problem is not your need - it's the community's need!
2. Who else is addressing, and what are the gaps in how it is being addressed?
Gaps can be programmatic, population, time/seasonal, or material. Gaps are the reason that you have a need!
3. How are we proposing to address the problem?
Paint a clear and specific picture of your program! Can your prospect see it in action in their mind?
4. How will things be different/will the problem be solved or improved, when you are done?
How will you know that you are succeeding? What will you measure in order to understand how you are doing and what needs to change or be adjusted?
5. What do you need in order to try to solve the problem?
This must tie to the approach you have described above. It's an opportunity to once again paint a picture of what you will be doing!
6. What resources do you already have? From whom?
Don't forget volunteers, donations and in kind services. Show the community participation in your project. Project the image that the funder is joining a winning team, not boarding a sinking boat!
7. What are the qualifications and experience that make your program the right one to take on this work?

History, key accomplishments, qualifications of staff and volunteers, relationships in the community....as they relate to this project.

8. Are there problems or barriers that you can foresee? How will you overcome them?

We all run into roadblocks when we try something new. Think through what you are going to do carefully. What's likely to trip you up? How can you anticipate these problems? Who will you turn to for help? Recognizing the possibility of problems is the sign of a sophisticated and professional program!

Planning Your Grant Proposal © Sylvie McGee/All For A Good Cause - 1995

The Grant Proposal

The actual proposal is part of the application process that you will find attached. *A note: Be sure that after your group has an initial plan that you evenly divide up the writing of the proposal. **The proposal should not exceed 5 single-spaced pages. The budget serves as an appendix.***