



A Few Free “How-To” Web Resources for Grant Writing (Alphabetical Order)

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This is intended to be a “starter” resource for people who are learning how to write grants for community benefit organizations. This list is not intended to be inclusive, but instead represents a sample of the variety of resources that are available for free to help guide nonprofit organizations and NGOs in the grant writing process. We are providing these links as a courtesy to our members and guests, and the views on these pages are exclusively those of each site’s administrators or owners.

Center for Rural Health, Univ. of North Dakota: http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/flex/pdf/grantwriting_tips.pdf

This is a nice five-page .pdf document that is focused on grants involving rural health, but has solid tips for anyone. Date accessed: 10/18/2009. Last updated: unknown.

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/tips.htm>

Helpful for anyone (not just environmental groups). Includes a great general description of the components of a grant, and a detailed description, with examples, of the budgeting process including the allocation of direct and indirect costs. Date accessed: 10/18/2009. Last updated: Unknown.

Foundation Center Online Short Course: <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/tutorials/shortcourse/index.html>

This is a super resource that is well-written and easy to read. It walks you step by step through the entire process of writing a grant, and is a terrific starting point for new writers and a great reminder for folks who might be a little “rusty.”

Grant Proposal.com: <http://www.grantproposal.com/tips.html>

One of my favorites! Designed by grant consultant Elizabeth Brunner for both inexperienced and seasoned grant writers, this site is simply loaded with tips. She steps you through research, inquiry letters, full proposals, and even includes advice from funders. Date accessed: 10/12/2009. Last updated: Unknown, but © is 2000.

GrantAdviser.com: <http://grantadviser.com>

Great website that’s chock full of tips from Waddy Thompson, author of the Complete Idiot’s Guide to Grant Writing. Include posts like “The Power of Positive Writing,” “Sponsorship for Grant Writers,” and “The Concentric Circles of Prospect Research. Date accessed: 11/12/2009. Updated monthly.

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Lone Eagle Consulting: <http://lone-eagles.com/granthelp.htm>

A great starter resource with practical tips for “newbie” grant writers, and reminders for all of us. The site also has links to some sample templates from rural, community-based grants that have actually been written, although it isn’t known from the site if they were successfully funded. Date accessed: 10/12/2009. Last updated: Unknown.

Minnesota Council on Foundations: <http://www.mcf.org/mcf/grant/writing.htm>

Includes html and pdf version of a guide to “Writing a Successful Grant Proposal.” Detailed list of components including summary, organization background, problem/need/situation description, work plan/specific activities, outcomes, funding, budget, and evaluation, and supplementary materials. Also has a good Q & A. Date accessed: 10/12/2009. Last updated 2/24/2006.

Non-profit Guides: <http://www.npguides.org/>

Includes free sample materials, including guidelines, sample inquiry letter, sample cover sheet, sample budget, sample RFP, and a list of links to other resources. Date accessed: 10/12/2009. Last updated: unknown.

Pamela Grow’s Grant Writing Blog: <http://www.pamelasgrantwritingblog.com/>

In addition to other fundraising tips and tricks, Pamela’s blog is intended to be “the ultimate nonprofit newbie resource.” You can subscribe to her free “Grow Report” to get ongoing tips via email. Date accessed: 10/18/2009. Regularly updated.

Purdue University Tutorial: <http://www.purdue.edu/dp/envirosoft/grants/src/msieopen.htm>

Designed to help those who are writing proposals to the EPA, this is still a great step-by-step resource with examples along the way. It includes a nice glossary of grant-related terms. Date accessed: 10/18/2009. Last update: unknown, but prior to 2006.

Scholastic: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4173>

Designed for educators by grant consultant Gary Carnow, this quick list of the ten common elements found in winning grant proposals is a good reminder for anyone. Date accessed: 10/18/2009. Last updated: unknown.

SchoolGrants: <http://www.k12grants.org/tips.htm>

Although this site hasn’t been updated since 2007, the entire website is devoted to helping, small financially strapped school systems get small grants, and includes some great links, samples, and even some grant writing humor. Date accessed: 10/12/2009

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79 Grant Writing Resources: <http://grant-writing-resources.blogspot.com/>

Cool blog site by Ruth Wahtera that is different from most of the other how-to guides on this list. Ruth blogs about such diverse topics as Punctuation Matters, How to Replace Initials, and Grantwriting Tools That Keep Me Sane & Productive. Fun writing style, too. Date accessed: 10/28/2009. Regularly Updated.

Links to Additional Resources and Other Aggregated Lists

Free Management Library: http://managementhelp.org/fndrsng/np_raise/np_raise.htm

University of Pittsburgh: <http://www.pitt.edu/~offres/proposal/propwriting/websites.html>

Do you know of free grant writing resources on the Web that aren't on this list and should be? Send us an email at admin@nonprofitlocal.com and give us the scoop!

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