

LET'S TALK ABOUT GRANTS: ELIGIBILITY & FINDING THE RIGHT GRANT



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LET'S TALK ABOUT GRANTS

1. Grants & funders
2. **Eligibility & finding the right grant**
3. Parts of an application
4. What to include in a grant proposal
5. Budget basics
6. Timelines from start to finish
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MORE GRANT TERMS TO KNOW

Deadline

The last day that a grant application will be accepted by the funder. May also be called a **receipt date** or **post mark date**.

Grant period

The period of time when all grant activities must happen. All funding must be spent within this time. Also called a **funding period**.

Nonprofit organization

A tax-exempt organization that provides a service or benefit to the community without focusing on earning profits.



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MORE GRANT TERMS TO KNOW

Fiscal sponsor

A nonprofit organization that allows another organization to apply for grants using its nonprofit status and provides support including money management to another organization, often in exchange for an administrative fee. A **fiscal pass-through** is similar but provides less or no support outside of helping to secure grant funds.

Priority population

Individuals or communities that are the focus of the program or services that will be funded through the grant. Also called **target population** or **focus population**.



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EXAMPLES OF PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Adults aged 65 and over
- American Indian
- Black or African American
- LGBTQ+ people
- Non-U.S. born persons
- People experiencing poverty
- People experiencing homelessness
- People experiencing mental illness
- People living in rural areas
- People who are incarcerated
- People with disabilities
- Religious minority
- Youth and young adults



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IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Multiple priority populations may be listed
 - The challenge: Quality vs. quantity. No group is a monolith, but make sure you are working within your mission and focusing on your community
- Funders may not use the same words that you would use to talk about the people you work with.
 - Examples:
 - “Victims of gun violence”
 - “At-risk youth”
 - The challenge: Using the language of the funding opportunity to describe the work that you do and the people that you serve.



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FINDING THE RIGHT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

☐ Does it fit what you need?

Make a list of your community's needs. Can this grant be used to fund the project you have in mind or to fit another need?

☐ Are you eligible for the funding?

Most funders will include information on what kinds of organizations or people are able to receive the funding.

☐ Is this the right time?

Do you have the time, people and other resources needed to apply before the deadline and to plan and complete the project within the set grant period if it is funded?



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GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Confirming whether or not you are eligible to apply for and receive a grant is important. It does not matter how great a grant is if your organization is not allowed to receive it.

STEP 1: Know what type of organization you represent or if you are applying as an individual. Types of organizations include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Small businesses (including LLCs)
- Grassroots organizations
- Community-based organizations

TIP: You can search for grants for your type of organization by searching for "nonprofit grants New York" or "Buffalo small business grant."



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GRANT ELIGIBILITY

STEP 2: Read the eligibility information from the funder. All funders will include information who is able to receive funding in the grant description.

STEP 3: Gather any documentation that is required to prove that you are eligible before beginning your application. If you are not eligible and do not have an eligible **fiscal sponsor**, this is probably not the right grant for you. Keep searching for other grant opportunities. You can also consider options to increase your eligibility for grant funding opportunities.



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MAXIMIZING YOUR ELIGIBILITY

Most grants have limited eligibility. For example, many foundation grants are only open to **501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations**, a nonprofit organization with a specific tax-exempt status.

One way that all organizations can maximize eligibility is by considering what other organizations might be strong partners for a particular grant, and considering applying in partnership with them or seeking their support. Many grant opportunities require that applicants collaborate with other organizations, community centers, health care providers or government offices or to form coalitions.



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APPLY FOR NONPROFIT STATUS

Find clickable links at
erie.gov/grantsupport

501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations will be eligible for the most grants. 501(c)(3) and other types of nonprofit organizations are tax exempt, meaning they do not have to pay some taxes. To become a nonprofit organization, you must apply for tax exempt status with the IRS, which takes time, effort and money. Additionally, nonprofits must keep detailed records and submit information to the IRS each year to keep their tax exempt status.

For more information or to start this process, visit:
<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/applying-for-tax-exempt-status> 



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WORK WITH A FISCAL SPONSOR

Instead of applying for nonprofit status, you can work with an existing 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is similar to your own using a formal agreement called **fiscal sponsorship**. You can apply for grants under your fiscal sponsor's tax-exempt status. When seeking a fiscal sponsorship, your organization should be ready to talk about:

- Why your project is needed and its goals, objectives, activities, evaluation, staffing and budget
- How your project advances the fiscal sponsor nonprofit's mission
- Other ways the nonprofit can benefit from being associated with your project



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Fiscal sponsorships often involve a written agreement and can benefit both organizations as well as the community being served by a grant project. The fiscal sponsor is legally and financially responsible for the grant and typically reviews grant applications, documentation and reports. Usually, smaller organizations pay an administrative fee or agree to provide a portion of the grant funds (such as **indirect funds**) to the fiscal sponsor in exchange for providing this support.

To learn more about fiscal sponsorship, visit:

<https://blog.candid.org/post/all-you-need-to-know-about-fiscal-sponsorship/> 



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GET FREE GRANT HELP

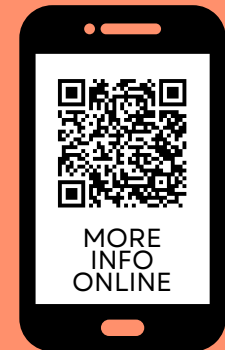
The Office of Health Equity provides free grant technical assistance for organizations and groups serving minority, marginalized, and underserved communities in Erie County.

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- ✓ Finding grants
- ✓ Applying for grants
- ✓ Data & evaluation
- ✓ Grant reporting



FIND OUT MORE



716-858-1681

healthequity@erie.gov
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