

# Scouting for Project Funding?



## Grant Writing Tips for DNRC Programs

Most of DNRC's grant programs are competitive. Applications are compared and ranked. It is not always the best projects that get funded. Rather, it is the projects that clearly meet the program's mission and objectives that are ranked highest. These tips will help you prepare competitive applications for DNRC's various grant programs.

**Vigilantly abide by application instructions.** If you think an application question is senseless, it doesn't matter. Even your eligibility for a grant may depend on following this tip. Call and ask questions if an instruction is unclear.

**Format and write the application to meet review criteria.** Reviewers typically use some kind of ranking criteria when evaluating an application for funding. Understand what reviewers will value most and put your greatest effort toward addressing those criteria in your application.

**Be clear about your project purpose, goals, and objectives.** Present your goals in visionary terms and your objectives in measurable terms. Objectives should be specific and realistic.

**Address objectives in your schedule & budget.** Provide a timeline of activities. Tie the budget to your objectives and tasks. Research budgeted costs. Be clear and realistic with your schedule and budget. Reviewers will notice wild guesses.

**Connect the project to the past and the future.** Tie your project to existing plans or past successes. Show how the project or the results of the project will continue after the grant money runs out.

**Connect the project to the community.** Grants come from public funds. Include letters of support. State how the project fits into community goals and plans or how it will serve the public.

**Provide graphics to clarify.** Don't frustrate reviewers by making them guess your project location and geographical extent. Use a map. Use graphics and pictures if that helps clarify the project.

**Look good.** Have someone check your spelling, grammar, and clarity of statements before submitting the application. The quality of the application is an indicator of the ability of the applicant to manage a grant.

**Learn from rejection.** Ask someone from the grant program how your project could be better presented the next time you submit an application or what program would be a better fit. This information will help you build a better proposal no matter where you seek funding.